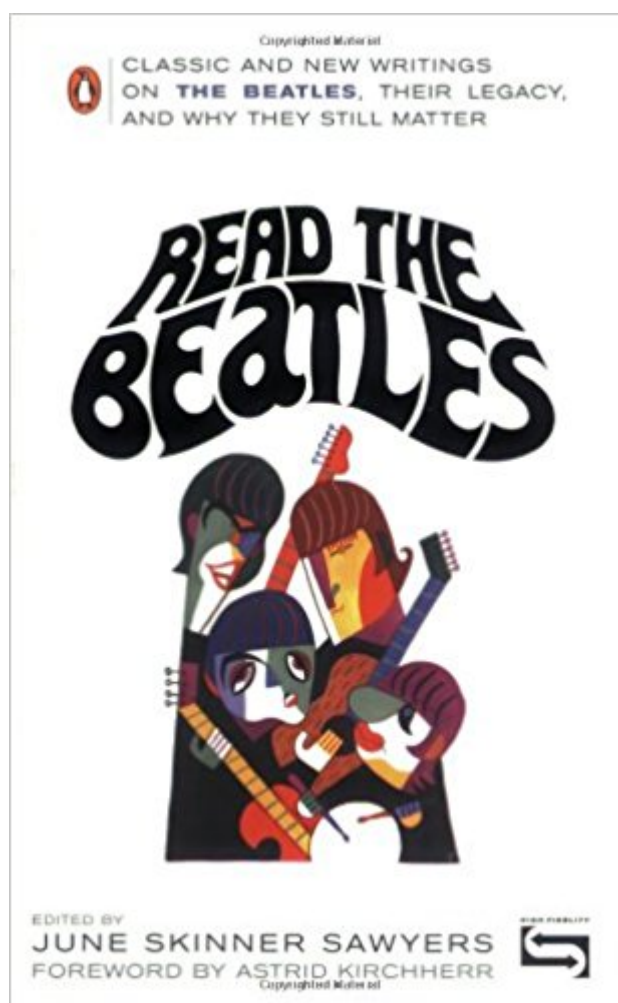


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Read The Beatles: Classic And New Writings On The Beatles, Their Legacy, And Why They Still Matter



Synopsis

A must-have volume for all Beatles fans—a career-spanning selection of writings about the Fab Four. There are, of course, many books on the Beatles, but this is the only one available that is a comprehensive, career-spanning collection of journalism about the legendary band, before and after the breakup. Consisting of more than fifty articles, essays, interviews, record and movie reviews, poems, and book excerpts—many of them rare and hard to find—*Read the Beatles* is an unprecedented compilation that follows the arc of the Fab Four's iconic and idiosyncratic career, from their early days in Liverpool through their tragic and triumphant histories after the group's split. The book also includes original essays from noted musicians and journalists about the Beatles' lasting influence and why they still matter today.

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Customer Reviews

Someone saying that they don't like the Beatles is like saying they don't like babies or sunshine. Anyway, it's not true: everybody knows and loves the Beatles (or else they hide their indifference away). With such familiarity, is there really any need for a collection of old and recent journalism celebrating the four fabulous ones? Don't we know these guys already? Well, sure, but this assortment of more than 50 articles reminds us of Beatle things forgotten and lends insight into Beatle things remembered. Gloria Steinem's sardonic 1964 article for *Cosmopolitan* reiterates how absurdly intense was countless teenage girls' devotion to the lads. Geoffrey O'Brien's essay, "Seven Fat Years," describes how many people thought the music was speaking directly to them—which explains not only the swooning teenagers but also Charles Manson. Writings by Allen

Ginsberg and Philip Glass show the extent of the Beatles' influence on other artists, and interviews with individual Beatles themselves reveal their own bewilderment. But Chicago Tribune pop music critic Greg Kot provides the ultimate synopsis when he writes, "The Beatles had it all, the bastards." Jerry Eberle

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June Skinner Sawyers is an editor and journalist who writes frequently about music and the arts. She is a regular contributor to the Chicago Tribune, for which she wrote a nightlife column for two years, and is the editor of several literary anthologies. Astrid Kirchherr is a photographer and artist who was a close acquaintance of the Beatles during their early career in Hamburg, Germany.

This book has been out for a few years now, and has obviously been reviewed. But it's such a great little book on the band that I thought I'd bring it to the attention of anyone who might've missed it so far. It's full of articles from the band's earliest days up through their breakup and the deaths of Lennon and Harrison. The editor, June Sawyer, has done a great job in putting the many disparate articles into a good, intelligent, flowing order. Also included is a 17 page Chronology beginning with Yoko Ono's birth (1933) and ending with Cirque De Soleil's tribute "LOVE" (2006), a 2 page map of Liverpool, a Forward by Astrid Kirchherr, a 16 page Discography, and an 8 pager Selected Bibliography. Through all the many pieces here--both from the period and newer articles--the reader will get a good feel for both the band and the era. While several books have done something similar, there's something about Sawyer's book that appeals to the fan in me. I've been listening to The Beatles since the days of vinyl and "I Want To Hold Your Hand" came over the AM radio. And I've read most of the relevant books on the group--some good, some not so good--and for some reason this book seems to get close to that whole period of exciting music, at least as good as the other good books on the band. When The Beatles (and other artists) exploded into people's consciousness it really was true that a group and/or a song could influence our generation. It was true too that you could sometimes walk through your neighborhood and hear the same album/songs playing through open windows. Or walk through your college dorm and hear the same music blasting out of people's rooms. I know it's hard to believe in this day and age of "niche marketing", almost instant communication and with many "artists" getting their 15 minutes of fame with sometimes little real substance--but it's true nonetheless. In those days music was more a part of a person's lifestyle--not simply a lifestyle choice--there was (and is) a difference. The Beatles (and others) really did have the capability to relate to and to carry people along through both the good and bad times. And that's what I found inside this great little book. It gives that kind of a vibe, that

kind of feel for that era that's long since disappeared. Reading these articles you get a feel for people's attitudes towards both The Beatles, and rock'n'roll. There's an almost organic feel to many of these pieces (especially the older ones) that seems to shine a clear light onto The Beatles and rock music. I came away with a number of nostalgic feelings for those times, but I've tried hard not to let them interfere with how I view this good little book. To be able to read so many articles from many different magazines etc. really gives depth to this book. Its intelligently laid out and with the added Chronology, Bibliography, and Discography, Sawyer has done a good job in presenting the many articles on The Beatles. If I have any complaints, its that I feel this book would've been better served if originally published as a hardcover edition, to do it proper justice. But that's a small niggle. So, in the end, if you're a fan of The Beatles, and you aren't burnt out on all the many books on the band, and want to read a well thought out book full of period (and newer) articles--this is the book. This cool little book covers that period when rock music was "new" and had a sometimes profound influence on people, when r'n'r was unique and exciting and it was all happening--right now! This book can sit alongside any other good books on The Beatles in your library.

Except for a few, very few, essays, nothing really interesting here.

This is an extremely well-put-together anthology of writings about the Beatles, spanning their entire career as a group and then following each in their post-Beatles years. It includes most of the seminal reviews, interviews and articles about the Beatles from beginning to end (such as the Maureen Cleve/Lennon interview, the William Mann London Times reviews legitimizing the Beatles as serious musicians and songwriters, sections from the Playboy interviews with John Lennon and Yoko Ono, excellent writing on the elusive George Harrison and his musical contributions by David Simons, and much more) and essays on why the Beatles still matter. The book is set up in three distinct parts. I. Articles written during the Beatles years, in chronological order. II. Articles written about individual Beatles post-Beatles, arranged by individual. III. Articles and essays about the Beatles legacy. I knew quite a bit about the Beatles before reading this book, but I learned much that was new and interesting that has heightened my appreciation of these fine musician/songwriters and their legacy. Five stars, and then some. A+

Having recently rediscovered The Beatles (as in, I had gone a few years and not listened to their music), it's amazing to me the number of people still writing about them. The fascination is itself, fascinating. This book is yet a different approach from many others: the writings of journalists and

"observers" who covered the decade, both up close and from across the ocean, as well as some recent entries. One of the elements of this book that makes it worth reading is the sense that you are not prying this time...not delving into private moments or contributing to the guilty pleasures of fan gossip. This is a true journalistic, sometimes intellectual appraisal of what happened during those ten years in and around The Beatles: a time when the world was morphing from post war aesthetics and ethics into the mind blowing sixties and all that it encompassed for the generations to come. Keep this book on a table and just pick it up from time to time. It's not a straight read, so enjoy it at a leisurely pace while you listen to some Beatles' tunes...it's all good.

I took a class on the Beatles, no joke, and this was one of my textbooks. It's very informative and definitely interesting.

Good book. Mostly reprints of articles about the Beatles from other authors.

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