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John Lennon: Shoulda Been There



Synopsis

The only researched biographical novel on the life of John Lennon. With foreword by Bill Harry, a Scouse glossary, and an encyclopedia of the historical characters in the book, Shoulda Been There traces Lennon's life from his birth in 1940 to Dec. 1961 when The Beatles sign a managerial agreement with Brian Epstein. Each chapter is footnoted and includes end note discussions of discrepancies found between Beatle scholars. Written as a novel, this is not a work of fiction, but a "fly on the wall" account of Lennon's life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The song "Imagine" by John Lennon is a byproduct of years of participating in and observing conflict about most meaningless issues, different perspectives and selfishness. But imagine is just what John Lennon spent his entire life doing with the most tenacious and passionate vision and "out of the box" thinking anyone else could ever dream. Jude Southerland Kessler takes a reader through the minute events and factors that contributed into forming this iconic, well-loved and really quite misunderstood musical genius! Shoulda Been There is the first of a series of novels written by Kessler to chronicle the little-known but fascinating facts about John Lennon's life. This first edition spans the years of 1940 to 1965, well before the Beatles landed to mesmerize America and change the world of music forever. While it's impossible to cover the 795 pages within this review, this reviewer was deeply moved by John's story. Raised by an Aunt Mimi and Uncle George who tried to instill a sense of order and responsibility in John's chaotic spirit, John was just as much a byproduct of his free-spirited mother, Julia, who had a similar passion for music, dance and performance.

Indeed she was the inspiration behind John picking up a guitar and at first playing in a "skiffle" band, later to become known as The Quarrymen. But before his musical career haltingly inched forward, there were years of friendship and pranks shared with best friends like Peter Shotton, pranks that kept John in the lower academic ranks and always on the verge of expulsion from school. It certainly doesn't seem like John lacked intellectual ability; he was just plain bored, so trouble was the spark that made school tolerable. John was a voracious reader and talented sketcher as well as evolving musician.

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