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Waiting For The Sun: Strange Days, Weird Scenes And The Sound Of Los Angeles



Synopsis

Provides a comprehensive look into the music, the music scene, and the musicians of Los Angeles, capturing their diversity and originality as seen during the past fifty years, from the jazz bars in the 1940s through the gangster rap of the present day.

Book Information

Hardcover: 356 pages

Publisher: St Martins Pr; 1st U.S. ed edition (August 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 031214444X

ISBN-13: 978-0312144449

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 7.8 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #755,092 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > World Beat #1150 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Popular #8708 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance

Customer Reviews

British rock historian Barney Hoskyns, author of *Across the Great Divide: The Band and America*, examines the long and twisted rock and roll history of Los Angeles. The Beach Boys, Buffalo Springfield, The Doors, Little Feat, The Eagles, Steely Dan, Linda Ronstadt, Joni Mitchell and others (right up to Black Flag, The Minutemen and Guns N'Roses) populate the pages of this comprehensive and extensively illustrated book.

Hoskyns (*From a Whisper to a Scream*) proposes that Los Angeles is a city embodying with particular clarity both the brightest and darkest parts of American culture. Yet this aura of "irresistible... disjunction" has provided a fertile ground for musical creativity. Here, Hoskyns traces the evolution of L.A.'s popular music scene from the 1940s through the 1990s with the intent of demonstrating how the city's unique atmosphere has informed the work of artists ranging from Nat King Cole and Charlie Parker to Neil Young and Joni Mitchell to Jane's Addiction and NWA. The penetrating sociocultural analysis of Hoskyns's introductory chapter loses steam, however, as Hoskyns focuses on the relationships between various artists and music industry executives. Even

so, the author constructs a comprehensive and critically astute history of the major developments and players in the Southern California music business. Hoskyns is particularly perceptive about the racial politics of music culture and those musical and cultural moments of dynamic transition when new genres of popular music emerge. The numerous photos and pithy quotes from other observers of the L.A. scene make for enjoyable and informative reading. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I really wanted to like this book but it never really met my expectations. The book is more a history of the music business rather than a history of the music. Lots of material on corporate executives and A&R men; not that such material isn't necessary or important, but I was expecting more information regarding the artists and their work. More about the musical culture involving the artists would have been appreciated, instead of the inner working of the various record companies and their employees. Hoskyns also imbues the narrative with his own personal biases in regards to the quality of the music and/or artists. He does this to the point of annoyance and actually comes off sounding fairly pretentious and even a bit childish. I would have preferred a more objective and even-handed journalistic approach, allowing me to make my own judgements. I also have to agree with another reviewer that Hoskyns seems intent on finding racism around every corner and under every rock in LA. Much like his comments regarding the quality of the music, these rants soon start to annoy and detract from the overall narrative. As I said, I really wanted to like this book but ended up disappointed.

Great book

I've read several books recently about the history of rock 'n roll, and *Waiting for the Sun* belongs in the top echelon. There are areas in the book, like Charles Manson's connections to the L.A. pop music scene, that fascinated me with information I hadn't previously known or considered. For example, I didn't realize until reading this book why the Manson murders were such a big deal, other than scaring the heck out of us who lived in the San Fernando Valley and other Southern California locales. I never knew how the murders so profoundly affected the Sunset Strip music scene. The author weaves many interesting stories into every phase of the L.A. music scene. This book is so well researched and so full of relevant details that I've been able to completely reconstruct popular music from my teenage years.

This is a good book covering the history of rock and roll in Los Angeles. Although not the best book by Barney Hoskyns, it does include good information about the people that aren't written about often. I feel that the author is too opinionated at times. In my opinion the author's book 'Hotel California' is much more interesting about the music in Los Angeles.

I tend to read a lot of books like this. They generally fall into two categories. Either the author believes that the musicians are actually making the music, or that great music is the product of all the people who feed off the musician and don't actually play any instruments. This book is one of the latter. At times the minutia is so mind numbing that you will have to skip entire pages. But in general the history is interesting and it's a pretty good read.

excellent

fast delivery, product was as described

Let's see... All white's in LA are racists. All non white crime is romantic and and excusable. Reagan is responsible for everything bad. Read all that before? Well get ready for a heap more. And 100x more attention to Joni Mitchell, Linda Ronstadt and James Taylor's effects on LA rock than Van Halen, Black Flag, or Motley Crue.

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