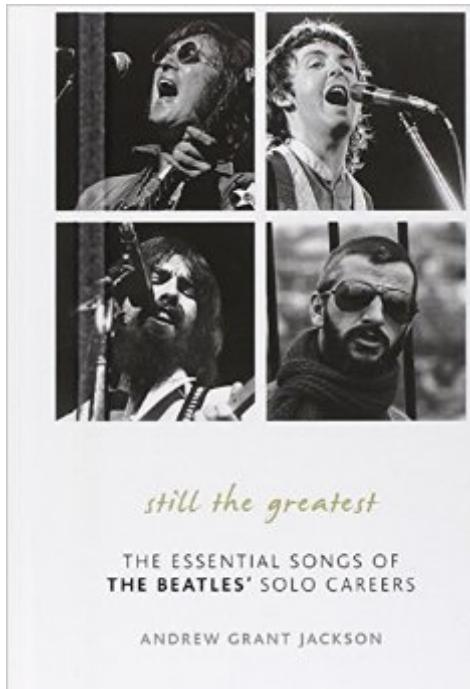


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Still The Greatest: The Essential Songs Of The Beatles' Solo Careers



Synopsis

As recommended by USA Today and excerpted on Rolling Stone.com!More than forty years after breaking up, The Beatles remain the biggest-selling and most influential group in the history of popular music. Fans endlessly replay their songs, craving more, while thousands of cover versions of their songs have been recorded and performed. Band biographies, pop music histories, song books, and academic titles on the Fab Four clutter shelves. But never has there been a definitive guide to the finest songs of The Beatles after they called it quits. Still the Greatest is a love song to the songwriting and recording achievements of Paul, John, George, and Ringo after each struck out on his own. In this creative history, Jackson selects the best songs in each solo career and organizes them into fantasy albums they might have formed had the legendary group stayed together. This romp through the postâ “Beatles history of each artist delves into the circumstances behind the composition, recording, and reception of each work, offering a refreshing take on how spectacular much of The Beatlesâ™ second act truly is. Jackson assesses the more than seventy albums and nine hundred songs the four collectively released, selecting the crÃ“me de la crÃ“me of their output. Still the Greatest brims with facts (release dates, writing and performing credits, and information about production techniques) and insightful analyses of the music and lyrics. In telling the stories behind the songs, Jackson recounts the remarkable influence the Post Fab Four continued to have long after the big split. Both a handy reference and an engrossing cover-to-cover read, Still the Greatest is an invaluable companion for those who thought it all ended with the 1970 album Let It Be.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

as a lifelong Beatles fan, i have occasionally made compilation cds & playlist of solo Beatles tunes by year for my own enjoyment, also imagining what Beatles albums might have been had they stayed together.now here's a book that does this properly. this is the best new & original Beatles book in years. i like the structure of 14 songs per album like the original British Ips. the book also gives a capsule history by year which is useful for newer Beatles fans. also the song details are pretty full & fun to read.as a geek, i was inspired to make my own fantasy compilations so i submit mine here for discussion. for me, there could be 11 strong collections. some years, i retain some solo album titles because in that year, they were monster songs and they fit the theme for that year.1970 All Things Must PassInstant Karma!

While Andrew Grant Jackson's new book is a self-admitted exercise in "fantasy football for Beatles geeks", he skillfully manages to blend in the right amounts of reference material and imagination to make this one of the most enjoyable Beatles books in years, especially for aficionados of the individual Fabs' work of the past 40+ years, which the author clearly is. Constructing a mirror-image catalog to the Group's collective recorded album output (and yes, one of them is a double-album set), Jackson colors in the reasons for his selections by placing them in the context of which they originally appeared. That said, a healthy dose of the material (six of the twelve compilations, including the aforementioned double disc set) emanates from the 1970-76 period immediately following the Group's demise, which frequently found John, Paul, George and Ringo living in each other's shadows. Of course, this was also the golden era for the members' chart successes, especially for John and Ringo. Not surprisingly, several of the author's picks from this era had appeared - in whole or in part - in embryonic form during the band's final years. An inevitable yet delightful by-product of reading the book is the "I'd have chosen this song instead of that one" factor (witness the author's presentation in front of a captive audience at the recent Fest for Beatles Fans in Chicago). For those less familiar with the most recent of the subject material, the impetus to explore it will no doubt lead to an enhanced appreciation for many of these overlooked commodities. Everybody wins.

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