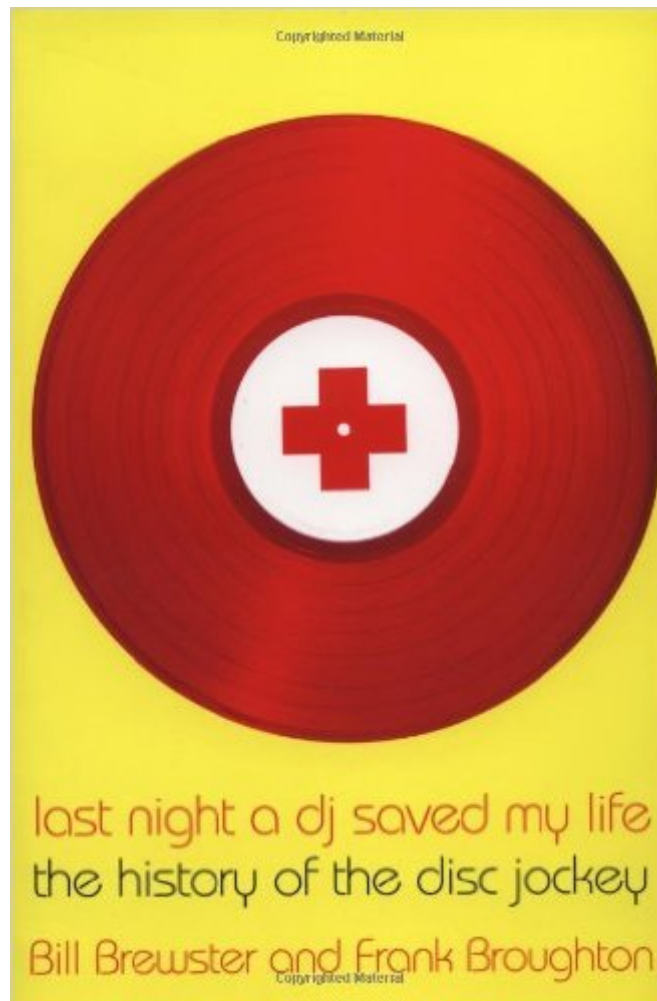


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Last Night A DJ Saved My Life: The History Of The Disc Jockey



Synopsis

From the first time a record was played over the airwaves in 1906, to a modern club economy that totals \$3 billion annually in New York City alone, the DJ has been at the center of popular music. Starting as little more than a talking jukebox, the DJ is now a premier entertainer, producer, businessman, and musician in his own right. Superstar DJs, from Junior Vasquez to Sasha and Digweed, command worship and adoration from millions, flying around the globe to earn tens of thousands of dollars for one night's work. Increasingly, they are replacing live musicians as the central figures of the music industry. In *Last Night a DJ Saved My Life*, music journalists Bill Brewster and Frank Broughton have written the first comprehensive history of the mysterious and charismatic figure behind the turntables -- part obsessive record collector, part mad scientist, part intuitive psychologist of the party groove. From England's rabid Northern Soul scene to the birth of disco in New York, from the sound systems of Jamaica to the scratch wars of early hip-hop in the Bronx, from Chicago house to Detroit techno to London rave, DJs are responsible for most of the significant changes in music over the past forty years. Drawing on in-depth interviews with DJs, critics, musicians, record executives, and the revelers at some of the century's most legendary parties, *Last Night a DJ Saved My Life* is nothing less than the life story of dance music.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Grove Press; 1st American Ed edition (July 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802136885

ISBN-13: 978-0802136886

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 5.8 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (61 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #808,802 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Dance](#) #85 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Radio > History & Criticism](#) #326 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Rap](#)

Customer Reviews

Being a DJ myself since the mid-80's, it was an immense pleasure to remember a lot from scene that I lived my youth in, partied and played and followed since then. But it was even better to LEARN a HUGE lot about the history and development of this art before I fell in love with dance

music and DJing. The book shows an enormous amount of research and data, names, tracks, labels, clubs and everything. And it's cleverly written, in such a way you feel like following a novel. It goes well into advancing through the time, showing all the different, multiple and sometimes parallel scenes that took place in sometimes far away places, connecting the dots and highlighting influences, as they happened in fact. Today, with internet and iTunes and online music stores one can read the book and go search for the artists, DJs and the music playlisted in the book while reading it, making up for an amazing "timeline" soundtrack that encompasses a great part of modern life. I did exactly that of course, and had such a good time discovering new stuff as well as "crate digging" my collection of records, most listed on the book, But even if you don't I certainly recommend you look around and hear every track as you read the book, it's a lesson and I'm sure you'll have lots of fun while learning a lot too. DJing is no longer a "career" for me, though I still play clubs, gigs and radio shows frequently. I guess you love music and that's it, you can't leave it or get left by it if you really love playing. This book shows why, the people who love finding new music, people who are daring, creative, passionate about discovering new sounds and showing to people to make them dance, that's such an amazing craft.

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