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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

I’ve probably read a couple hundred books about music and musicians, but only about 15 or 20 on the Beatles. Out of all those books I can’t say that this one was the most enjoyable, but it was certainly one of the most profound, the one that made me think the most about the vast chasm between myth and reality. Peter Doggett has been researching and writing and living the Beatles for decades so he is as qualified as anyone to write this book. It is the story of the actual men behind

the phenomenon, what they have had to live (or die) through day by day and year by year. I'm not an expert but I don't suppose that there is much in the way of new revelations here but the presentation is certainly different. It doesn't spend a lot of time in exaltation of the music. We all know, the author as much as anyone, what this music and this band has meant both to popular culture and to us individually. We all understand, and there have been countless books and articles detailing it, the sense of joy, freedom, and hope that came from those songs. That's not discussed much here. What is discussed is the day to day reality of these men (flawed as you and I), the repercussions of being one of THE BEATLES, the unrealistic hopes and dreams of millions constantly laid on their all too mortal shoulders over decades. Seen for what it is, stripped of the myth, I often found it more brutal than desirable. Doggett simply reports what happened. He doesn't often draw conclusions for us. From the beginning the Beatles were a vast source of untold wealth and everybody wanted a piece. Bad business decisions abounded from the beginning. The worst was probably turning things over to Allen Klein after Brian Epstein's death.

Mojo and Q writer Peter Doggett tackles one of the most difficult subject in The Beatles mythology in *You Never Give Me Your Money: The Beatles After the Breakup*. Doggett focuses on the hurricane of success that led to the band's break up and kept these four friends who went through the excitement/hell of Beatlemania together apart--the business of The Beatles, their own egos and all the baggage they carried into and out of their relationship(s) as former partners. The Beatles was truly always bigger than all of them separately and for them to carry on in the shadow of a monster was difficult--they were always individually measured against the success of The Beatles something much bigger than John, Paul, George and Ringo individually. The first third of the book is devoted to The Beatles before and on the cusp of the break up including a discussion of Allen Klein, the Eastmans and the legal issues/conflicts between those outside of the Beatles camp and inside. The majority of the book though focuses everything from the petty (George stating sarcastically suggesting that Paul talked about recording some of John's songs because he ran out of good ones himself) to the major (the conflict between George, Ringo and Yoko when Paul set up a higher royalty rate that tied into his solo career but also effected his Beatles recordings as well that the other three weren't privy to). "You Never Give Me Your Money" focuses on the legal squabbles and difficulties that John, Paul, George and Ringo faced in the aftermath of their massive success. The band faced friends who robbed them, each other in courtrooms, EMI the company they recorded for and their own personal demons of living up to the reputation that was bigger than all of them.

As a rabid classic rock fan, I always wondered why the Beatles seemed to have completely ignored the CD era. Almost every band of the sixties saw their CDs issued two, three, four or more times in the 20 plus years CDs have existed. Until 2009, the Beatles saw theirs issued once. Why would the band pass up the opportunity to make money on their songs? Why would they deny their fans the opportunity to hear the CDs cleaned up with bonus tracks and other goodies? After reading *You Never Give Me Your Money*, the answer becomes clear. From the late 60's on, the Beatles were rarely on the same page on anything, and with the exception of Ringo, all three seemed to be on opposite sides of ambivalent or excited about the prospects of reuniting at any given time. *You Never Give Me Your Money* opens on the event that forever ensured that the Beatles would be shattered, the death of John Lennon. This event becomes the turning point for the group not just because the co-frontman for the group is dead, but because his widow, Yoko Ono, essentially becomes the fourth Beatle in negotiations and discussions. By the end of the book, it is clear that Yoko controlled John in life, and her grip in death ensured that any activity involving the Beatles would not be for the joy of making music, but a business transaction in which the image of John was the most important thing. Truthfully, no Beatle comes off great here. Paul is seen as the consummate hard working musician who leads a life of diminishing musical returns. He's bossy, a bit delusional, and always trying to boost his self esteem and position with his mates in the band.

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