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Ashley Miller / The Life of Charlie Parker

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I found this entry more informative than the little bit of research I conducted earlier on for one of my papers. Ashley’s response is not only interesting but is also provides an alternative view of this legend’s life.

Charlie’s early life was not something I read on but found interesting that he began at such a young age and pushed himself “over one summer, building up his technique and mastery of the fundamentals” (Miller). This showed dedication and hard work which I found to contradict his adult behavior as he was unable to focus on the music alone anymore and turned to drugs. Although there is no concrete reason as to why Charlie used heroin, one can assume that it was to escape what he may have been going though internally. On a personal note, a cousin of mine that I was very close to when growing up, became addicted to methamphetamines. She has struggled through the addiction as she gets clean but then relapses and during her breaks from the drugs, conversations have led me to believe that she uses to self-medicate from depression. Depression that was caused by using the drug as she knows that it is not good for her or her future, but unfortunately, continues and this is the grasp that drugs can have on an individual. Charlie Parker, “A man of huge appetites, he overindulged frequently. He was a neurotic, hospitalized twice for mental breakdowns, and he was a drug addict whose habit caused him to misbehave flamboyantly” (Heroin), was like my cousin in that he self-medicated because of his mental issues rather than see a doctor or therapist.

Ashley’s work is good because she provides that inside look into Charlie Parker’s life that not everyone is aware of. One can take this information and locate relative works or icons with this same issue during that time as well as relate on a personal level, as I have, to get a deeper understanding of why this legendary artist bowed to such a monster.

Works Cited

"Consequences of Heroin Addiction." Heroin. Ed. Todd Howard. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2003. 44-57. Drug Education Library. Web. 25 Oct. 2015.

Miller, Ashley. “The Life of Charlie Parker.” English 101 Discussion Group 3 Response, Blackboard. November, 2015. Web