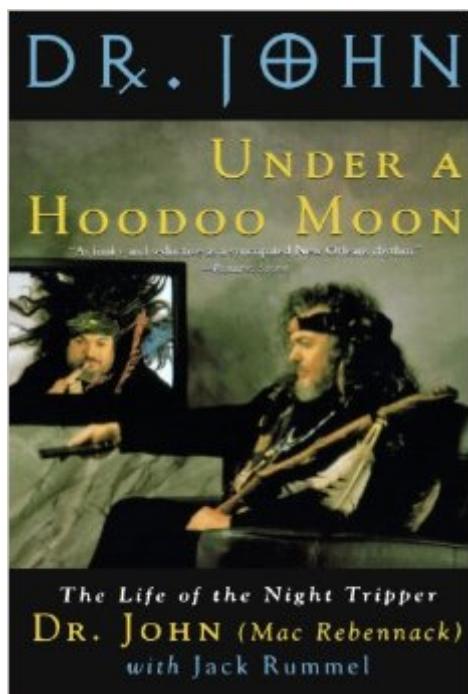


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Under A Hoodoo Moon: The Life Of The Night Tripper



Synopsis

Under a Hoodoo Moon is one of rock's most original and infectious autobiographies. In its pages, Dr. John, the alchemist of New Orleans psychedelic funk, tells his story, and what a story it is: of four decades on the road, on the charts, in and out of trouble, but always steeped in the piano-based soulful grind of New Orleans rhythm & blues of which he is the acknowledged high guru. From childhood as a prodigal prodigy among 1950s legends from Little Richard and Fats Domino to sessions with the Rolling Stones and the Band; from recording studio to juke joint to penitentiary to world tours; from Mac Rebennack to Dr. John the Night Tripper, this is the testament of our funkiest rock storyteller. Full of wit and wordplay, tales of hoodoo saints and high-living sinners, Under a Hoodoo Moon casts a spell as hard to resist as Mardi Gras itself.

Book Information

Paperback: 276 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin; Reprint edition (March 15, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312131976

ISBN-13: 978-0312131975

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #733,459 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #196 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Rhythm & Blues #1848 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Rock #1943 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Television Performers

Customer Reviews

I have read this book twice, not only because I like Dr. John's music, but also because I love the city of New Orleans and its cultural heritage. This book is more than just a musical biography; it's a chronicle of the Crescent City's music scene since the 50's and a huge source of musical information. Of course, Dr. John's biography and musical career is the main subject of the book and it will live up to your expectations. His recollections of his early career, Cosimo Matassa, Professor Longhair, Huey Piano Smith, Fats Domino, James Booker, and many more quoted in the book are priceless. His more recent musical experiences with big names such as Frank Zappa, The Rolling Stones, John Lennon, Van Morrison or Eric Clapton are remarkable too. On the contrary to many

other musical biographies, there are not any gossips in this one, just music facts. Dr. John reviews some of his own recordings and includes some of the lyrics. There is also a chapter dedicated to the voodoo religion. Co-written with author Jack Rummel, the book even works as a travel guidebook to the city. In one of my visits to the Big Easy after reading the book, I found places and sightseeings mentioned in it that I wouldn't find in any other guidebook. Highly recommended.

Want to be a professional musician? Think twice. Dr. John confirms the musician's world as full of addicts, thieves, prostitutes, and swindlers, where almost no one can be trusted. I give the book five stars because it was interesting enough that I finished it, but it's a bittersweet tale of a man who loves music stumbling in a junkie's nightmare. I appreciate his honesty, his sense of humor, his optimism, and his love for music. As an amateur musician who used to contemplate a musical career, I'm glad I opted for a day job and a house in the suburbs. But the story is fascinating. Now I definitely want to check out some of his music.

For anyone who has heard the music of Mac Rebennack a.k.a. Dr. John, this book is essential reading. His unique experiences and his sense of humor make it fascinating to read from beginning to end. The good doctor's experiences in the music business make a great tale. From his early attachment to some of the New Orleans music greats, through his own experiences in clubs and recording studios, this makes for a terrific insight into what being a musician is all about. I would highly recommend this book.

This book will give you a lot of insight to the wild web woven around and by Mac Rebennack. You'll learn more, and maybe too much, about his life, which will open your eyes to the lyrics he's written over the years and in what mental and physical condition he was in during those times. I've been a fan of Dr. John for as long as I can remember, but this book just amazed me! As much as I thought I knew, I was wrong. His love of music got his soul in trouble with drugs and his fans were the ones who benefitted from his pain and suffering. He's grown, learned and bloomed into a clear, clean, insightful man. This book made me cry to think of all he went through to get to where he is today. I am lucky enough to own an autographed first edition. It is one of my most prized possessions. If you love New Orleans, Fonk, Blues, and Swampadelic music you MUST read this book!

Ok. In full disclosure, as a Creole, as a frequent visitor & lover of New Orleans, as a person who sees the city as a cultural "home", I have long since been a fan of Dr. John, of his music, of his

style, his character, his way. I see him as a cultural treasure of our nation. I picked this book up so as to better understand the cultural & musical icon. It delivered on that. However, it also delivered the best lagniappe (something extra) a book has done in a while. This book delivered a page turning, gripping, no holds barred expose of the music industry. The glitz, the glamour, the world tours & after parties? This book unveils the dirty deals, double crosses, substance abuse, misunderstood artistry & misdiagnosed mental illness that is a common core of the industry. Mac lays it bare and reveals all. Having had professional musicians in the family I've always been encouraged to learn & play, but only as an amateur. I see why. This book delivers a can't put down, page turning low down on the biz.

Dr. John's spirit is alive in this book. It's honest, raw and real. His musicality comes through in his words. If you want to see what's behind his music, this is a good place. If you want to hear what's behind the man, listen to his music. There's a rhythm to the words of musicians. I found the same rhythm in the words of Smokey Robinson and Keith Richards in their books. They bare their souls in their music and can't seem to contain the truth in their words. I just saw him perform recently, and it's means so much more now having seen something of how he became who he is. I hope you enjoy the read.

I bought this book because I had heard a series of interviews with Mac (on [...]) made during the research for the book. The book is amazingly true to the interviews. The guy can talk. If I hadn't heard the interviews I might have been turned off by the idiosyncrasies of spelling and language, like fonk instead of funk. To me, it provided a very absorbing inside look at the post-war New Orleans music scene. Man, that was tough: cut-throat competition for work, ubiquitous drugs, and significant violence. It was interesting to read about how so many people kept such remarkable focus on improving as musicians in the business. The discussions of the LA recording scene were interesting too.

I am a native south Louisiana person and lover of music. Dr. John (Mac Rebennack) tells his story in his words. This man has been in the rock and roll scene since his teens and has an interesting and colorful story about growing up in New Orleans with its mixed musical, culinary and religious cultural melting pot all stirred up in a creole gumbo. Amazing stories about New Orleans music, narcotics addictions, run-ins with the law and how the Dr. John persona was developed and so much more. 5 stars.

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