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You Never Give Me Your Money: The Beatles After The Breakup



Synopsis

“Peter Doggett’s book about the Beatles’ split is a real page-turner.” • Annie Lennox “Enthralling | Impossible to put down.” • The Independent Acclaimed journalist Peter Doggett recounts the previously untold story of the dramatic final chapter in the lives, loves, and legal battles of John, Paul, George, and Ringo • aka The Beatles • from their breakup in 1969 to the present day. Called “refreshingly straightforward and highly readable” by The Daily Telegraph (London), *You Never Give Me Your Money* is the dramatic and intimate story of the breakup and aftermath of The Fab Four as it’s never been told before.

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Customer Reviews

Beyond the Beatlemania, there existed four men, trapped by their talent, egos, drive, and fame. I think this book peels away a huge amount of easy assumptions regarding the "Fab Four". John is a huge talent, inventor of music, psychologically manipulated by his past, his sex drive, his women. George is angered by his learning curve in writing as a Beatle, Ringo is forced to listen to the others

argue, while he would like full honorarium as a creative part of the group. Paul is the driven one, and sadly, so gifted that his creativity drives his mates beyond cracking. I found this book to clear away all the haze about the Beatles as individuals. It gives fair exposure to each Beatle as well as Yoko Ono. It neither seeks heroes nor villains. IT shows each individual at their worst...and best. It gives respect to each person, but shows how each could shoot the others in the feet, just to be petty. How close we came to a reassembly of Beatles, only to be thwarted by each Beatle, and then by John's assassin. I also think it's quite amazing to see unvarnished individuals. Imagine a stiff and abrasive George Harrison? Imagine a Ringo Starr who walks out on Paul McCartney? Imagine a John Lennon who finally is ready to make music with his best friend, realizing at last, together they are much greater than their individual abilities? Finally, it's hard to imagine busted Beatles; broke, spent out of their last dimes. I recommend this to anyone who lived through the rise and split, and fall, of the greatest rock and roll musicians of our lifetimes.

In this great piece of scholarship and reporting, Peter Doggett wades into the thickets of Beatles litigation and acrimony. Somehow, he's managed to untangle an almost mind-boggling complex history and distill it into a compelling narrative. The main body of the story (after a searing upfront recounting of John Lennon's assassination) takes off around the time of Magical Mystery Tour and continues through to current day. Throughout, the typical Beatles milestones - albums and singles - are mere background. Doggett's triumph is change the position of the lens and put the camera behind the scenes - the typical background (Allen Klein, Lee and John Eastman, Denis O'Brien, Yoko Ono...as manager, Apple's dysfunction, etc.) is foreground. Making the decision to follow the never-ending tale of unrelenting legal battles had the potential of turning into something very dry. Doggett's talent is to keep the interest high by repeatedly bringing us back to the four protagonists - their reaction, what they were thinking, how any action rejiggered the alliances within the band. While 'Money' is a must-read for fans of the Beatles, those same fans can't help but be dismayed by the visceral antipathy on display here between the band members. And though Doggett does his best to stay dispassionate and even-handed about each of the four (this is a warts-and-all retelling), it's McCartney that most often comes out looking like the antagonist. The 3 vs. 1 dynamic is the book's dominant staging...even though it was Lennon, not McCartney, who first called 'out' (but lacked McCartney's savvy in using such an announcement to his benefit).

With all that continues to be written - both good and bad - about The Beatles, it is hard to know if the subject matter has been exhausted. However, with "You Never Give Me Your Money: The Beatles

After The Breakup", Peter Doggett seems to have created a fresh and worthwhile addition to the story of John, Paul, George, and Ringo. The last half of the title is almost a bit misleading, as is the prologue, which reviews John Lennon's murder in December 1980. It would make the less-attentive reader think that the book will only focus on the solo years to the present day. But the story actually begins around the time that The Beatles were creating their eponymous album (aka the "White Album") and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band", when the band was already fraying at the seams. Brian Epstein had died, their financial affairs were a convoluted mess, the band had decided to create Apple Records as a utopian corporation/tax haven, and the egos, insecurities, and relationships of the bandmates were beginning to overwhelm the craft of music. Mr. Doggett quite thoroughly weaves this together into an almost blow-by-blow account of the events - both in-studio and out. In fact, in the first third of the book, it feels at times like there is just so much information that the reader's head would spin. Despite this, the narrative is still engaging. In the afterword, Mr. Doggett professes that of the four, George Harrison is his favorite Beatle. Upon reflection, one could identify the parts where that favoritism leaks out a bit. But actually, his liberal use of Harrison's acerbic wit is not one of those parts; in fact, Harrison's quotes provide much humor amidst the discussions of all the business dealings and individual actions of the principals. In fact, Mr. Doggett is about as even-handed in the narrative as any one could be. He does a pretty good job of peeling back some of the carefully-crafted "legends" that have been built over the years to expose some of the unpleasant and unflattering aspects of the business and the bandmates themselves. No one - not even the spouses - really come through better than any of the others. The book seems to be exhaustively researched from a wide range of sources, which is greatly appreciated. I'm not as much a fanatic follower of The Beatles to know for sure if all this research is accurate, or if there may be a "nugget" or two that is incorrect. But by and large, all that is told seems to be valid and true. With all the research, though, Mr. Doggett seemed to have repeated some facts and story segments - particularly in the first third of the book - that was a mild distraction and criticism. Overall, this was a very enjoyable book, and should be a worthy entry into The Beatles biographical library. Separate from The Beatles, it is also an enjoyable look at the music business. If you replaced The Beatles with any number of musicians or bands, I would wager that there would be parts of their story that would be eerily similar to what is told here. I think that "You Never Give Me Your Money" should satisfy a wide swath of music fans, whether they are fanatic Beatles followers or not.

I have read countless books on the Beatles. I have also visited their haunts in Liverpool, London and NYC. I consider myself fairly knowledgeable on the topic and was reluctant to invest the time in

yet another account. But, I am truly glad that I did. Well researched by a talented insightful author. A new perspective from the money angle and how it divided the love, friendship and professional careers of four men. Only John, Paul, George and Richie can truly appreciate the heavy baggage that accompanied their fame. However, this book provides an unvarnished truth that should make every wannabe Beatle consider the price that was paid. Frank Russo, attorney, acoustic guitar player and Beatle fan - Tampa Bay, Florida

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