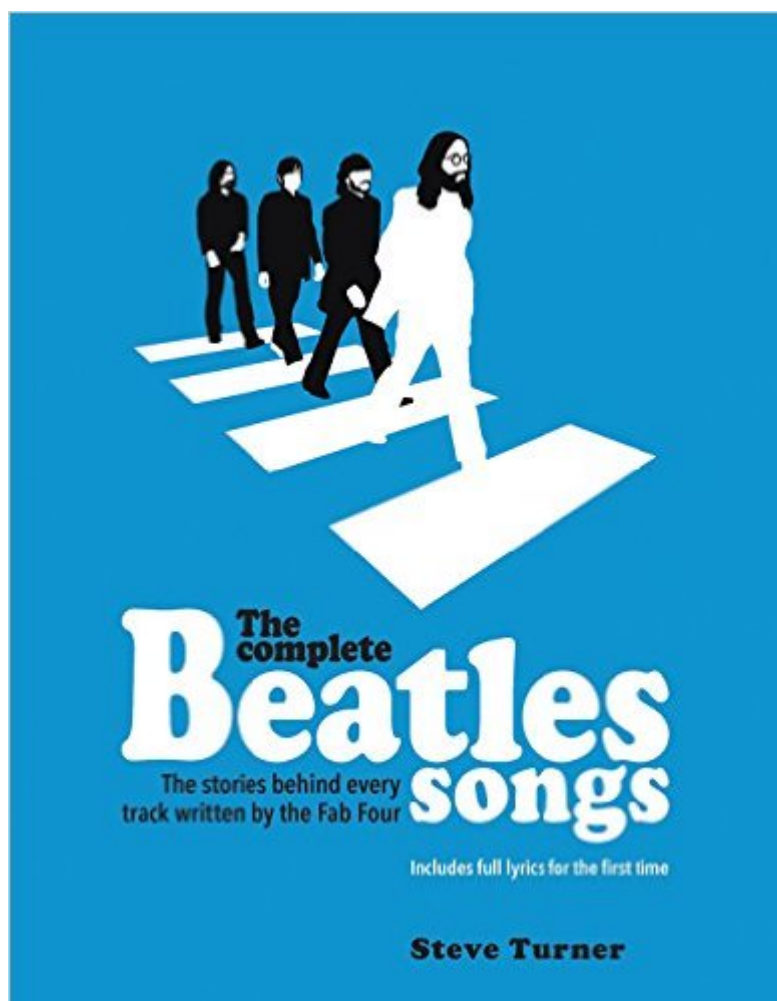


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# The Complete Beatles Songs: The Stories Behind Every Track Written By The Fab Four



## Synopsis

A lavishly illustrated, rollicking account of the real people and events that inspired the Beatles' songs, now fully updated and revised by renowned Beatles expert and music journalist Steve Turner—the definitive analysis of the music and influences of the world's most successful and popular rock-and-roll band and the only volume that contains a complete set of printed lyrics to all of the Beatles' songs. Who was "just 17" and made Paul's "heart go boom"? Was there really an Eleanor Rigby? Where's Penny Lane? What inspired "Happiness is a Warm Gun"? Why was Paul the "walrus"? What inspired the lyrics to Ringo's "Octopus's Garden"? Arranged chronologically by album, *The Complete Beatles Songs* examines the inspiration behind the group's writing and discusses every song created by John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. Steve Turner shatters well-worn myths and adds a new dimension to the Fab Four's rich legacy by investigating events immortalized in The Beatles' music, which has influenced numerous contemporary artists and continues to endure in popular culture. Fully revised and updated (originally published as *A Hard Day's Write*), *The Complete Beatles Songs* is the only volume that contains a complete set of printed lyrics to all of the Beatles' songs, used with exclusive permission from the band's music publisher SonyATV. It also includes new information on many songs, plus brand-new stories and revelations, as well as 200 black-and-white and color photographs—many exclusive to the book. The result is a unique, authoritative, and compelling masterpiece that chronicles the untold story of the Beatles themselves, for faithful fans and new generations discovering their music for the first time.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Dey Street Books (November 3, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062447343

ISBN-13: 978-0062447340

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 1.4 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #312,445 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Pop Culture > Beatles #366 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject

Guides > Music #414 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms &

## Customer Reviews

I bought it as a Christmas present for my Beatles freak husband, but couldn't bear to keep it from him until the holidays. He loves it, says it's like having in-depth liner notes on every track they ever made. I suspect it's full of golden nuggets. It's already found its way to a central spot on his reference bookshelf....pretty deep praise.

The good news is the pictures are quite unique, almost all I'm seeing for the first time. Gathering together all the various comments about a song which previously had been scattered through various interviews and books is nice (although still missing a few comments about particular songs which I've seen in interviews elsewhere). The book itself is very nice overall. However, although I'm only up to the "Beatles For Sale" section, I'm already noticing huge errors, and this is a 5th printing? Examples: "It Won't Be Long" was first released in the US on "With The Beatles"? (and that particular error is duplicated on nearly every "Meet The Beatles" song). "I Don't Want to Spoil the Party" was released in the UK as the b-side to "Eight Days a Week"? That was only a single in the US. At the end of the "She's a Woman" long outtake, he mentions that it's Paul who says "...we've got a single and an instrumental there"? That was Ringo who said it. Come on - just so many petty errors like this (which I may have accepted in a first printing (but not really!)), I have to wonder about the rest of the stories. Also, some of the lame pseudo-psychological explanations of the writers' motivations are a bit naive to me. There's some typos and garbled sentences which I find hard to accept for a 5th printing. Hey Mr. Turner, next time get me (or anyone!!) to proof-read it for you. Overall a nice-to-have with some good info and great pics, but too lazy/sloppy for the price, imo.

First of all, the Beatles are icons. I fell in love with the Beatles as soon as I seen them on TV in February of 1964. There is not one song I dislike....from "Love Me Do" to "The Long And Winding Road." This "Complete Beatles Songs: The Stories..." is the a keep-sake. All Beatles fans should own this book.

I was very pleased with this book. I finally got to read about the origins of each Beatles song, rather than reading snippets in magazine articles and other places. I will not write spoilers, but to me a few of the best and most amusing finds were: (1) Who was the Egg Man (in the Walrus song)? (2) Why did someone come in through the bathroom window? (3) Why was she called Polythene Pam? In

addition to naming all the characters referred to in the songs, there are discussions of who came up with the ideas in the song. There was lots of cross fertilization, especially between John and Paul. Also interesting was the discussion of other groups that influenced the Beatles, like the Beach Boys. I would not be put off by the few commenters saying there are some factual errors in the book. There are uncorrected errors in the Bible, too! Seriously, this is a books with tens of thousands of minute facts. Examining each song chronologically is a good way to present the material, as one can simply skip over the songs one doesn't care about. Of course the book is profusely illustrated. I was not immersed in Beatles trivia and history, but I was an avid fan. To me, many of the pictures and stories were new. Even at the full price this is a great value.

This is a song-by-song "account" of the recording of each Beatle song. But I found it thin and containing very little that you probably haven't read in 100 other books about the Beatles, not to mention on line. I was hoping for a lot more detail about personnel, instruments used, how the tracks were put down, and more of the technical information about how each song was recorded. (How many takes? What guitars? What unknown guests played on the tracks - and please, don't tell me about Billy Preston or Eric Clapton as though that is some big "revelation"). After all the years that have passed, and all the books that have been written about The Beatles, a book really has to work hard to cover anything that would really be news. And this book doesn't cover any new ground.

I bought this as a Christmas gift for my father-in-law, so the book is no longer in my possession...but I wish it was! As a Beatles fan myself, I came very close to pulling off the wrapping paper and keeping this for myself. Before wrapping it up, I flipped through the book and read the stories behind some of my absolute favorite songs by The Beatles. For example, did you know that "Dear Prudence" was written about Mia Farrow's sister Prudence? Steve Turner's book is full of these interesting little nuggets. This isn't the type of book you're going to sit down and read for hours, but it makes for a wonderful coffee table book that you can pick up and read bits of from time to time. If you're looking to buy a gift for a Beatles fan, look no further.

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