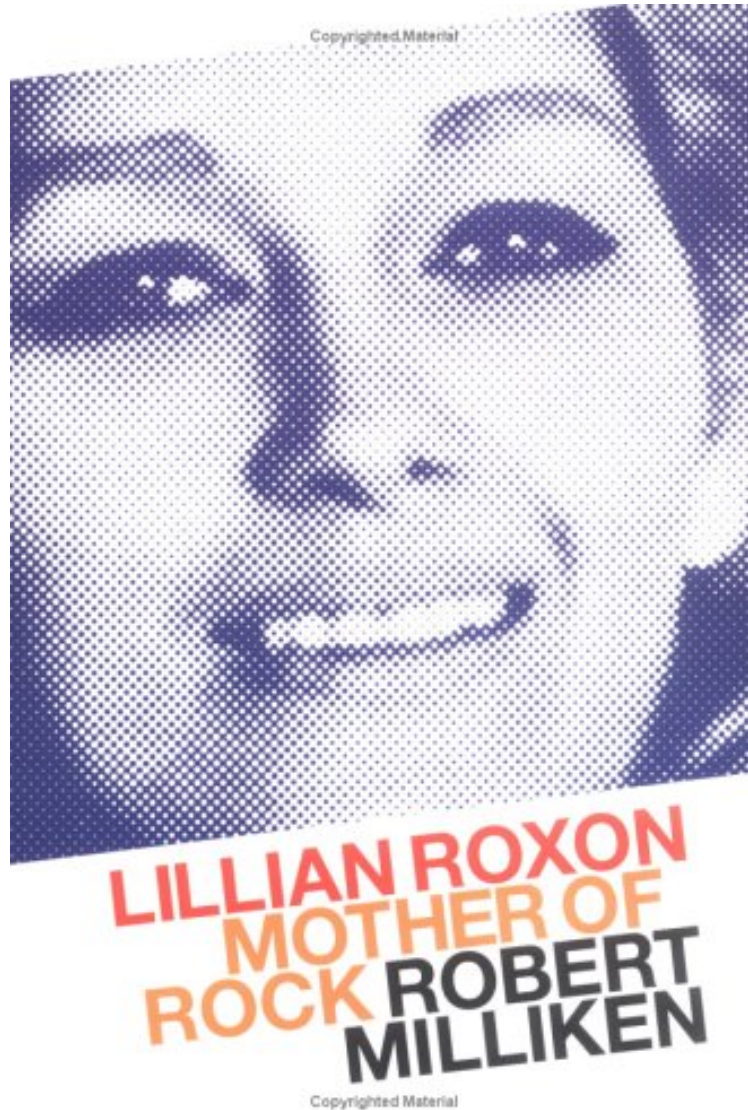


(Download pdf ebook) Lillian Roxon: Mother of Rock

Lillian Roxon: Mother of Rock

Robert Milliken

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Robert Milliken : Lillian Roxon: Mother of Rock before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lillian Roxon: Mother of Rock:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. From Oz She Came By Kevin Killian Robert Milliken has written a fine biography of the pioneering journalist Lillian Roxon, author of ROCK ENCYCLOPEDIA (1969). On one hand anyone would feel sorry for Roxon, who died alone in a crumby New York apartment surrounded by giant cockroaches, and so young, only 41, and she died of asthma which thank God very few people die of. One has the

feeling that if only she felt able to share her life with someone she might have lived; as Milliken hints there are some unanswered questions about her death. However on the whole the book is a colonnade of sustained joy, for Roxon's life was an extraordinary one and she seems on every turn to have found the most fun available. Plus she lived during a great period in Australian history, finding herself at a very young age (as a schoolgirl) part of Brisbane's chic, avant-garde "Pink Elephant" crowd, a young girl in a wild scene of poetry, homosexuality and small, intensive galleries and late night cafes and bars. She never looked back, becoming a top journalist in Sydney where she worked for the city's top paper, the Morning Herald, where eventually the corporation sent her to New York City. In 1960, just in time for Camelot and the Kennedys and the beginning of the Twist and Nureyev and Fonteyn and, finally, the scene where she found her niche, the rock/art back room at Max's Kansas City. Nearly everyone loved her, for she was not only beautiful and brainy but she had a shrewd, native generosity, and helped out her fellow writers wherever she could. She befriended Linda Eastman, who broke her heart by ignoring her after her marriage to Paul McCartney was brokeraged. And she encountered another Australian wild woman, the provovateuse Germaine Greer, who wrote THE FEMALE EUNUCH in 1971, dedicating it to Lillian as most of us have forgotten by now. All these tangled stories and scenes Milliken lays out like the pro he is, and yet never losing sight of his main thread, the way Roxon took to innovation and the experimental like a dog to water. As a bonus, Milliken included a shrewd selection of some of the highlights of Roxon's famous ENCYCLOPEDIA, now apparently sadly out of print, as well as some pertinent and previously uncollected articles that were published before her death. This small anthology of Roxon's work makes us long for an edition of her critical slash gossip writing in toto. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was perusing this book and ran across the entry ...By Joey BooksI was perusing this book and ran across the entry about Otis Redding. Unfortunately, there is an error stating that Redding's plane went down AFTER leaving his Madison, Wisconsin concert. The fact is his plane went down on the way TO the concert scheduled on December 10, 1967 at the Factory in downtown Madsion, crashing into the nearby icy waters of Lake Monona. A minor error perhaps, but it may call into question the accuracy of some other historical details for other entries in the book.

Audacious, independent, and fiercely intelligent, Lillian Roxon cut her teeth as a reporter in the lively world of 1950s tabloid journalism. Her rapid success soon saw her interviewing stars like Rock Hudson and Richard Burton. She moved to New York City in the 1960s, just in time for a cultural revolution that celebrated youth, sexual freedom, women's liberation and, of course, rock 'n' roll. In New York, Lillian was the universally acknowledged queen of Max's Kansas City, one of the greatest nightspots ever. It was the club where Jimi Hendrix, Mick Jagger, Janis Joplin, and other stars in waiting came to hang out. Linda McCartney confided in Lillian about her first date with Paul; Germaine Greer knocked on her door for a place to stay. The 1969 publication of Lillian's Rock Encyclopedia excerpted in this volume confirmed her status. It was the first book of its kind and established her as one of America's leading chroniclers of rock culture. Here was the "queen of Max's Kansas City" who ruled the world of rock the only critic to give Lester Bangs a run for his money.

From Publishers Weekly Lillian Roxon's Rock Encyclopedia (1969) remains a remarkable overview of the 1960s record industry, thanks to Roxon's consuming love for rock and roll and her fresh, colloquial style. Milliken's brisk, accessible portrait of the woman behind these insights has the flavor of Roxon's own writings, many of which are excerpted within. He details her problems with editors, her conflicts with her mother and her struggles with asthma (which killed her in 1973 at age 41). Roxon's first love died at 22, and two other central male figures in Roxon's life also died at early ages. Yet this book's overall tone is upbeat, evoking the period's optimism and excitement. Roxon's career started shakily at the Sydney Daily Mirror, where she developed a talent for impertinence, asking Brian Epstein during an interview, "Mr. Epstein, are you a millionaire?" Sydney journalist Milliken chronicles Roxon's relationship with Linda Eastman, a three-year bond that ended when Eastman dropped her best friend after marrying Paul McCartney. Roxon took revenge by slaughtering Eastman and McCartney in print, but this approach, born of personal rejection and pain, wasn't typical, and Milliken cites plenty of Roxon's balanced, compassionate pieces. This lively book is as much a portrait of a journalist as the era she covered. Photos. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. She was the unchallenged queen of the New York rock scene ... the Dorothy Parker of Max's Kansas City. -- Rolling Stone, 13 September 1973 About the Author Robert Milliken is a journalist and author who has written for newspapers and magazines in Australia, the United States and Britain. His previous books are No Conceivable Injury and On the Edge.