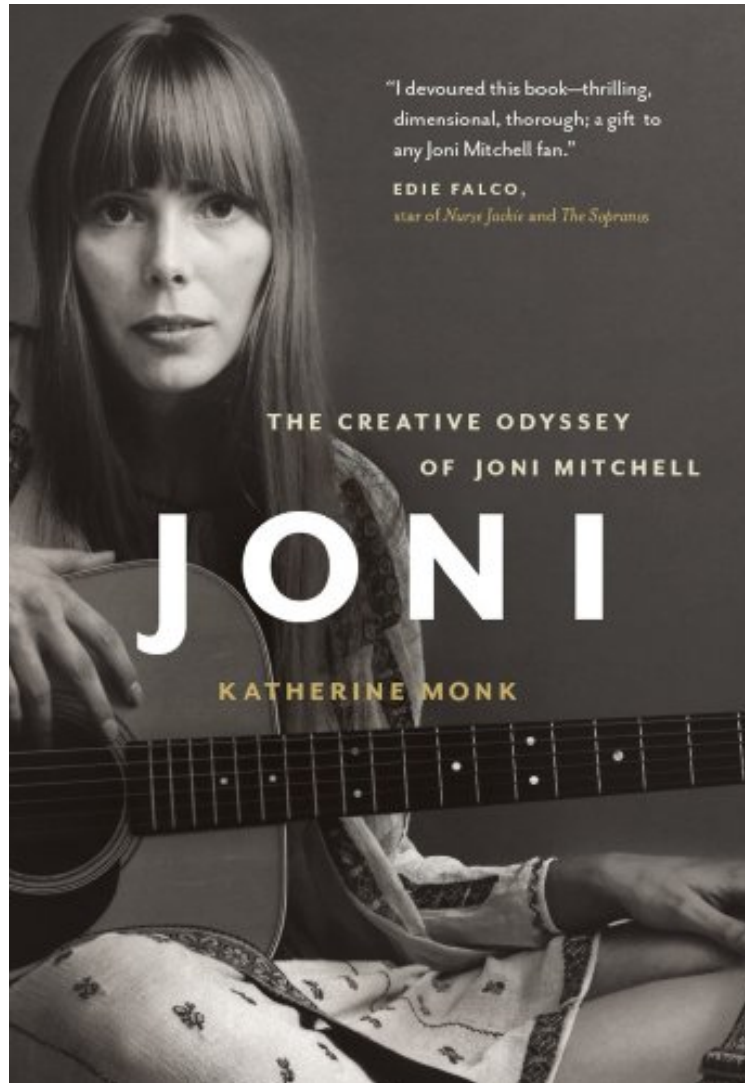


(Free download) Joni: The Creative Odyssey of Joni Mitchell

Joni: The Creative Odyssey of Joni Mitchell

Katherine Monk

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Katherine Monk : Joni: The Creative Odyssey of Joni Mitchell before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Joni: The Creative Odyssey of Joni Mitchell:

48 of 51 people found the following review helpful. A not irresistible and rather convoluted biography By Agnes Andrea The first 30 pages-or-so are rather startling: Ms. Monk goes on and on quoting Freud and Heidegger, and she doesn't fail to let us know that "[she] read lot of philosophy and psychoanalytic work"... supposedly to gain a better understanding of Joni Mitchell's persona, but I definitely smell a certain dose of self-importance on the author's part. Afterwards, things do get a little better. The book is based on archive material, mostly old interviews, so it's interesting enough - provided you haven't already read it elsewhere. You get lots of info about Mitchell's public persona, about her struggle with a male-dominated showbiz industry and the pros and cons of (and her coping with)

fame and success. And yet the material is somehow bizarrely displayed, due to the unfortunate choice of going with a thematic rather than chronological criterion. So you get a chapter about main influences ("Gods and monsters"), a chapter about Ms. Mitchell's sentimental relationships ("Love", of course) and so on. As a consequence of this criterion, you have in the first chapters a discussion over 1979 album "Mingus"; while a whole analysis of Ms. Mitchell's formative years and her fascination with Nietzsche (and a REALLY weighty overview of his writings) is placed right in the middle of the book (!) As for Ms. Mitchell's artistic achievements, they tend to remain in the background, and it's here that the book seems mostly unbalanced, in my opinion. For instance, an album such as Ladies of the Canyon is barely acknowledged to exist as a whole, even if you do get about ten pages on the writing of song Woodstock alone. Other albums are merely acknowledged to exist; album "Night Ride Home" is not even mentioned, as if it never happened. All considered, I had the distinct impression that Ms. Monk wrote at length when she had a lot of archive material to draw from; when not, she merrily passed by, without much (if any) research of new insight. And this leads to what I think is the main problem of the book. The author didn't have access to Ms. Mitchell herself, since the artist wouldn't even consider talking to her. This I can understand, but the author doesn't seem to have made any attempt to talk to anyone who has worked, lived or has somehow been involved with Ms Mitchell, either. So there's no fresh input. Ms. Monk is obviously aware that this was "a huge problem", as she honestly (if rhetorically) asks herself in the introduction: "How do I add anything original to the already exhaustive amount of Joni material without any new Joni Mitchell musings?" I'm afraid the answer is: she doesn't. My personal, final suggestion: anyone interested in Joni Mitchell might check out the Library on her official site [...]: there's an astonishing treasure trove of hundreds of articles and interviews, conveniently indexed by year, publication, author, type (interview/review) etc. It's constantly updated and it's by far the best and most informative musician site I've ever run into, so my highest praise to Ms. Mitchell's site and those who run it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. More About Joni The Person Than Her Songs By Kevin S. O'Donnell This bio really does focus on Joni's creative side, as well as her artistic influences. It seems to read in a non-linear, academic fashion, with Joni writing about truth and the search for it, and herself. For those fans interested in her music material and how it was created, they may want to check out other books about Joni. In this last regard, I was a bit disappointed. Overall, though, it was an interesting read. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Patchy By Marian Lees Although I loved reading about Joni Mitchell I found this biography a bit patchy and too much about the artistic process and not enough biographical content. Although it was interesting to read about her influences I would have like to know more about what was happening in her life.

From the moment Joni Mitchell's career began mdash; with coffee-house bookings, serendipitous encounters with established stars, and a recording contract that gave her full creative control over her music mdash; the woman from the Canadian wheat fields has eluded industry cliches. When her peers were focused on feminism, Mitchell was plumbing the depths of her own human condition. When arena rock was king, she turned to jazz. When all others hailed Bob Dylan as a musical messiah, Mitchell saw a fraud burdened with halitosis. Unafraid to "write in her own blood," regardless of the cost, Mitchell has been vilified as a diva and embraced as a genius, but rarely has she been recognized as an artist and a thinker. This new portrait of the reclusive icon examines how significant life events mdash; failed relationships, the surrender of her infant daughter, debilitating sickness mdash; have influenced her creative expression. Author Katherine Monk captures the rich legacy of her multifaceted subject in this offbeat account, weaving in personal reflections and astute cultural observations, and revealing the Mitchell who remains misunderstood.