

Beatles - the only authorized biography

Cape - How the Beatles Got Together and Became the Best



Description: -

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Hunter Davies

Unshakably convinced of their commercial potential, Epstein became their manager and proceeded to bombard the major British music companies with letters and tape recordings of the band, finally winning a contract with Parlophone, a subsidiary of the giant EMI group of music labels. This is confirmed by their wives and closest associates Martin, Aspinall, Evans. It may seem counter intuitive, but for as thrilling and exciting as it is to finally see your book in print, it's also incredibly stressful knowing that now the rest of the world has the chance to read it.

The Beatles: The Biography

However, he achieved some real coups for the time, such as tracking down and interviewing Pete Best, Richard Starkey Ringo's estranged father, and Fred Lennon John's estranged father. McCartney took to calling the book Shite! But the mores of the time, as well as the need to please everyone involved, meant that some major cuts needed to be made.

How the Beatles Got Together and Became the Best

Within less than six months of the book's publication, John was with Yoko, Paul was with Linda both of whom the two Beatles would respectively marry in early 1969 and remain married to until Linda's and John's deaths; within five years Ringo and Maureen were separated and headed for divorce, as were George and Pattie. After the end of the Beatles' career, Norman briskly covers their solo careers up to and including John's murder in 1980. Decca was only one of several companies that foolishly decided not to align themselves with the future supergroup as noted in the LIFE article: Meanwhile Epstein had begun a long and dispiriting trail around the other record companies; they all turned him down.

THE BEATLES

It was in Upper Parliament Street where a guy called Lord Woodbine owned a strip club.

Beatles

However, it's the section of the book dealing with their lives and careers between 1966 and mid-1968 when his interviews ended as he prepared to go to publication that offer the most revealing insights into the inner workings and hive mind of the band.

Beatles Rejection: We Don't Like Their Sound. Groups of Guitars Are On Their Way Out

Again, fascinating to read since we all know what happened two years later. You'd be entirely justified in wondering just how many biographies on the band are really necessary.

The Beatles: The Authorized Biography by Hunter Davies

I felt no need to go into it. Paul is painted fairly accurately as a likable yet driven, ambitious, and supremely talented musician who has been the engine of the band post-1966.

THE BEATLES

Seasoned Beatles fans will know that Hunter Davies has written additional books on the Beatles in the years since 1968, notably his recent John Lennon Letters and Beatles Lyrics books, both of which have been reviewed on this site previously. During 1967 and 1968 Hunter Davies spent eighteen months with the Beatles at the peak of their powers as they defined a generation and rewrote popular music. Essential reading for any Beatles fan, Hunter Davies book is a slice of life directly from the Beatles that chronicles their story from mostly their own recollections, catching them at their peak when the possibilities seemed endless and the successes effortless.

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