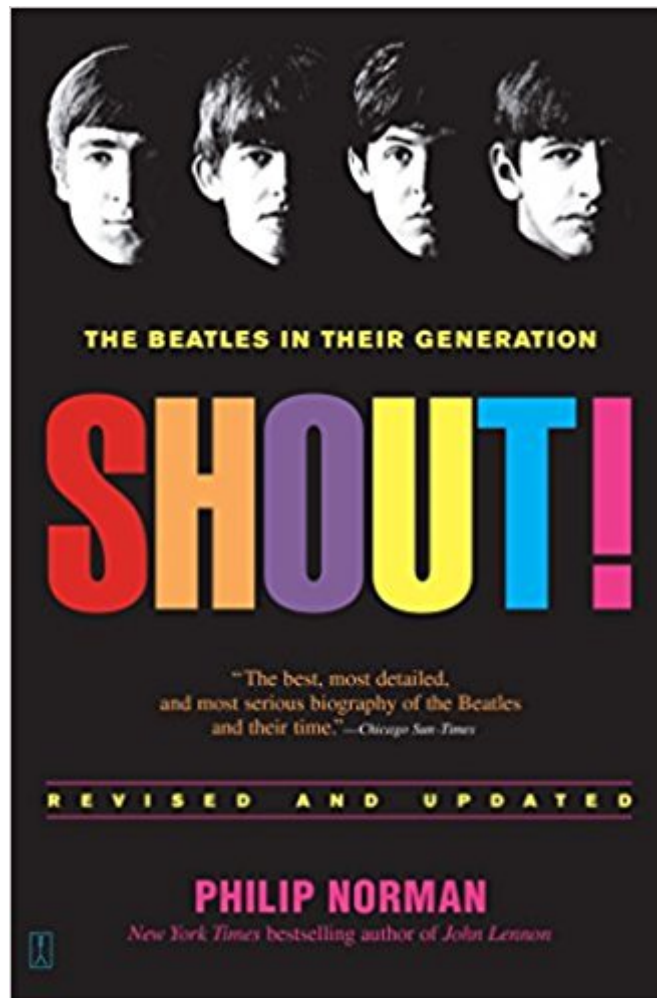




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Shout!: The Beatles In Their Generation



Synopsis

Updated to include Paul McCartney's knighting and the deaths of John Lennon and George Harrison. Philip Norman's biography of the Beatles is the definitive work on the world's most influential band "a beautifully written account of their lives, their music, and their times. Now brought completely up to date, this epic tale charts the rise of four scruffy Liverpool lads from their wild, often comical early days to the astonishing heights of Beatlemania, from the chaos of Apple and the collapse of hippy idealism to the band's acrimonious split. It also describes their struggle to escape the smothering Beatles' legacy and the tragic deaths of John Lennon and George Harrison. Witty, insightful, and moving, *Shout!* is essential reading not just for Beatles fans but for anyone with an interest in pop music.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a little surprised by the ratio of good reviews for this book. I have to chime in with a strong negative for Norman's book. I appreciate the research and craftsmanship that went into the book and the portrait of the Beatles' years in Hamburg is vivid and well done, yet frankly Norman's bias undermines the credibility of the writing in certain chapters, it's uneven in places. Honestly, I even suspect John Lennon would have been dismayed by the mythologizing that goes on in Norman's book. I feel that Norman's book added the mythologizing of the relationships between Lennon, McCartney, Harrison and Starr. Lionizing Lennon while treating Paul as the shallow, sappy, conservative one, or treating Harrison as a lucky third party with passable talent. That's not to say that any member of the band is above criticism, John was very much about being honest and being

honest about oneself. Have people forgotten that Lennon's solo out-put could be surprisingly uneven and inconsistent? Mind you, this is coming from a huge Lennon fan, who wasn't a part of that era, I'm 39. So, I look at this with a different take. Frankly I'm tired of third party books about the Beatles from writers whom, because they had limited access to the band in the Apple years, convince themselves they know what went on privately between them. The best example of the problem with Norman's book can be found with the new chapters concerning the post years, the portraits of McCartney is often overkill. Yes, Paul can be a little much, you could say he's guilty of attempts to re-write history. Yet, Paul does deserve some credit for what's he's accomplished outside the band. Paul's biggest crime after the Beatles was wanting to remain a pop star?

Tune In: The Beatles: All These Years Philip Norman writes well; he crafts a narrative about the Beatles that reads more like a novel than a standard work of history. The early part of the book, in which he describes the Beatles' origins and early career, is quite good. But it's straight downhill, and rapidly, from those first chapters. In an interview Norman credited John Lennon with being "80 percent of the Beatles," and this perspective prevents him from being able to understand the band's dynamics or appreciate what Paul, George, and Ringo brought to the group. All the Beatles were gifted, all were imperfect, all behaved surprisingly well at times and horribly at others. Anyone who wants to write a history of the Beatles that helps readers understand why the band was able to create such timeless music and why the group came apart needs to be able to take a balanced view of all its members. Bob Spitz's "The Beatles" is a vastly better account of the band, in terms of accuracy and objectivity (sadly, it's not as well-written), and the Beatles' own "Anthology" is a much better place to start for anyone newly interested in the band.

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