

BROTHER RAY

RAY CHARLES & DAVID RITZ

READ BY ANDREW L. BARNES

Ray Charles (1930–2004) led one of the most extraordinary lives of any popular musician. In *Brother Ray* he tells his story unsparingly, from the chronicle of his musical development to his heroin addiction and tangled romantic life.

Overcoming poverty, blindness, the loss of his parents, and the pervasive racism of the era, Ray Charles was acclaimed worldwide as a genius by the age of thirty-two. By combining the influences of gospel, jazz, blues, and country music, he invented, almost single-handedly, what became known as “soul.” And throughout a career spanning more than a half century, Ray Charles retained complete control of his life and his music, allowing nobody to tell him what he could or couldn’t do.

“Candid, explicit, sometimes embarrassing, often hilarious, always warm, touching, and deeply human—just like his music.”
—*Chicago Sun-Times*

David Ritz, novelist, lyricist, and biographer, is cowriter of the lyrics to Marvin Gaye’s 1982 hit, “Sexual Healing.” He has written biographies of Jimmy Scott, the Neville Brothers, B. B. King, and Etta James, winning the Gleason Award for best music book of the year four times. He lives in Los Angeles.



Andrew L. Barnes graduated from the School for the Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati, Ohio. His theater and music experience includes work with the Ensemble Theater Company, the Cincinnati Opera Company, and the Sorg Opera Company.



Running Time: Approx. 13.5 Hours
Unabridged

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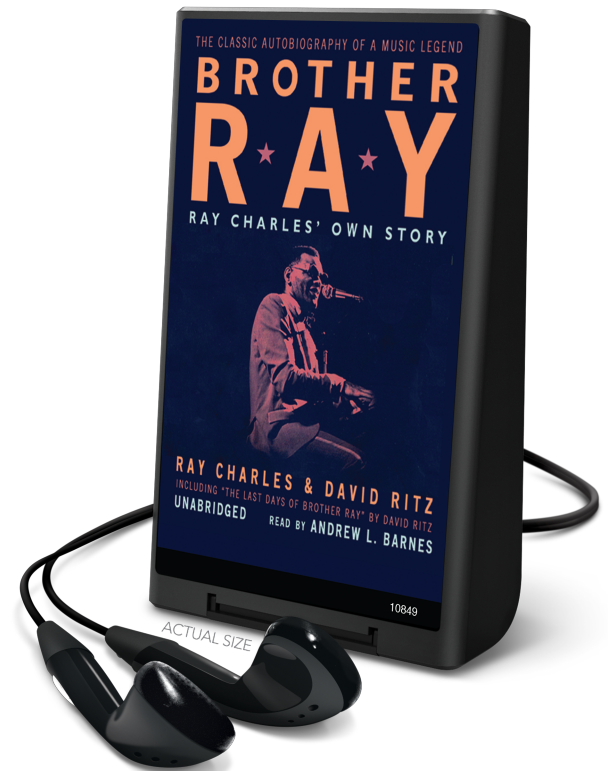


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