



# Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman

*Gene Lees*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman

Gene Lees

## Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman Gene Lees

Few people know jazz as well as Gene Lees. As a musician, songwriter, former editor of *Down Beat*, and creator of the acclaimed *Jazzletter*, he has steeped himself in the music for decades. And no one writes about jazz better than Lees. He is widely acknowledged to be one of the leading jazz historians. *The Washington Post* called him "one of those writers who's a joy to read on any subject at all." No less than Dizzy Gillespie has called Lees "the glowing jewel of jazz" for his perceptive writing about the music. Now comes the book that jazz lovers (and Lees's fans) have been waiting for--*Leader of the Band*, a vivid, full-scale biography of Woody Herman.

Asked by Herman in 1986 to write his biography, Gene Lees has spent close to a decade working on it, interviewing many of Herman's childhood friends and lifelong acquaintances as well as numerous musicians, including Les Brown, Milt Jackson, Peggy Lee, Tony Martin, and Red Norvo. The result is a strikingly immediate and well informed portrait of one of the great figures in jazz history--a musical giant whose career spanned the big band and bebop eras. Lees unfolds Herman's dramatic life from his childhood in Milwaukee to his final tragic days hounded by the IRS. We follow his rise to prominence in the 1930s as leader of "the band that plays the blues," when he quickly earned the love and respect of his peers that became the enduring hallmark of his career. Lees illuminates Herman's great success between 1945 and 1950, when bebop rapidly developed, revealing how Herman successfully made the transition with bands that became famous as Herman's "First Herd" and "Second Herd." (The Second Herd in particular won a stellar place in the annals of bebop, boasting many brilliant musicians, most notably, tenor saxophonist Stan Getz.) Lees also captures the ultimate tragedy that broke Herman's career--when Herman's manager diverted the band's withholding tax to settle gambling debts. Herman was tormented by the IRS for decades, until he died, penniless, in 1987. Along the way, Lees brings to life the weary routine of performing on the road, with its constant one-night engagements and unending travel, broken only by brief stays at home and moments of camaraderie. And perhaps most important, we not only see Herman's legion of friends and admirers, we see why this commanding figure was so loved and respected, even by that fractious bunch who make their living by playing jazz.

Woody Herman played a central role in the development of jazz--and he played it, as he did the music, with dignity and breathtaking ability. In *Leader of the Band*, one of our finest writers captures the life of this great bandleader, vividly portraying the triumph and tragedy of a life in jazz.

 [Download Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman Gene Lees

---

### From reader reviews:

#### **Paula Royce:**

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book may be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the book untitled Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman can be good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

#### **Robert Araiza:**

This Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman is great reserve for you because the content that is full of information for you who all always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it details accurately using great arrange word or we can point out no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but hard core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman in your hand like finding the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no publication that offer you world inside ten or fifteen moment right but this e-book already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt that?

#### **James Fox:**

Beside this Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman in your phone, it may give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or info. The information and the knowledge you might got here is fresh from oven so don't possibly be worry if you feel like an older people live in narrow village. It is good thing to have Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman because this book offers to your account readable information. Do you sometimes have book but you rarely get what it's facts concerning. Oh come on, that would not happen if you have this within your hand. The Enjoyable arrangement here cannot be questionable, similar to treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss it? Find this book as well as read it from now!

#### **Theresa Tompkins:**

Reading a e-book make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information originating from a book. Book is written or printed or illustrated from each source that will filled update of news. In this modern era like now, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science publication, encyclopedia, reference book, novel and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you hip to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just searching for the Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman when you desired it?

**Download and Read Online Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody  
Herman Gene Lees #MZCYXJUQ9ED**

## **Read Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman by Gene Lees for online ebook**

Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman by Gene Lees Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman by Gene Lees books to read online.

## **Online Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman by Gene Lees ebook PDF download**

**Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman by Gene Lees Doc**

**Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman by Gene Lees Mobipocket**

**Leader of the Band: The Life of Woody Herman by Gene Lees EPub**