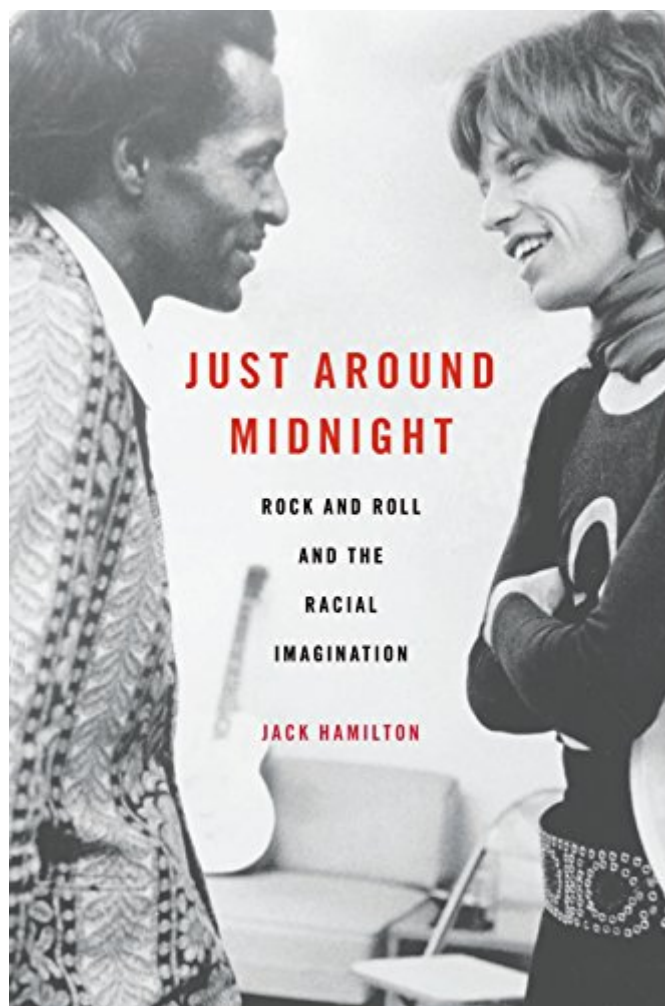


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# Just Around Midnight



## Synopsis

When Jimi Hendrix died, the idea of a black man playing lead guitar in a rock band seemed exotic. Yet ten years earlier, Chuck Berry had stood among the most influential rock and roll performers. Why did rock and roll become white? Jack Hamilton challenges the racial categories that distort standard histories of rock music and the 60s revolution.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book did a great job of placing some of my favorite 1960's musicians in their own complicated and changing times. Even more, it helped me think more deeply about the most commonly accepted stories that music fans have told ourselves about the race and artistic decisions of these icons. It is full of provoking anecdotes that give insight into how the musicians themselves thought of themselves and their work, which often challenges how we came to imagine them and categorize them in the decades that followed. Most importantly though *Just Around Midnight* is a book about songs. Jack Hamilton looks bar-by-bar (often chord-by-chord) at some of our favorite songs

including a breakdown of "Gimme Shelter" in the last chapter that I had to re-read after I dug up the track on my iPod and listened to it in its entirety. This is a book that will have you going back into your music library and hearing your old favorite songs in a new way! Even for the super fan who has already read the big biographies of the artists Jack Hamilton discusses (Cooke, Dylan, The Beatles, The Stones, Hendrix, Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin...), "Just Around Midnight" is a great companion book because it will reveal some of the assumptions we have been making about these artists, how we tell their stories, and, most importantly, how we experience their music.

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