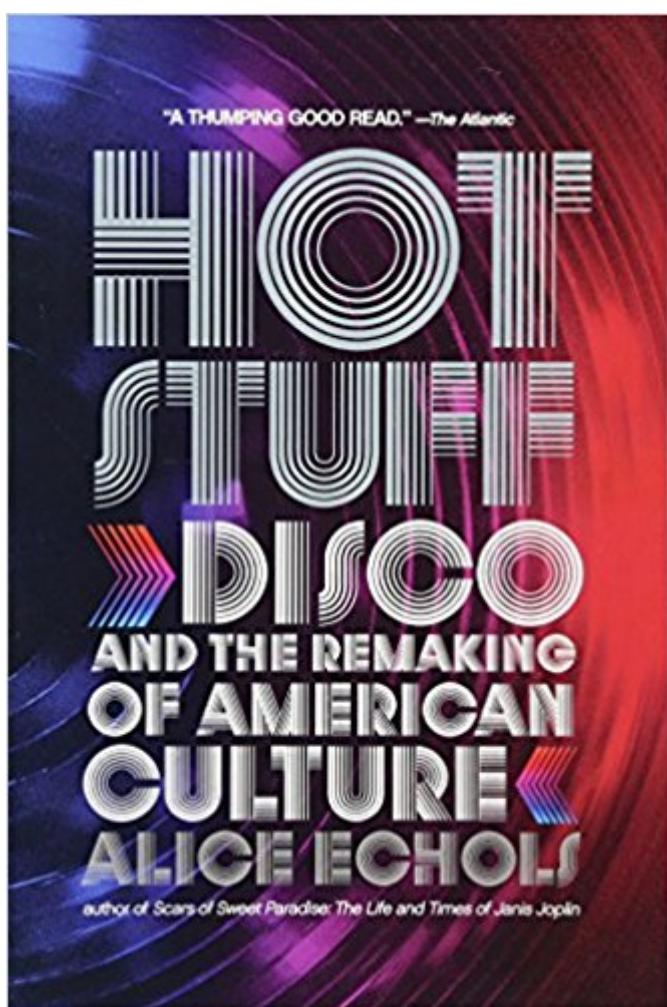


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# Hot Stuff: Disco And The Remaking Of American Culture



## Synopsis

"Remarkable. . . . Carried along by prose that is as sleek and slinky as its subject."•Christine Stansell, University of Chicago Alice Echols reveals the ways in which disco transformed popular music, propelling it into new sonic territory and influencing rap, techno, and trance. She probes the complex relationship between disco and the era's major movements: gay liberation, feminism, and African American rights. You won't say "disco sucks" as disco thumps back to life in this pulsating look at the culture and politics that gave rise to the music. 20 black-and-white photographs

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; Reprint edition (March 21, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393338916

ISBN-13: 978-0393338911

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1.1 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #191,972 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Dance #226 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Popular #407 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Popular

## Customer Reviews

As American studies professor and Janis Joplin biographer (*Scars of Sweet Paradise*) Echols succinctly states, Nothing seems to conjure up the seventies quite so effectively as disco. But while the decade's *weltanschauung* is often dismissed as merely polyester and platform heels, Echols aims for and thoroughly achieves a range of higher cultural insights. Using an encyclopedic knowledge of the eras' biggest stars, she shows how all sorts of musical disco styles played a central role in broadening the contours of blackness, femininity, and male homosexuality in America. She brilliantly explores the many ways that early disco clubs created new spaces where gay men could safely come together in a large crowd, at the same time often masking an early strain of the racial and class exclusion that dominated disco's later years. She brings to light the influence of underground legends such as club deejay Tom Moulton, who first remixed popular records to make them longer for dancing and created the model for the 12-inch, extended play disco single. Best of

all is Echols's revelatory look at how the critique of racism and sexism in the film Saturday Night Fever offers a richer portrait of the disco seventies than its critics have granted. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Only nominally about the watered-down funk music that was disco, Echols' history instead focuses on disco's social effects, particularly the rise of gay consciousness and the mainstreaming of the gay rights movement. Echols proclaims that she likes disco and thinks if others gave it half a chance, they would, too. Be that as it may, she knows her dancin'-fool stuff. She makes a convincing case for disco's far-reaching cultural legacies, and her discussion of the career arc of the Village People is an excellent vehicle for examining the phenomenon of much of mainstream America embracing disco while blithely ignoring the gay subtext of scads of disco songs. Her dissections of the trials and tribulations of disco artists in general and Donna Summer in particular are telling and well presented. All in all, if one feels the need to be knowledgeable about the rise and fall of the disco lifestyle and how elements of the once-reviled music genre still act upon American culture today, this is the goods. --Mike Tribby --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Most people tend to recoil at either hearing or reading the word "disco" but this book takes the subject and puts into a very interesting sociological context. It takes the time frame of disco from the mid seventies to its demise in the early eighties and threads disco through its importance in ethnicity, sexual orientation and social class consciousness. Good reading if you either loved disco or hated it.

Informative and entertaining; a fantastic book for anyone interested not only in disco but also American culture in the 70s. Echols is a fantastic author and scholar, if you enjoy this book, you should check out some of her other works. Highly recommended!

Alice Echols's book on disco's part in the 70s cultural revolution is fantastic. Although each section focuses on a different population (such as women, gay men, and rock fans), she never allows you to forget about the other groups as she goes along, weaving together a complex and intricate view of disco and 1970s culture.

Great overview of before, during and after the disco era. What it meant socially to different groups, how it changed US culture and values, the lifestyles behind the music, and best of all, the music itself. Copious footnotes, and even includes a DJ setlist! Great all-encompassing history of disco, with special focus on disco and GLBT, disco and women, and disco and Black Americans.

Love it!

There were many stories here I had never heard before.

This book was a nice nostalgic journey back in time to my youth. I would recommend this book to anyone who is a fan of the Disco Era.

Alice Echols tried to turn herself into a man, failed. This book is about the AIDS crises of men in the 1970s. She knows nothing of the disco movement at that time, nothing of the music. She spun a few records and transformed herself into an expert in her own mind.

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