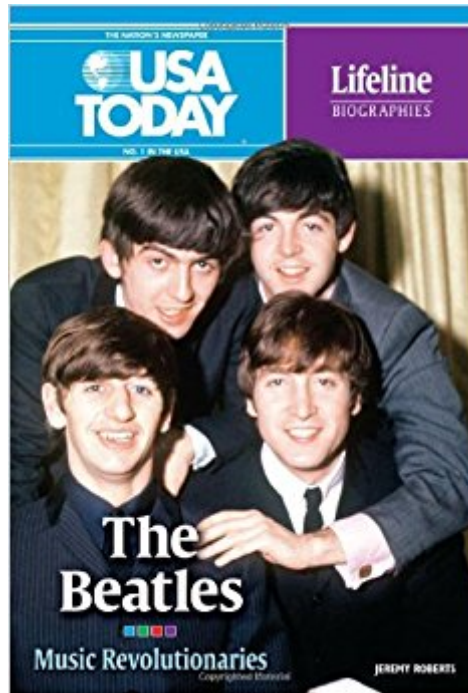




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The Beatles: Musical Revolutionaries (USA Today Lifeline Biographies)



Synopsis

The Beatles' look, sound, and musical approach influenced a generation and brought fame beyond the band's wildest dreams. But the stress of their fame and their individual career desires eventually broke up The Beatles in 1970. Yet, the band's popularity remained strong for decades and still shows no sign of waning.

Book Information

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"Listen do you want to know a secret ..." Any Beatles fan who reads that line will be able to immediately hear the melody in their heads. Long ago it was no secret that the members of the band, with the exception of John Lennon, who was a member of the middle class, came from the wrong side of the tracks in the Liverpool. In the 1950s many people "would not associate with members of a different class." As a result it didn't seem very likely that the two young men would ever meet, but fate intervened and they soon would cross paths at a church festival. John, who was playing with a group called the Quarrymen, found himself listening to Paul McCartney auditioning for the group as he rapidly played his repertoire. No doubt he would be an asset to the band and Paul soon found himself working with John to hone their guitar playing skills. Most People "didn't think much of music as a career," but they didn't understand the word "tenacity." The "creativity and

intelligence" of this duo would go a long way. As the band members of the Quarrymen began to leave, George Harrison came on board as well as Stuart Sutcliffe. During this time period, the band was calling themselves the Silver Beatles. If they were playing backup, they often found that bands playing before them played their set. It soon became obvious that the only way to remedy the situation would be to write their own material. John and Paul "began to collaborate on songwriting," a partnership that result in a unique sound that would begin to propel the band forward. After drummer Pete Best joined to round out the group they found themselves playing in Germany "in a bar called the Indra, known for its violent brawls." The Beatles (the Silver had been dropped by then) weren't violent, but "Their wild performances were good for business." They were however, not without problems and they soon left Germany, leaving Stu behind. The Beatles were still a bit on the tough side as a group, but they did come back looking different. They were "wearing their hair brushed forward with a straight trim, a cut sometimes called the French style." People began to take note of their sound and one person in particular had his eye on them. Brian Epstein was "impressed with their sound," and wanted to become the manager of the band. The Beatles knew opportunity when they saw it and eagerly accepted Epstein's offer. Epstein, or Eppy, had a "talent for business management" and began to groom the band for success. He began to change their image by having them wear distinguished suits and they began to "tighten [up] their stage age." George Martin, who would eventually be known as the "Fifth Beatle," insisted on a better drummer and Pete Best was replaced by Richard Starkey, Ringo. The band was poised for success and soon they would skyrocket to fame, a fame that may never be matched. This is a fun, informative look at the "Fab Four," The Beatles. We're not looking at an in depth biography of any one of the band members, but rather an overview of the personality of the entire band, what made them click, tick, and the its evolution from just another band to an "international phenomenon." Many young people I've talked to have rediscovered The Beatles' music as if it were just coming on board the music scene and I believe the material in this book will be well received. It is well written and quickly drew me into its pages. The die hard Beatles fan may not find anything new, but for the "beginner" there will be a wealth of information to explore. For example, many don't know that Ringo played the voice of "Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends." The book is generously illustrated with photographs, period USA Today articles, and has numerous informative sidebars. In the back of the book is an index, source notes, a selected bibliography, an introductory discography, a filmography, and additional recommended book and website resources to explore. This book courtesy of the publisher.

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