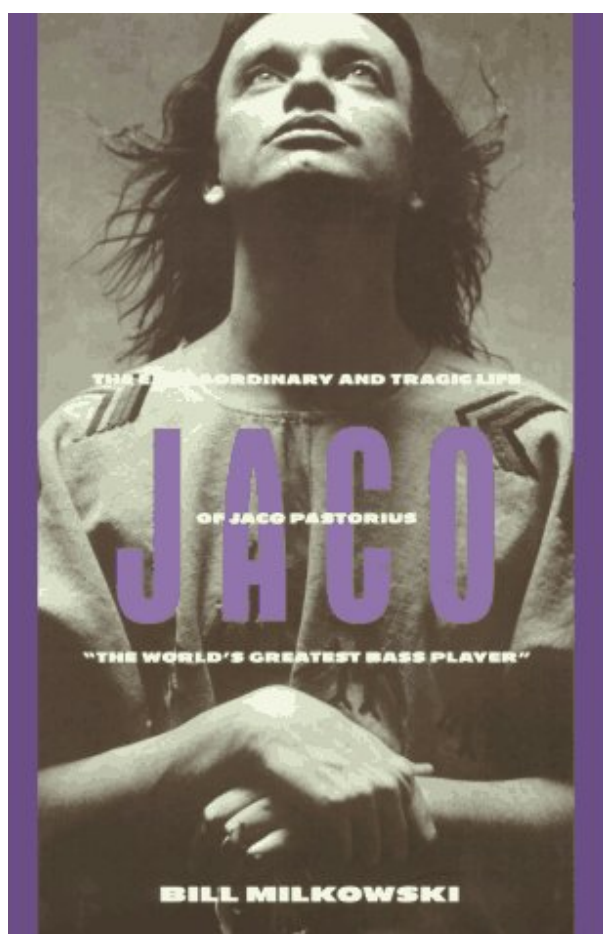
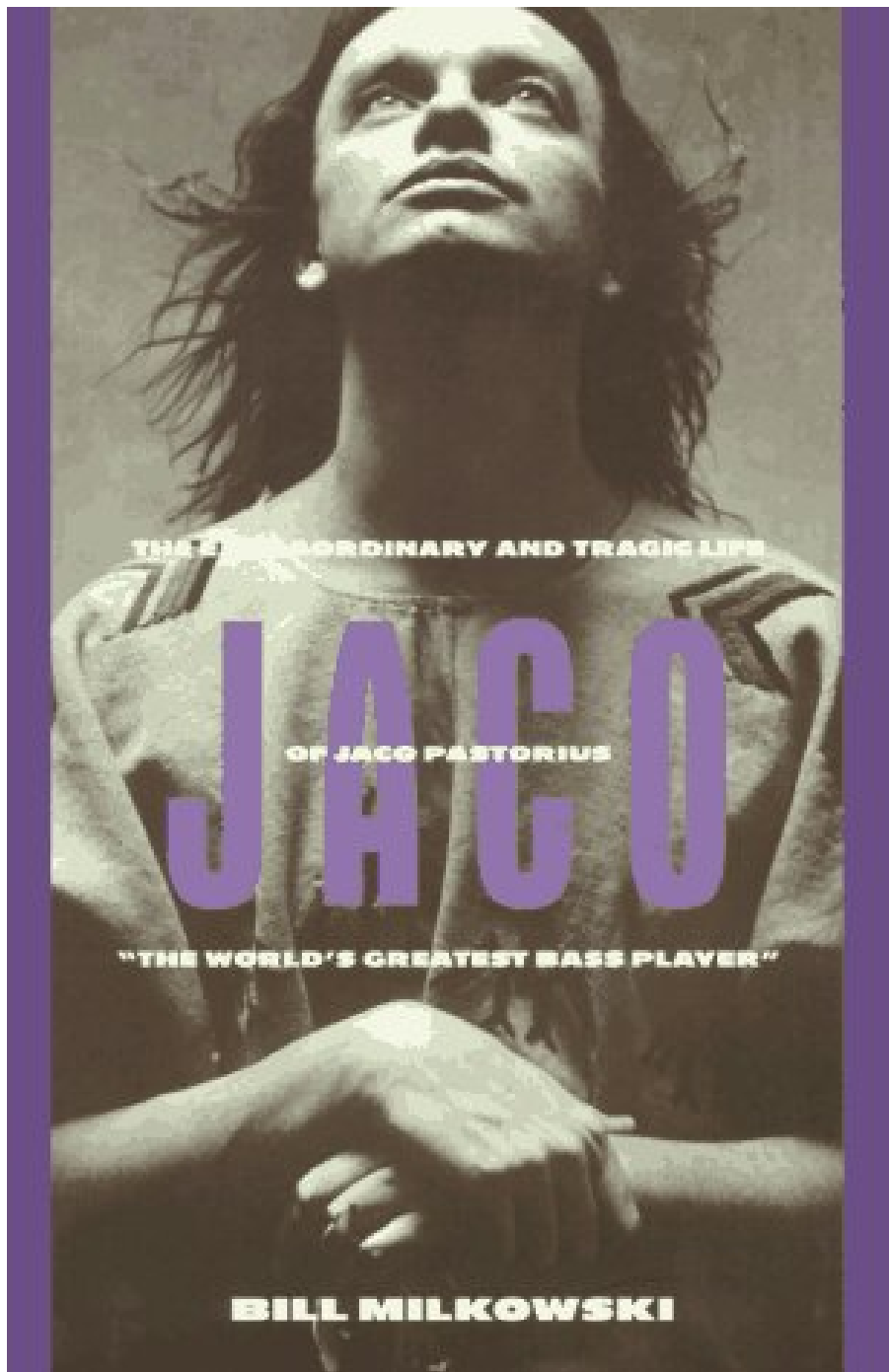


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Certain innovative jazz musicians end up in thrall to their mystical music. Achieving the altered state playing such music, especially in front of an audience, becomes an obsession, often drugfueled and destructive. Saxophonist Charlie Parker was of 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

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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.

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Features

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Polemic but inspirational.

By Fernando Herrera Ospino

Even when we know that there are issues with some parts of it between Ingrid and Bill, every page reveals amazing things about Jaco. Those stories have the power to immerse us in the life of the Greatest Bass Player in the World. From the beginning and the good moments, to the suffering of an unknown psychiatric illness. Jaco even now is the greatest, and his life shall be preserved through the memories that survived him and that are transmitted by Word of Mouth. Jaco shall live forever on all of us.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

The Man or the Myth

By newbyca@jmu.edu

Jaco Pastorius's story is a very interesting one; certainly fitting to the extremes of the American culture. Even if you are not a bass player, or even a musician, you should find Milkowsky's chronicle of Jaco an to be an interesting, emotionally charged, reading. However, I think a question is unconsciously brought up by the author. That is, just how far outa whack should you stretch your neck looking up towards Jaco? Honestly, the author is very one-sided about how he presents Jaco: Jaco was a very sweet man of a musical genius that most cannot begin to imagine. He was tormented by a mental disorder and it, unfortunately, caused the ruin of his career. The author makes it very clear that he sympathises with Jaco, that he, as best as he can, sees it from Jaco's point of view. I disagree though. I have known several of those who suffer from bi-polar disorder. They do find it hard to get along, but not like Jaco. I don't think his illness was his only problem. I! ! didn't know the man personally, but I don't think that disqualifies me as a critic of him. He made beautiful music, but that doesn't excuse his behaviour either. Milkowsky does a great job telling you how Jaco lived and died, but leaves the reader wondering just what Jaco's problem was. I think it makes the book even more interesting though.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

informative, tragic

By Corey A. Doherty

As I read the book I was overcome with the sense that there wasn't anybody in Jaco's life that wanted to offer some substantial help in his recovery, (just for the sake of preserving one of the 20th century's greatest contemporary composers who had barely started to show the world as a whole what he stood for) but, rather just for the sake of making it to the next show to fatten someone's wallet. Unfortunately even that small percentage of help disappeared when his so-called friends and hangers on lost interest. Overall I think Bill Milkowski did a fantastic job of portraying Jaco's life story. He wrote the story as someone who missed a friend and not a business associate. Hats' off to him, and shame on those who caught on only after it was too late and chose to opportunist on his music at the expense of his estate, (posthumously ofcourse).

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