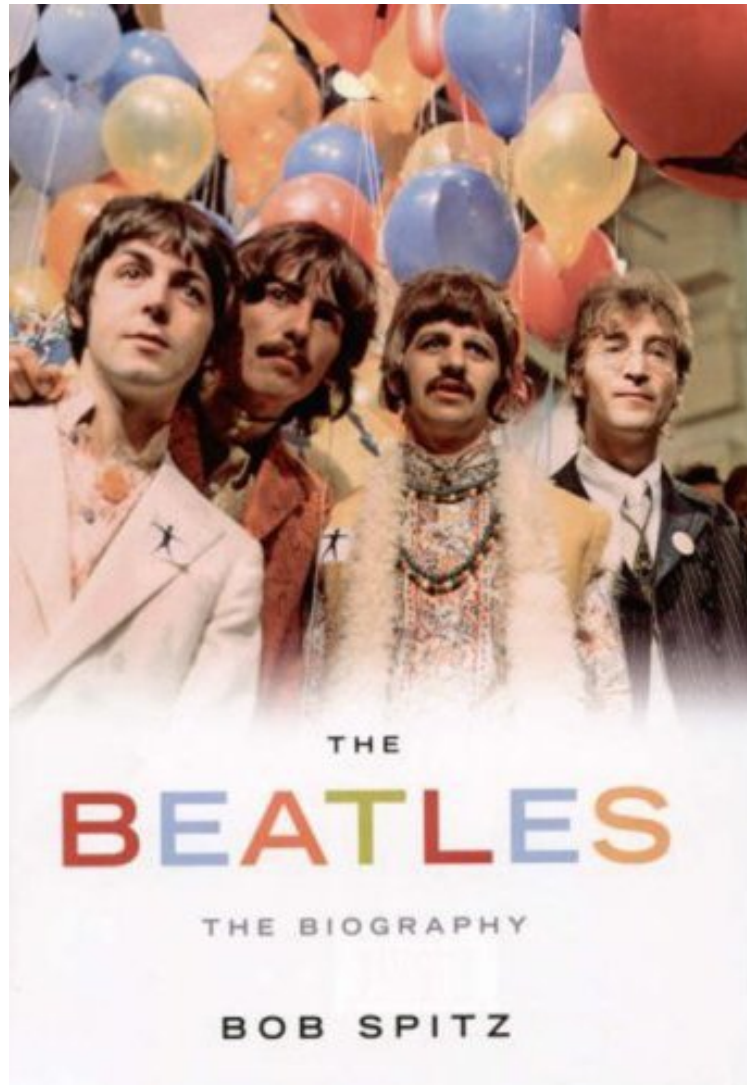


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The Beatles: The Biography

Bob Spitz

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Bob Spitz : The Beatles: The Biography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beatles: The Biography:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. 1000 pages, and something revealing on every pageBy Gary RubinsteinYou really get your money's worth on this one. Nearly 1000 pages, and pretty much something I never knew before about The Beatles on every one. Spitz really makes you feel like you are right there, with The Beatles during the wild tours, with them in the studio, and with them for all the bickering and for the good times. I don't want to give too much away, but just to say that this is probably the best biography I ever read. Spitz really took his time in developing the characters so you felt like you knew them by the end. I would like to read more by this author, but it

doesn't seem like he has written much else recently. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Terrific Book! By Pat Rothell This may sound a little wacky, but I'm reading this book for the fourth time! I've never enjoyed a book as much. It's extremely well written and grabs my attention with every reading. There is a lot of Beatles history in this book which I find to be extremely interesting as well as informative. Also, surprise! I'm in my 80s and sorry that I didn't pay real attention to what my young sons found so compelling in those days. I find it a super read! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Intimate view of The Beatles' shortcomings triumphs By Tamar I have never read a book this long. However the stories about my all time favorite musical artists were so compelling, interesting, and amazing that I plowed through this book in about 3 and a half weeks. Each day I couldn't wait to find some time to get back to the boys and see what was going to happen next. I have read books about the Beatles before but this one had so many stories and tales that I had never read anywhere else. I heard Bob Spitz interviewed on late night radio and he told of how each of the Beatles (except John, of course) had given permission to their friends and associates who were close to them through the years to go ahead and tell the truth about what really went on. It starts off a bit slowly with in depth accounts of their parents and even grandparents for gosh sakes, but then launches into their early years when they met each other -- before they were even the Beatles. Great stories. So many behind the scenes views of their inner lives and inner circles of friends, associates, and the people who came into their lives who made them what they were. Lots of explanations of their failures and shortcomings too. I really felt like I was there., day by day. Great photos too.

This massive new biography of the Beatles will undoubtedly become the definitive book on the band. Not only has the author conducted literally hundreds of interviews, sometimes with people who have never spoken before about their links with the Beatles, or have never spoken so candidly before; he has also told the story of their entire career, tour by tour, gig by gig, with an enthralling narrative drive. His re-creation, for example, of the Beatles' exhausting early years playing in Hamburg in Germany - performing set after set all night, every night, to often violent audiences, and living in squalid conditions at the mercy of rapacious promoters, is a tour de force. The book also casts new light on many aspects of a story, which, most people might assume has been done to death - especially by talking to the band members friends and family as well as all those musicians whose paths crossed with the Beatles over the years. Here is Ringo's boyhood best friend, George's first girlfriend, Paul's first serious love (never before interviewed), and every one of John's art school mates. Here is Terry Doran, the Apple executive and George's confidante, who has never before spoken about that era, and a whole host of archival material never before consulted. It will be an essential purchase for every Beatles lover.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . With this massive opus, veteran music journalist Spitz (Dylan: A Biography) tells the definitive story of the band that sparked a cultural revolution. Calling on books, articles, radio programs and primary interviews, Spitz follows the band from each member's family origins in working-class Liverpool to the band's agonizing final days. Spitz's unflinching biography reveals that not only did the Beatles pioneer a new era of rock but they also were on the cutting edge of rock star excess, from their 1961 amphetamine-fueled sets in the clubs of Hamburg to their eventual appetites for stronger drugs, including marijuana, LSD, cocaine and, eventually for John Lennon, heroin. Sex was also part of the equation; in 1962, when the band cut its first audition for Sir George Martin, all four members had a venereal disease, and both John's and Paul McCartney's girlfriends were pregnant. Spitz details the tangled web of bad business deals that flowed from novice manager Brian Epstein (though the heavily conflicted Epstein can be forgiven since he was in uncharted territory). Although this is a hefty volume steeped in research, Spitz writes economically, and with flair, letting the facts and characters speak for themselves. In doing so, he captures an ironic sadness that accompanied the Beatles' runaway success: how their dreams of stardom, once realized, became a prison, forcing the band to spend large parts of their youth in hotel rooms to avoid mobs and to stage elaborate escapes from literally life-threatening situations after appearances. As with all great history writing, Spitz both captures a moment in time and humanizes his subjects. While some will blanch at the unsettling dark sides of the Beatles, most will come to appreciate the band even more for knowing the incredible personal odysseys they endured. 32 pages of bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Edited down from a staggering 2,700 pages, The Beatles took eight years of research and writing. But with some 500 books chronicling their lives, loves, and legacy, one would think The Beatles story had been adequately told. Adequate isn't authoritative, however, and most critics believe that Spitz, a former manager for Bruce Springsteen and author of Dylan: The Biography, has synthesized his subject masterfully. Though some would prefer hagiography (Charles Taylor of Newsday seems particularly aggrieved the biography doesn't live up to the Beatles artistic standard but what has?), the general consensus is that if it's pop-culture history you desire, The Beatles tops the charts. Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From Booklist In just under 1,000 pages, Spitz offers a fresh, terrifically entertaining perspective on the world's most famous rock group. The book is packed with details and anecdotes that bring the Fab Four to life. Immensely talented but humanly flawed, they created remarkable music during an extraordinary time and were often caught up in events and circumstances beyond their control. At first

amused by Beatlemania, their attitudes changed to horror when the roar of the crowds came to include death threats, and obligations became unrelenting. Spitz retells many familiar stories: when John met Paul, the triumph in America, the infamous "butcher cover" of ^Yesterday and Today, the debacle in Manila where the Beatles unintentionally jilted First Lady Imelda Marcos, the Beatles-are-more-popular-than-Jesus comment, the remarkable response to Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, manager Brian Epstein's death, and the breakup. Good though less well known is the meeting with Elvis in the King's rented house in Bel Air, California; the Beatles, nervous in the presence of a boyhood idol, were unsure about how to act and resorted to embarrassing silence. Spitz's group portrait should now be considered the definitive Beatles biography, especially for new generations of Beatles enthusiasts. June SawyersCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved