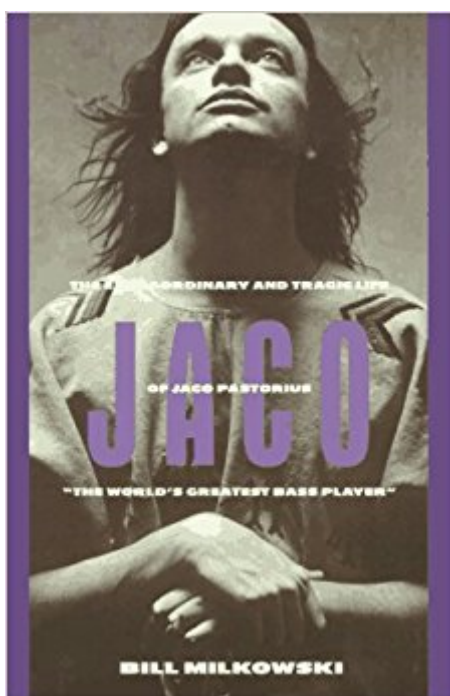


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Jaco: The Extraordinary And The Tragic Life Of Jaco Pastorius, "the World's Greatest Bass Player"



Synopsis

The life story of the man who revolutionized the electric bass is an in-depth look at a tormented genius who achieved international fame and died tragically at a young age. First serial, Bass Player. IP.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Certain innovative jazz musicians end up in thrall to their mystical music. Achieving the altered state playing such music, especially in front of an audience, becomes an obsession, often drugfueled and destructive. Saxophonist Charlie Parker was of that ilk, as was the revolutionary bass player Jaco Pastorius, whose immense talent was tragically subsumed by mental illness. Prolific music writer Milkowski, who knew Pastorius during his most aberrant and hopeless phase, chronicles Jaco's walk across the tightrope between genius and madness with respect and sorrow. Pastorius personified fusion, squeezing more music out of an electric bass than anyone believed possible with his long fingers and double-jointed thumbs. And he had a high-energy, high-impact stage style that galvanized his fans. Milkowski thoroughly chronicles Pastorius' rapid rise and triumphant stint with Weather Report, as well as his terrible decline and tragic, violent death just weeks shy of his thirty-sixth birthday in 1987. His well-illustrated book will preserve Pastorius' memory and remind people to listen to his incredibly funky punk jazz. Donna Seaman

Definitely a 4-star book presenting the chronology of the career and life of one of the most important

musicians, composers, and band leaders of our time. Jaco Pastorius was a genius and a phenomenon. Milkowski deftly separates the legend from the man, keeping the music at the forefront, while presenting hard evidence that our current protocols for approaching mental illness are tragically inadequate. If Jaco couldn't be helped, is there hope for the rest of us? The reader finishes this book with greater insight and appreciation for Jaco Pastorius' innovation and body of work as well as a profound respect for the men and women who dedicate their lives to their craft. Who loves ya, Jaco! Three stars because my Kindle edition was chock full of typos and missing pictures.

This book is a well-written, excellent inside look at a very talented and tragic genius. Oh Jaco, how you suffered for your sanity. If you are a Jacophile like me, you will enjoy reading about his life. He would be 65 now if he had not been murdered. Just imagine what he could have done musically! Warning: have some tissues handy when you sit down with this book. RIP Jaco.

It would be mean to criticize the author for this flaw. Fans of a certain sort will appreciate his meticulous commitment to listing the names of all the musicians at each gig or on each performance and lots of descriptions of the way Jaco played. For me, it was too much of the wrong information. I wanted to know more about Jaco's bloodline, his relationships with his children, his thoughts/philosophies about creativity and art and music and his instrument. The book was good as far as it went. The enclosed CD was worth the price of the book: to hear the emotional voices of people mentioned in the book talking about Jaco,

This is a great read. Very entertaining. The fact that Milkowski was friends with Jaco really adds some credibility to the story. I'm only half way through right now but I like the way the story is told. Lots of good quotes from musicians that played with Jaco. Also there's some good information that, as a bass player myself, I can put to use. Books that inspired Jaco and where he gained valuable information. Definitely worth the price of admission

Its actually an excellent book. I loved reading about Jaco and his exploits and magic and then tragic life and subsequent death. The book needs an editor. There are grammar and spelling errors throughout that can be annoying though sometimes comical. I didn't get the book for its comedic value. Perhaps the Editor was going through a rough phase of his own. I probably would have gone with 4 stars if it weren't for that. Know that a good chunk (maybe 15% of the pages at the end) are

remembrances from musicians and others that knew him and discography etc.

Bill did a really great job with this book. I was impressed with the CD which doesn't contain much music but contains the actual quotes that Bill was putting in the manuscript. It seemed a very interesting way to do things. The only criticism I'd have is that "The World's Greatest Bassist" was kind of run into the ground. My opinion with music is that you can't really compare jazz musicians in that respect. They have different goals and objectives, how can you really say one is better than the other when they are trying to accomplish different things. I love Jaco for style though, he really had taste. I think many, such as myself like to incorporate his style into their playing, not necessarily playing his songs note for note but just going for that overall feel he could convey so well. The story is quite tragic, it does show what drugs and alcohol can do along with the mental illness.

I know the "Behind the Music" approach to musicians is well-received by society. They want to see musicians fail (and maybe succeed again). Bill Milkowski knew Jaco in his last, very troubled years, so there's a lot about his heart-wrenching demise, far worse than I had ever heard hinted at. But Milkowski put in a lot of time building out Jaco's story, and not just as a prelude to his manic-destructive days. I like especially his accounts of young genius honing his craft down in Florida. But Jaco has been gone 25 years now. Let his sad ending stay with him in the grave. What survives is amazing music. Jaco lives.

This is a good book...that could've used a great proof reader. The punctuation and overall grammar errors are atrocious and make it confusing for the reader. Sometimes names are capitalized, sometimes not, sometimes words miss letters, sometimes not. Too bad such a compelling story suffers from an easily remedied task.

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