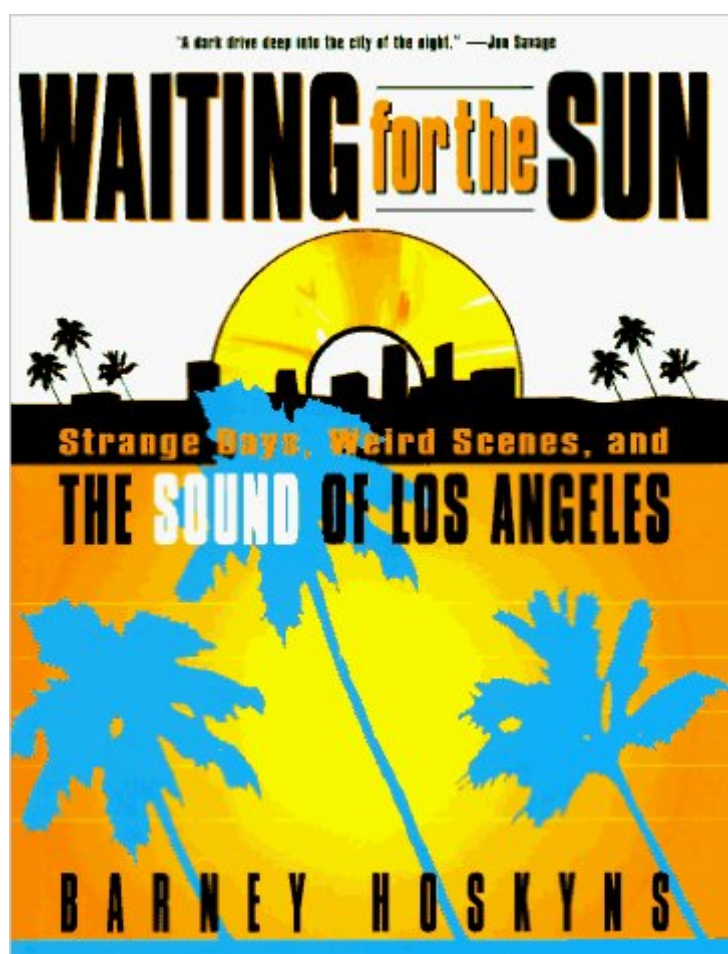


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Waiting For The Sun: Strange Days, Weird Scenes And The Sound Of Los Angeles



Synopsis

Provides a comprehensive look into the music, the music scene, and the musicians of Los Angeles, capturing their diversity and originality as seen during the past fifty years, from the jazz bars in the 1940s through the gangster rap of the present day.

Book Information

Hardcover: 356 pages

Publisher: St Martins Pr; 1st U.S. ed edition (August 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 031214444X

ISBN-13: 978-0312144449

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 7.8 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #807,626 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > World Beat](#) #1368 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Popular](#) #9496 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance](#)

Customer Reviews

Barney Hoskyns' "Waiting for the Sun" is a superbly written and illustrated history of the Los Angeles music scene from the Second World War through the early nineties. There aren't many really good books about popular music around, but this is one of them; in fact, I'd say it's the best book yet written about a music "scene" (as opposed to a particular artist), even better than Jon Savage's "England's Dreaming," which recounts the explosion of punk in the U.K. in the 1970's. The story moves effortlessly through the progression of musical styles that have flourished and often cross-pollinated each other in Southern California -- small-combo jazz, R&B, early rock & roll, surf music, folk-rock, psychedelia, country rock, heavy metal, punk and rap. The book includes lively portraits of the many famous (and infamous) people who have been a part of it, like Phil Spector, Ricky Nelson, Sam Cooke, David Crosby, Neil Young, Sonny Bono, the Beach Boys, Jim Morrison, Gram Parsons, Charles Manson, Randy Newman, Steely Dan, X and NWA, but also discusses many talented people who never quite made it to the big time, or who lost their way before realizing their full potential. Hoskyns is quite good in describing the business side of the music scene, and in relating events outside the music scene (for example, the booming aerospace industry, the surfing

craze, the development of a "San Francisco sound," and the riots of 1965 and 1992) that had a significant impact on it. In tracing the development of popular music in LA, Hoskyns makes the key point -- though this is hardly news -- that no musical style remains popular very long, and even the most creative and versatile artists simply can't stay on top for more than a couple of years.

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