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Bass Culture: When Reggae Was King



Synopsis

The first major account of the history of reggae, black music journalist Lloyd Bradley describes its origins and development in Jamaica, from ska to rock-steady to dub and then to reggae itself, a local music which conquered the world. There are many extraordinary stories about characters like Prince Buster, King Tubby and Bob Marley. But this is more than a book of music history: it relates the story of reggae to the whole history of Jamaica, from colonial island to troubled independence, and Jamaicans, from Kingston to London.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

You can stop looking- this is far-and-away the best book I've ever read about ska-rocksteady-reggae. Bradley writes in a clear, entertaining style, and the quotes from various Jamaican music legends are informative and often quite funny. Reggae can be an extremely socially-conscious music, of course, but a lot of writers dry up and belabor their descriptions of the political changes that brought the music into being. Bradley doesn't fall into this trap. The political aspect is handled just as readably as the rest of the information. Honestly, I can't imagine I'll ever read a better book on the subject than this one. It quickly rekindled my temporarily dulled interest in the music.

At over 500 pages this thick little British import is an exhaustive survey of the Roots Rocker Era of reggae: '69 thru early 80's when dancehall took over. The book begins with the birth of Jamaican music, and the rise of the sound systems. Ska, Rocksteady, then Roots Reggae are examined.

Economics, and the rise of Rastafarism are woven throughout the story. The various producers and their work are discussed, along with the importance of Britain as a sales base, and the emergence of Trojan. Dub, DJ's, producers, singers, rhythm sections, etc are all discussed. This very dense and packed with stories and information I cannot imagine anyone being disappointed as long as they realize this deals exclusively with the 70's roots era.

I purchased Bass Culture after reading This is Reggae Music: The Story of Jamaica's Music also by Lloyd Bradley only to find that they are the same text with a different title and publisher. Don't let this sway you...read one of these titles!!! Bradley recounts the rich history of Jamaica's music culture in great detail including aural accounts from crucial purveyors.

Got my copy of Bass Culture in perfect condition. Many thanks to the earlier reviewer who pointed out that this book has been published with different cover art. I was able to get one with the original jacket cover art from Total Books in England. Much better design. Highly recommend Total Books and for customer service. This is the second book I have ordered from Total Books through .

This is the defacto bible on Jamaican music and it's early evolution. This book is a phd. Lloyd Bradley wrote the book, I hope existed. Thorough and factual, a well made document.

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