



Dark Horse: The Life And Art Of George Harrison

Geoffrey Giuliano

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The least understood and most paradoxical of the Beatles, George Harrison has parried for more than twenty-five years any attempt to penetrate the public enigma that cloaks the private man—that is, until *Dark Horse*. In the mid-1980s Geoffrey Giuliano lived in the "often wonderfully unreal" world of Harrison and his friends, interviews with whom are the basis for much of this vivid and revealing portrait. Here are Harrison's Liverpool childhood, the forging of the Beatles, their unheralded ascendancy, and the bitter break-up; his turbulent solo career with its soaring successes and harrowing setbacks; his reincarnation as a Traveling Wilbury; his impact as a record and film producer; his oft-publicized and misjudged spiritual quest; and much more. This edition includes an additional chapter that discusses Harrison's life through the twenty-fifth-anniversary reunion of the surviving Beatles to record new tracks for their video and musical anthology, as well as updated appendices and rare, previously unpublished photos. The result is a comprehensive, illuminating look at George Harrison's musical career and inner life.

Dark Horse: The Life And Art Of George Harrison Details

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Author : Geoffrey Giuliano

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Lovely Rita says

Some good anecdotes. And his perceptions of Paul were right on with the recent bio of Paul I read. Does a good job of revealing the good and bad sides of George, both of which seem kind of extreme. (Some of the bad stuff is really bad, ditto about the good.) It's weird reading a bio like this that was written before the Pattie/Eric divorce, before the Anthologies, and before his cancer and death.

One nice thing is the interview where he talks about his son seeming to have musical talent. Especially with Dhani's new band getting press now.

Maggie says

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Alex Rivas says

This is one of the worst biographies I have read, the author excerpts from other Beatles books, quotes from newspaper articles and interviews. Not only the material that was collected is from a dozen other books but the few things that the author wrote are just uninteresting.

The only reason I did not abandon it, is because I am a huge Beatle fan and because I borrowed it from the local library.

Kat Hellchester says

This is the first book about George I've read and I'm quite sad I chose this one. It's bad. Guiliano writes what other authors wrote in their books, it all seems quite superficial, huge parts missing, no details about his life (for example, on one page he's still with Patti and on another page he is suddenly married to Olivia). Many pages are dedicated to the religion but it all seems quite chaotic. Overall I didn't like George in this book at all and I'm not even in the mood to read something else about him (although I'm sure I will, as soon as I'll get over this book)

Bruce Kirby says

Very deep look at the man, his spiritual beliefs and his music. He may have been known as the quiet Beatle, he was guided by his convictions and in a sense was the one who remained true to his heart.

Otis L Scarbary says

Someone left this book in a place I stayed during a vacation week. Since I'm a Harrison fan, I picked it up and gave it a try. It's not particularly well-written and I didn't learn very much not already known, but it did have a few anecdotes that got me through. I also enjoyed seeing the pictures contained in the middle. This is by no means a thorough study of my favorite Beatle and one could say it's superficial. I'll be generous and give it three stars.

Christopher Rush says

Until I get the opportunity to read *I, Me, Mine*, this will serve as the major study on George Harrison's life (in print) (perhaps Mr. Scorsese's *Living in the Material World* will surpass either or both). Mr. Giuliano is a knowledgeable source, which at times provides helpful insights tempered by awkward self-effacing "I don't want to offend anyone, but..." sorts of comments. His tone at other times is bemusingly insensitive, such as during the potentially life-ruining addictions to drugs seasons of George's life. (Similarly, Mr. Giuliano presents himself as a devout Hindu, yet the tone during much of that portion covering George's life at times lent me to believe Mr. G thought George was just playacting.) Still and all, this does a fine job of surveying the life and art of George Harrison, the highs, the lows, and the introspective in-between. One wonders why a third edition covering the final five years of George's life hasn't come out, though the hinted-at falling out between George and Mr. G could have had something to do with that.

Perhaps the highlight is the dearth of Beatles-era coverage; that time has been covered by others such as Mr. Lewisohn far better than a reporter of Mr. G's diverse interests no matter how passionate could provide - but Mr. G knows that's not why we are reading his book anyway. We want to know about the earlier times (likely) and the post-Beatles times (more likely). And while I enjoyed the reading of it all, even if a good deal of it made me sad (such as the bizarre George/Pattie/Eric Clapton situation and the perennial drug addiction issues), some of the periods I was most interested in were glossed over or not included (the Traveling Wilburys and the end of George's life - but that last isn't something I can fault the book or its author for). Thus, it surveys it all, and gives a significant amount of time to George's spiritual journey, but Mr. G tends to lean more heavily to the era in which his personal experiences overlap George's, which isn't surprising for a journalist to do, though it does make for some of the more awkward portions of the book.

Should you read this book? If you are a George Harrison fan, certainly. If you are a Beatles fan in general, yes. If you want to know more about the '60s, Beatlemania, and the like, maybe. If not, I'm not too sure. It's not what one would call a "general interest" sort of biography. It answers a few questions, but it also raises more indirectly (such as, if each of the Fab Four was eager to move on to new things, why was the breakup so acrimonious?), which isn't quite as helpful as one would want in a "definitive" or at least "updated" biography. Yet I am glad I read it, giving me a provocative peak into the life and art of the Quiet Beatle.

Lorraine says

The only reason this even rates one star is because it has some interviews and photos. Giuliano pulls facts out of an odd imagination. He misrepresents and takes out of context every little morsel he can contrive to be sensational. For instance, George satirically stated, "He knows more about me than I do." Giuliano uses this to say George endorsed his book! Actually, George was saying the exact opposite, that this guy was making things up. Terrible biography.

Recommended instead: "I, Me, Mine" from George himself.

Megan says

I stopped reading this. It was basically a conglomeration of different Beatles/Harrison bios. Poorly written.

Jennie says

Well, you have to want to know more about this less popular Beatle (George Harrison) to read this biography. The alternate view on this famous band's past is worth the brief read.

Rob Hermanowski says

A really good biography of the "quiet Beatle."

Ruth says

ends with Roy Orbison's leaving planet
Travelling Wilbury's heaven-sent
more inside look at fame

Stubear Krishna Lovestar says

Whilst it starts off promising and appears to give off the veneer of being a labor of love, plenty in the text smacks of sensationalism and the author - dressed as a weird prohibition era press snoop on back cover - comes off as a shyster whose built his house regurgitating texts on The Beatles. George's questionable

devotion to Hare Krishna is staunchly defended and seems to encompass the body of the work. Yoko Ono gets a very heavy drubbing that regardless of her characteristics just paints the author out to be a cruel bastard. The author himself can't help but slot himself into situations ("when I was in George's house...").

There is some good intentions. The chapter designs complete with Eastern iconography and quotations make a nice touch. And having never read a Beatles bio before there were some images formed in my mind I hadn't had the chance to ponder before.

I just wish I started off with a more definitive biography of the full band. I'd recommend against this book.

Jeff says

It's hard for me to rate biographies. On one had, I'm interested in George and didn't hate the subject of this book, but it was poorly written and whatnot.

Karen says

first book i read after landing on US soil. borrowed from Benn.
