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Jelly Roll, Jabbo, and Fats: 19 Portraits in Jazz

Whitney Balliett

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Whitney Balliett : Jelly Roll, Jabbo, and Fats: 19 Portraits in Jazz before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jelly Roll, Jabbo, and Fats: 19 Portraits in Jazz:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Two thumbs up!By CustomerJelly Roll, Jabbo, and Fats 19 Portraits in Jazz is a fascinating insight to the personal lives of 19 legendary jazz musicians. To give some context, I would say that this book is meant for two kinds of people: jazz fans, and those looking to gain an accurate insight into the culture and lives of jazz musicians in general. One of the most unique aspects of this particular compendium is that it provides an up-close and person look at the personal lives of these legendary musicians. The realistic view at their lives leads one to almost feel as if they are becoming friends with the figures. When you read of Jelly Roll Morton, you feel like you are travelling right along with; when you read of Fats Wallers difficulties and hardships, one can only feel empathy towards him. This functions as part of author Whitney Ballietts genius as he portrays each musician in realistic but intimate lights. If I could point out any particular strength or weakness, I would say that they are one in the same. This book is a complication of anecdotal biographies. Those stores probably the greatest strength of the book because it allows for unique insight, but it leaves one wondering how true or accurate those stories actually are. I think that they are mostly true, but there may be some stretchers included. Overall, this work is a wonderfully accurate as to the experiences of a jazz musician: the culture, the atmosphere, the moments of euphoria, and the moments of tragedy. Dick Wellstood put it best when he described the choice to be a musician instead of practicing law saying; its easier

than working!