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For Pavement fans and rock enthusiasts comes an engaging profile of the band and their quirkily dark, melodic sound and cryptic, mirth-filled lyrics.

Perfect Sound Forever: The Story of Pavement Details

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Chris says

This was just OK. Heavy on pictures, light on revelations, but that's hardly the author's fault: With the exception of Bob N., the men of Pavement just really don't have a lot to say. It made me miss Pavement enough to put a couple of CDs in my car changer, but definitely no Hammer of the Gods.

Thara says

Pavement is one of my favorite bands, but this book isn't stellar. Still, it's a decent history & Pavement fans should own it.

drew says

the only reason this gets a three is because of the band. this book sucks a dick. jovanovich cannot write.

A.Jay Wagner says

Perfect Sound Forever: The Story of Pavement by Rob Jovanovic (2004)

dirt says

A nice little history of Pavement done through interviews of band members.

The over all message of the book is that we are lucky that Pavement existed. What started out as a lark for two dudes in a garage ended up leaving an indelible mark on music. Thank goodness or we would not have this little ukulele cover of Zurich is Stained. Just listen to this version once and it makes you want to go run out and do something beautiful!

Though Pavement has not become quite as big a mark as Jovanovic foretold. Back in 2004 when Perfect Sound Forever was published, he made the prediction that soon nostalgia for the 90's would kick in and that Pavement would be seen as the second most influential band of the 90's, right behind those Nirvana kids. Though he was prescient about the retro 90's revival (I often feel like I am being sold my childhood back to me), sadly Pavement has not received quite the notoriety.

On a tangent, it is weird how the past is remembered. Lots of people have jumped on this Neutral Milk Hotel bandwagon. If all these people had listened to Neutral Milk Hotel, maybe they should have called up the radio station and requested a song or two. Then we would not have been bombarded by the umpteenmillionth play of some Eve 6 song. Yeah, that was what was actually in heavy rotation, but no one is claiming they

were the biggest Eve 6 fan back in the day. Can't sweep that one under the rug.

Other reviewers have complained how straight forward Perfect Sound Forever is written. This guy met this guy then and then they recorded that album. What did they want? Editorializing? Song analysis? That's like explaining why the joke is funny. Jovanovic does do an interesting balancing act with S.M. On one hand he reveres him as Stephen "He is a Genius" Malkmus, on the other he portrays him as a prissy little control freak who broke up the band. If you have half an hour to kill, check out this Soft Focus interview with Stephen Malkmus for a good time.. Overall, author Robbie "Jojo" Jovanovic lets the band speak for themselves and tell their story in their own words. Surprisingly, almost all of them were huge Echo and the Bunnymen fans.

Clint Hardison says

sad that this book is my only one to get five stars.

pippi says

because, i'm obsessed

Patrick says

Gets three stars just for the subject matter, but there was something underwhelming about this book. It didn't really go into too much depth about the songs and lyrics and stuff, it seemed like just "then this person met that person living there, then this album came out, they they toured, then they broke up, the end."

David Dixon says

I've been reading (and writing) about Pavement since '94, and I give up. No one's gonna crack that nut.

Jason Coleman says

Almost the book this great, departed band deserves. The design, with its scribbled-in footnotes and 'zine-inspired layout, captures the graphic attitude of that era and of this band in particular, right down to the Steve Keene painting on the cover. Author Jovanovic does a lot of things right: he spoke to virtually all the players and brought back lots of good war stories, from the desolate suburbs of Stockton to the fertile Charlottesville scene of the late '80s that also included David Berman's Silver Jews to the Hoboken apartment from which these Whitney Museum security guards and future rock stars created the wild white noise that fed into the later Pavement sound (and which they sometimes played into Thurston Moore and Kim Gordon's answering machine when they somehow got hold of the Sonic Youth leaders' private number). His portrait of original drummer and confessed alcoholic mess Gary Young is unforgettable. But Jovanovic is otherwise slight on psychology, meager on analysis of the songs, and his heart is clearly with the early history, leaving the later

work short-changed. The book badly runs out of steam. I feel there is still a great Pavement story waiting to be written, one that joins the banal upbringings with the surreal, uncanny rightness of their art—as well as an era that may have felt great but, to the participants' bewilderment, "came too late."

Joe says

Me like. Never knew too much about their private lives or the origins of a really great band. Malkmus explains what some of his songs are about. Also gives a list of each band members' favorite bands/influences.

Craig says

Crammed with filler, rehashery.

Maarten Wagemakers says

This pretty decent biography on one of my favourite bands reads away like an extended magazine article - high on talking heads, somewhat light on the analysis. And that's alright with me. "Perfect Sound Forever" offers a charted, chronological history of the band mostly based on facts and interviews with people involved, staying on point in a cool layout with lots of newspaper and magazine clippings adding to the contemporary context and general reading experience. Rock biographers usually tend to overreach their own importance by going hog wild on subjective reflections and selective history telling to suit a narrative, but Jovanovic mostly shies away from all that (even if the later years don't get as much attention as the early ones).

One oversight is the large number of typos in the discography section - apparently forgotten by editors.

Melissa Nastasi says

I thought this book was an extremely comprehensive bio on Pavement. This group is what turned me onto indie rock when I was 12 years old back in the 90s. To read the story of their upcoming and ultimate demise was really fascinating. We still have the reunion shows, right?

Matt says

A breezy, easy biography of a band I love.
