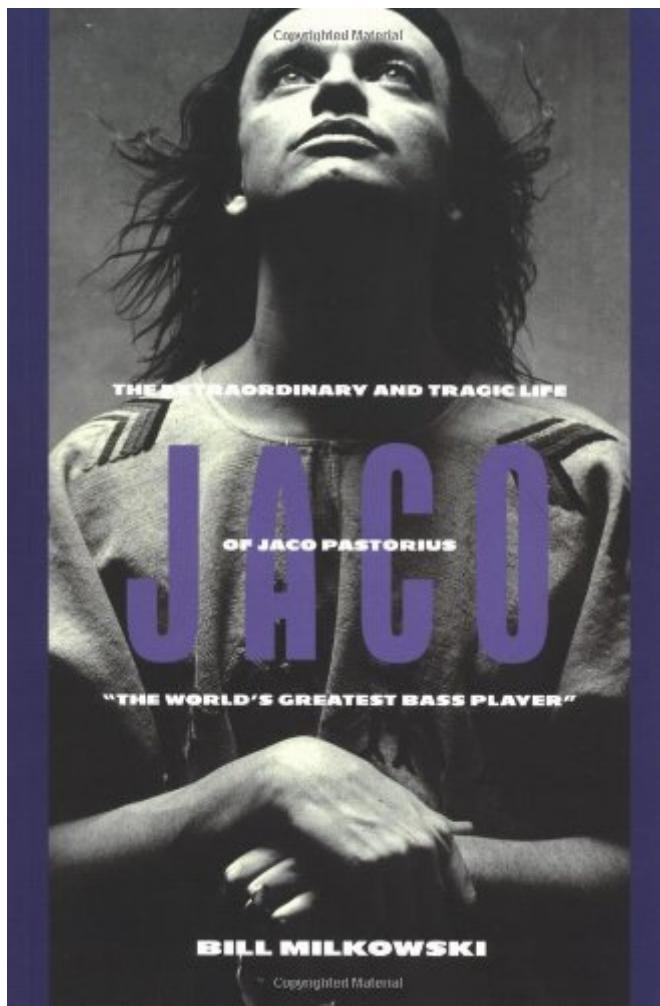


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Jaco: The Extraordinary Tragic Life Of Jaco Pastorius



Synopsis

(Book). This tragic tale of the man who revolutionized the electric bass will appeal to players, fans, and anyone curious about the fine line between creative genius and madness. Bass players and music fans today whether of jazz, rock, reggae, pop, or punk owe much to Jaco Pastorius who literally reinvented the role of the electric bass. Jaco takes an in-depth look at his life through biographical narrative, personal tributes, and photographs. It chronicles his development beginning in the nightclub circuit, then on the road with Wayne Cochran & The C.C. Riders, then catapulting to stardom in Weather Report. It explores his diagnosis as a manic depressive, his eventual downfall accelerated by alcohol and cocaine, and his senseless and violent death. Includes photos.

Book Information

File Size: 4410 KB

Print Length: 263 pages

Publisher: Backbeat Books; New edition edition (September 1, 1996)

Publication Date: September 1, 1996

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B001NCFCRU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #418,519 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Composers & Musicians > Jazz #91 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Jazz #183 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Jazz

Customer Reviews

Wonderful book and tragic and the same time. If you wanted to know what happened to Jaco then you should read this book. It sheds light on things you didn't know and gives you info on how Jaco's mental illness cost him his life. A sobering read on how mental illness was perceived in the 70's and 80's.

I finished this book thinking that Bill Milkowski was just way too close to his subject to do a true biography - at times, particularly towards the end, it becomes "my life with Jaco". However, that closeness does give Milkowski some insights into Jaco's personality that another author probably wouldn't have. Milkowski correctly recognizes that one of Jaco's greatest problems was the people surrounding him. One striking thing about the book was how many people close to Jaco blamed the "system" for failing Jaco (the author included), yet amazingly, how his family allowed a total stranger to convince a judge to release him under his own recognizance, 4 days before he received the fatal beating at the Midnight Bottle Club. However, unlike the treatment of John Belushi in *Wired* or Jim Morrison in *No One Here Gets Out Alive*, Milkowski avoids mythologizing. Milkowski recognizes that when a supremely talented person destroys himself, it's not heroic, it's tragic.

For some reason or another I have read a number of books along this same vein. Successful Musician, gifted, genius, thunderbolt from heaven, then poof, they self destruct and are gone long before they should be... yet are memorialized because of the ground they broke. Bix Beiderbeck, Jimi Hendrix, Chet Baker, Charlie Parker etc...While this book covers the basic time line information, it doesn't really get to deep below the surface. Perhaps because there are too many people too fond of Jaco. Should the journalist delve deeply or just run a shallow narrative concerning the life and times of Jaco Pastorius? Jaco had severe problems which led to his untimely death. While he was taken early in a altercation outside of a bar... he had already pushed the self destruct button and appeared to be beyond anyone's reach. Sadly, no one came forward to really help this suffering soul. A few tried, and yes the responsibility ultimately rests with the individual, but Jaco was in need of some serious tough lov., Could it have worked? We'll never know. Rest peacefully Jaco, you WERE loved and ARE missed.

.....Milkowski's book is an effort that should be applauded by all who pick up its pages. When I first looked at the intro to the book, I found it a fascinating look into the genius and tragedy of this landmark musician. Unlike others, who have stated that the book falls short in examining Jaco's psychological short comings and mental closet skeletons, I found the read not to be wanting in any area describing his life. Not only is it a book that I feel is mandatory reading for any music lover.....it is a book that even the non musician can appreciate as well. The shock and sadness in which the stories unfold make the subject of Jaco as a performer simply a compelling story which the reader begins to empathize with Jaco but feels the same helplessness as those within the book while reading along to the inevitable conclusion. An easy read, and I've read that book at least 3 or

4 times and still pick it up to refer to some of the profound statements and observation about not only Jaco's life.....but the with human experience in all of us as well...Finally, this book (as a screenplay) would make an unbelievable movieKudos to Bill.....RIP Jaco

Great book about the life of a great bass player.

Mr. Milkowski did a marvelous job of telling the story of "The World's Greatest Bass Player". It made me sad to read, though. I gave this review the title "Heartbreaking" because I knew Jaco. We were not close friends, but I used to run into him often; we both lived in New York City. Now, everyone who lived in NYC at the time had a "Jaco Story".

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