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Don Breithaupt
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#4040809 in Books 2017-01-24 2017-01-24Formats: Audiobook, MP3 Audio, UnabridgedOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.75 x .50 x 5.25l, Running time: 2 HoursBinding: MP3 CD | File size: 18.Mb

Don Breithaupt : Steely Dan's Aja before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Steely Dan's Aja:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. AJA analyzed! By Paula Musicians, especially in the jazz and pop worlds, will find this book to be absolutely riveting! I'm a professional musician and a boomer whose high school and college days were filled with Steely Dan, and they're still a favorite today. This all-too brief book provides lots of interesting back story about the recording of AJA, the stellar lineup of musicians, the circumstances of writing the songs, and most fascinatingly, in-depth analysis of lyric and musical structure. Some reviewers here have said that the harmonic and melodic analysis is too technical for non-musicians to understand. They're probably right, but those well versed in music theory, particularly harmony, will eat up all the very specific information. Since one of the characteristics that sets Steely Dan apart from any other band of its time is its complex harmonic structures, it's a worthwhile and gratifying exercise, for musicians who are interested, to spend the time delving into the harmonic analyses. However, even if these sections make your eyes glaze over; no worries, skip over them and read on because there are lots of additional riches: structural breakdowns of lyrics, extensive quotes from Donald Fagen, and lots of history that puts AJA and the entirety of Steely Dan's output in perspective. Clearly the author is really knowledgeable. Also included are several appendices: complete track and personnel listing, glossary, and suggested listening. Wholehearted recommendation for musicians and lovers of music. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. this will only heighten your appreciation and awareness for what makes their work so great. I only wish Breithaupt wrote one of By Thomas R ListAdroit insight on the group's masterpiece. Incredibly detailed analysis that often leaves you wondering at the brilliance of the mind that observed it. Somewhat fanciful in that much of this observation probably never brushed the conscious cognition of Fagen and Becker, but that doesn't make it untrue or even all the more fascinating. If you're a fan of the Dan, this will only heighten your appreciation and awareness for what makes their work so great. I only wish Breithaupt wrote one of these for every Dan album.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is the kind of close analysis Steely Dan's music ... By ChrisThis is the kind of close analysis Steely Dan's music absolutely begs for. Breithaupt smartly focuses on unassailable facts (poetic devices used in the lyrics, harmonic devices uses in the music) painting a picture of the level of detail involved in composing a Steely Dan song. There's a fair amount of music theory discussion, making this particularly engaging for musicians (and perhaps a bit dry at times for others).

Aja was the album that made Steely Dan a commercial force on the order of contemporaries like Fleetwood Mac, the Eagles and Chicago. A double-platinum, Grammy-winning best seller, it lingered on the Billboard charts for more than

a year and spawned three hit singles. Odd, then, that its creators saw it as an "ambitious, extended" work, the apotheosis of their anti-rock, anti-band, anti-glamour aesthetic. Populated by 35 mostly jazz session players, Aja served up prewar song forms, mixed meters and extended solos to a generation whose idea of pop daring was Paul letting Linda sing lead once in a while. And, impossibly, it sold. Including an in-depth interview with Donald Fagen, this audiobook paints a detailed picture of the making of a masterpiece.

"Musician and songwriter Breithaupt's book pores over every last note of Josie, Deacon Blues, Peg and the like with the enthusiasm of a teenybopper and the insight of an academic" (Terry Staunton, Record Collector)"Aja was the album that made Steely Dan a commercialforce on the order of contemporaries like Fleetwood Mac, the Eagles, and Chicago. Adouble-platinum, Grammy-winning bestseller, it lingered on the Billboardcharts for more than a year after its 1977 release and spawned three hitsingles. Odd, then, that its creators saw it as an `ambitious, extended` work, the apotheosis of their anti-rock, anti-band, anti-glamour aesthetic.Including an in-depth interview with Dan co-founder Donald Fagen, this book- part of Continuum`s ongoing 33 1/3 series - by Canadian musician and musicjournalist Don Breithaupt paints a detailed picture of the making of amasterpiece." mdash;Upper North Side "Don Breithaupt has crafted an informative book about SteelyDan's platinum sixth album, Ajamdash;part of Continuum Press' 33 1/3 series onacclaimed albums in rock history. Theauthor analyzes Walter Becker and Donald Fagen's cryptic word play and artyrock and West Coast studio contributions to the 1977 release and tried to builda case in support of his fervid-fan claim that Aja is 'the best record in thesolar system.'"mdash;Downbeat Magazine"Aja is the first one [in the series] I've read, but I'll be checking out the others. Highly recommended."

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