

## EACH THOUGHT IS SEPARATED BY COLOR FOR EASE OF READING

The Beatles connected the thread of my childhood to my adulthood, and are the only band I've listened to consistently since birth. That's probably the same for most people my age (26), but sadly, we are probably the last generation to be able to say this!

Paul & John could go into a cave. Paul would write 100 songs, and every single one of them would be fantastic flawless (and kickass) songs. John would write maybe 60, and 40 of them would be great, 10 of them would be not so great, but 5 of them would cut you to the core and be the best thing you'd ever heard in your life, (and the only songs you'd ever need again).

I've read a lot of stories but of all the world the Beatles story is the best and it really happened!

I knew I became an adult and had emotionally matured a lot when I pulled my 2nd all-nighter ever reading the Beatles anthology. To be fair, it was right after returning from Japan when I still felt in a different timezone. But the point is, my first all-nighter was from emotional stress where I just lay in bed staring at the ceiling trying to sleep and suddenly it was 9am and I had to go to school. But this time it was a choice, and a pleasant, rewarding staying up all night experience.

The history of the Beatles can be told just by Ringo's face over the years:

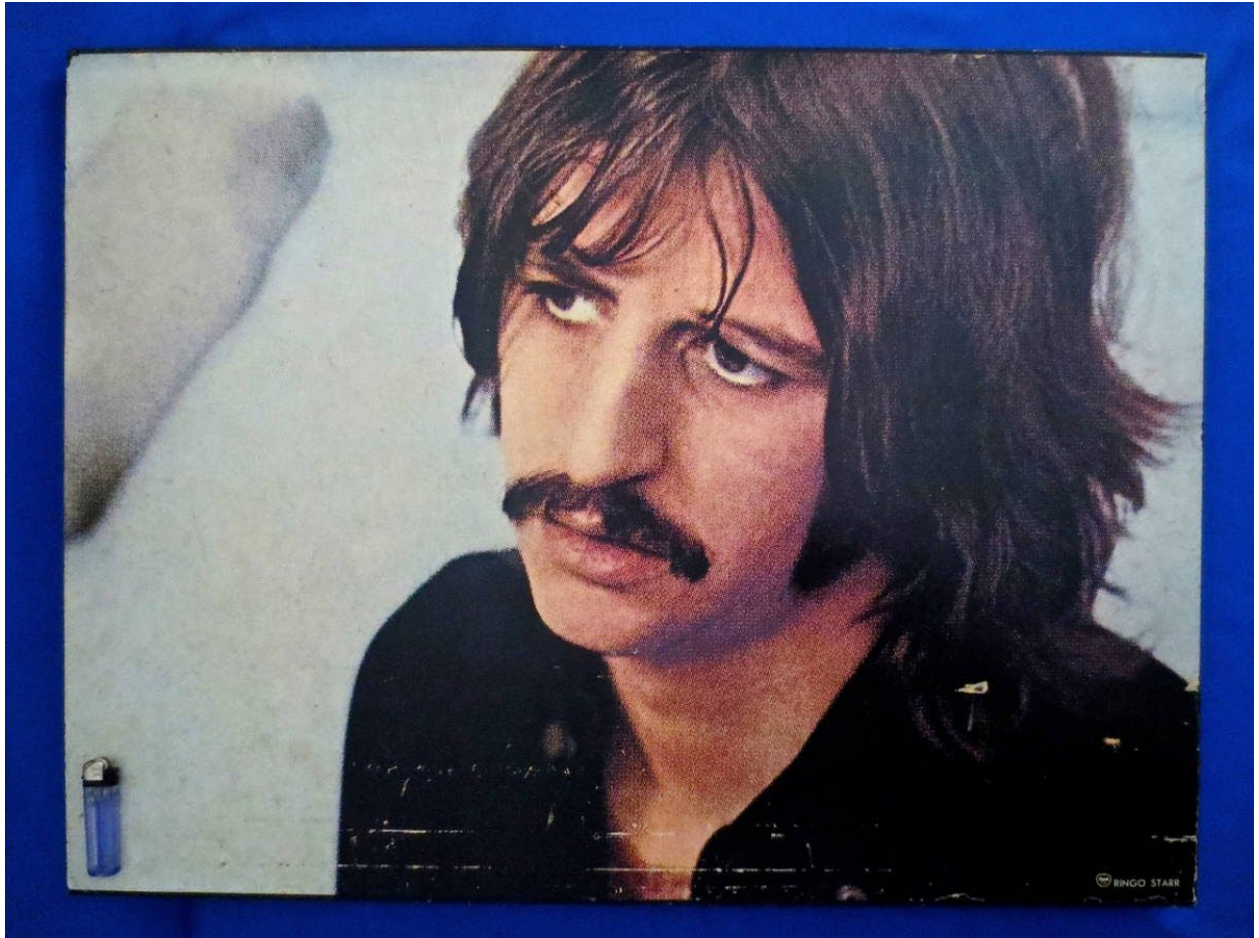


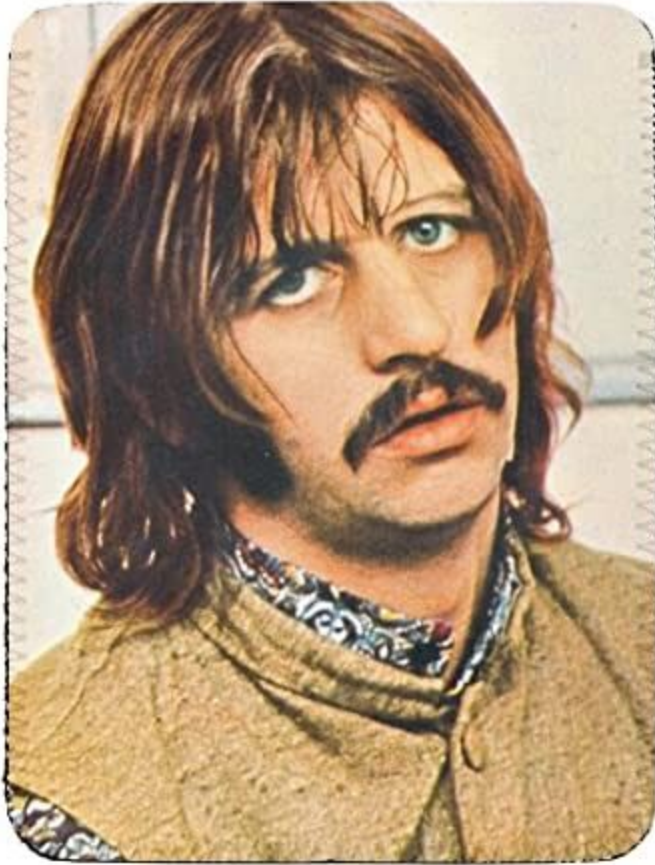












Exactly how I feel or try to feel most of the time: “I’m cynical about society, politics, newspapers, government. But I’m not cynical about life, love, goodness, death. That’s why I really don’t want to be labeled a cynic.”- Lennon

2019 will be remembered as the year of the Beatles. In April ‘19 I took a ship to Beatles land and never quite came back.

Paul McCartney is like the dad you want to tuck you in at night and sing you “Twinkle Twinkle.” Ok, my real life dad did that too but I wouldn’t mind having Paul as dad #2. The Beatles are like four best friends. Like four dads. Or four brothers. I always wanted a brother. And to top it all off they’re all sexy, even Ringo.

The biggest takeaway of my year+ spent absorbing almost solely Beatles stuff, is how hello there George is. On one spectrum, Sean Connery was #1, and Lenny Bruce #1 on another spectrum but George blew them both out of the water when I fully realized. Browsing through the Beatles Anthology, I tried to move past it. After all, it’s enough to be a Beatle: you’re already one of the 4 most important and talented people who have ever lived. On top of that, you happen to be the sexiest of all time? That is just too much responsibility to bear, and maybe that’s why George got

the most frustrated with the fame. Sounds like a joke, but I'm serious. So I tried to ignore it, but upon rewatching A Hard Day's Night, as soon as the words "that's not your grandfather" were uttered in his sassy Liverpuddlian drawl, I knew that was the end of that, and George became the #1. Check out [this](#) for some of his best pictures. And to see him speak, and those intense canines in action, I recommend the following:

1. The last few minutes of the film Yellow Submarine are his absolute peak in terms of when he's captured on video. damn.
2. the music video for Lady Madonna. damn.
3. Ticket To Ride video. damn.
4. A Hard Day's Night
5. any footage before 1968. damn.
6. anything else that exists. Even with a beard and long hair I love him, but no man on earth looks better with a beard than he does without it. Even Paul after he busted his lip!

In fact, one night in 2019, after eating one too many... vegetables, I was having a little bit of a hard time dealing with the BAD TRIP that is the NYC subways of 4am. They used to be better. In fact everything about this city just keeps getting worse and worse, not that I will ever leave. Anyway, I started to feel pretty anxious after all types of weird shit was happening on the train, including somebody at ear splitting volume throwing a tied up giant bag of food onto the train and then leaving. We all thought it was a bomb. To make myself feel better, I pulled out this [photo](#) of George and did mental yoga. I don't do real yoga, only mental. My breaths & shoulders went down as I observed his brows go down. And his ears go down. And his little half smile go down. I watched how every feature on his face sank heavily and sank with it. Sank with every cell in my body. Sinking down into a sweet pool of nothingness with George. And then it was my stop and I felt much more calm. So if yoga isn't your thing I recommend looking at this photo and doing some mental yoga instead. Also, this photo is also proof that men peak at 19. And no that is not objectifying anyone. Everyone has their peak. We're all skin and bones that decay and mature and reach a zenith at some point. I happen to think that zenith for men is age 19 on average. For women, idk I'm more conflicted. What do you think?

**I want people to read this and make comments or have a discussion, especially if they have to do with the Beatles! or anything, really.**

There is no song the Beatles covered that is not superior to the original. Debate me? Just listen to Mister Postman and You've Really Got A Hold On Me. And well, anything they ever covered. I figured Chuck Berry might knock it out of the park with Roll Over Beethoven, but George's adorable performance on that and the mix of the instruments and extra little vocal tricks and superior guitar solo make it better. I've done every song and it's just better with the Beatles.



As far as Beatles covers, I basically hate them all. However, Paul pointed out [this](#) as one of the best Beatles covers and I do agree it holds its own. I would also like to give a shoutout to my first ever guitar teacher, from age 9-12, who taught out of his home on 8th st. in the Slope. He recorded for me a CD of his own Beatles instrumentals in classical guitar style, and to this day, they are the only Beatles tunes not by the Beatles I adore listening to. They are so good! Ed Bridge, you really should publish those or maybe I can at least put the mp3s on youtube if you don't mind. They are the only acceptable Beatles covers to me.

It might feel nice to say that all the people the Beatles worshipped when they were youngsters had the “ultimate” versions of their songs, since they were mostly underappreciated and underpaid in their times, but the fact is the Beatles improved on everything they ever touched. But thank God for the raw materials of the songs they covered that got ‘em going in the first place.

Here is all the Beatles stuff I consumed in 2019 that I recommend to you, basically in order of most importance:

1. Beatles Anthology (clearly the best book in every respect because it's only quotes by them and their camp, and it's the perfect amount of thoroughness you need. Also, it smells delicious [who else enjoys getting a good sniff inside of books?] and I adore the pictures of their boots that line the front and back covers).

2. ALL the Beatles films (yes, even Magical Mystery Tour). Just watch them all. Period. Including ALL bonus features. There is some shockingly interesting stuff there, and none of the bonus features are all that long. What else do you have going on in this pandemic?

Pictured from L to R are: Help (Special Edition), Anthology (5 Discs), The Beatles 1+ with ALL of their music videos + CD, Deconstructing The Beatles (4 Discs) (a surprisingly informative & unique look at all their early recordings through The White Album), Deconstructing The Beatles: Magical Mystery Tour, Yellow Submarine, A Hard Day's Night, Magical Mystery Tour.



Beyond these physical DVDs, I would recommend *The Beatles* by Bob Spitz (big, fat factual book), and then if you still have time: Tim Hill: *Images Of The Beatles*, LIFE: *With The Beatles*, Geoffrey Stokes: *The Beatles*

I really loved watching all their early music videos, mainly because Paul, being a newbie to weed, can't hide all his giggles, so there are so many hilarious shots of him awkwardly laughing for no reason, and sometimes John. The videos in themselves are also so lo-fi and funny, but good. And of course, there's always George to look at.

Also, I usually consider Youtube documentaries to be totally worthless, but my god did I enjoy: [Understanding Lennon/McCartney](#). I learned so much, and I really recommend watching all 5 parts; it's perfectly directed, the perfect attitude towards the band and the music, and has a specific focus on John & Paul's relationship (not in the creepy, media-driven way other documentaries have), so it's not too general and overreaching, and there is so much footage and factoids I hadn't seen. Long, but worth every second. Whoever made this is a fan I want to meet!

I remember needing to watch and listen to Beatles stuff so many times throughout the day, that even in Japan when I was all alone in a hotel room in Kyoto, I had to watch a bunch of Beatles interviews on my phone even though I was surrounded by all this new culture, just to get to sleep.

The Beatles had so many great quotes in *The Anthology* book but I forgot to bookmark my favorites, so I'll just say the one I remember, one of George's many quips about the stupidity of American gun nuts and the police - "If everyone with guns just shot themselves, there would be no problem." One anecdote about Paul that I love, and that should defend Paul from the naive criticism he sometimes gets for being such a professional, such a showman, and too wholesome and untroubled for some of the artsy angsty hipsters of today, is that he sang through *Oh, Darling* like a hundred times right before recording it, just so his voice would contain the perfect amount of rawness and pain and sound at its wit's end. Say what you will, but no one has a stronger work ethic than Paul, and I really respect and understand that work ethic and quest for perfection.

Top 3 Beatles songs:

1. *In My Life*
2. *Happiness Is A Warm Gun*
3. *I'm Only Sleeping*

I formed this opinion long before realizing Lennon wrote them all, but alas, he did.

Fav George songs: *Long, Long, Long/Here Comes The Sun/I Need You*

My favorite Beatles song on each album (I would love to hear yours in the comments!) (Albums that feature 1 of their 3 all time best songs get one more song listed from the album):

*Please Please Me*: There's A Place  
*With The Beatles*: Not A Second Time  
*A Hard Day's Night*: I Should Have Known Better  
*Beatles For Sale*: What You're Doing  
*Help*: You're Going To Lose That Girl  
*Rubber Soul*: In My Life/I'm Looking Through You  
*Revolver*: I'm Only Sleeping/She Said She Said  
*Sgt. Peppers*: A Day In The Life  
*Magical Mystery Tour*: I Am The Walrus  
*White Album* (their best album): Happiness Is A Warm Gun/Sexy Sadie  
*Yellow Submarine*: Hey Bulldog  
*Abbey Road*: Here Comes The Sun  
*Let It Be*: Get Back

Best B-sides:

1. Don't Let Me Down
2. This Boy
3. I'll Get You

This is why John Lennon has to be my favorite Beatle. When he does it he just cuts through. Like George said, John's songs always had an edge to them. He just cuts and cuts and cuts me up. He cuts us all up. Like twisting a knife inside you but it feels really really good. But I love just loving the Beatles. Only recently did I even bother finding out who mainly wrote each of the songs. It's the Beatles and that's all that matters.

After listening to them since I was born, and them being so absorbed into my bloodstream, and after reconnecting with them for the first time in my adult life in 2019, I found out a lot more facts, and as it turns out my all time serious Beatles favorites were mostly if not all written by John. Even though I probably listen to Paul the most for all his work after the Beatles, some, if not most of which is completely insanely phenomenal. Paul is a wizard and so dynamic. The best musician of the Beatles. John the best artist. George the most beautiful man of all time (sorry Lenny Bruce) - this is not a label to be given out lightly! So don't think this diminishes his value as a musician and intellectual. Ringo, the best drummer of any band, playing and personality wise. All-wise.

My absolute favorite Beatles fan:



The Beatles: She loves you (A Hard Day's Night)



▶ ⏪ 🔊 2:13 / 2:47



The Beatles: She loves you (A Hard Day's Night)



▶ ⏪ 🔊 2:13 / 2:47





I want to know: What happened to this girl? Did she ever make it home? Or did she dissolve in a pile of ash as soon as George left the stage? (Of course, only George can produce this

reaction-she mouths his name around 2:15). Did she ever get married and find a way to move on from George? She is the best Beatles fan and I hope the Beatles noticed her very well when they watched the film.

In fact though, I was a little bit of a latecomer to John. Truthfully, I don't think I fully appreciated him until very recently. This all stems back to one of my earliest memories as a 5 or 6 year old leafing through the Anthology book, featuring that band I knew well from those distinctive red and blue double cds with the EMI balcony covers that started it all off. Seeing their sweet young faces and feeling the warmth without understanding all the words, I was suddenly disturbed when, reaching pg. 300, I saw some bearded naked dude's private area and some aggressive boobs and private area. I was appalled, and didn't understand why the Beatles had suddenly decided to traumatize me that way. I still don't agree with that cover but I forgive John for that early stripping away of my innocence and take John for who he was and learn from everything he did. So, for a while I associated him with that exhibitionist I didn't want to run into as a kid looking through the book but I got over it some day.

I like spending time alone at home with the Beatles.

Am I the only one who thinks "at least we still have Paul McCartney" every time a beloved celebrity dies? For me, the cut off is 70. Once somebody reaches 70, I am at peace with their death, though of course I wouldn't mind if Paul & Ringo lived on forever. That's partly why I was so upset when Bowie died. He was 69 and he did NOT make the cut off that would have put my OCD mind at rest. Since Ringo was the first born, I feel like he will be the last to die. Just a hunch. And it would fit in with the Beatles story snugly that way.

You must be very suspicious of anyone whose favorite Beatles song is Being For The Benefit Of Mr. Kite, because that's honestly their only not great song. And Sgt. Pepper's is their least remarkable album.

To wrap this post up, I agree with John Frusciante (surprise?) when he eloquently said "you diarrhea over anything you talk about." That being said, I can't possibly ruin the Beatles for myself no matter how much I talk about them. Hopefully I didn't for whoever is reading this lol. Sometimes you just need to get Beatles stuff off your chest. I love you Beatles.

When all is done and the history of the world is written, Beatles are that point in the novel when the characters fall in love and the height of all beauty is reached. Everything must inevitably decline from there, thus the Beatles' career encompasses the sweet spot in the history of humanity.

The Beatles also represent the time when America did masculinity best. Ok, they were British but they brought it to America. (England, can you take us back? We tried out this whole being on our own thing but it really isn't working out). They were romantic, straight but without hangups, and were open to the world. Nowadays, everyone is just closed off on their computers, living off of the internet, the ultimate oppressor and destroyer of the modern world.

I believe standard interview questions should include: 1. Are the Beatles the best band ever? 2. If you could bring one man (or woman) back to life to parent your child who would it be?

I'm sure a lot of things happened to me and the world at large in 2019, but all I remember is the Beatles.