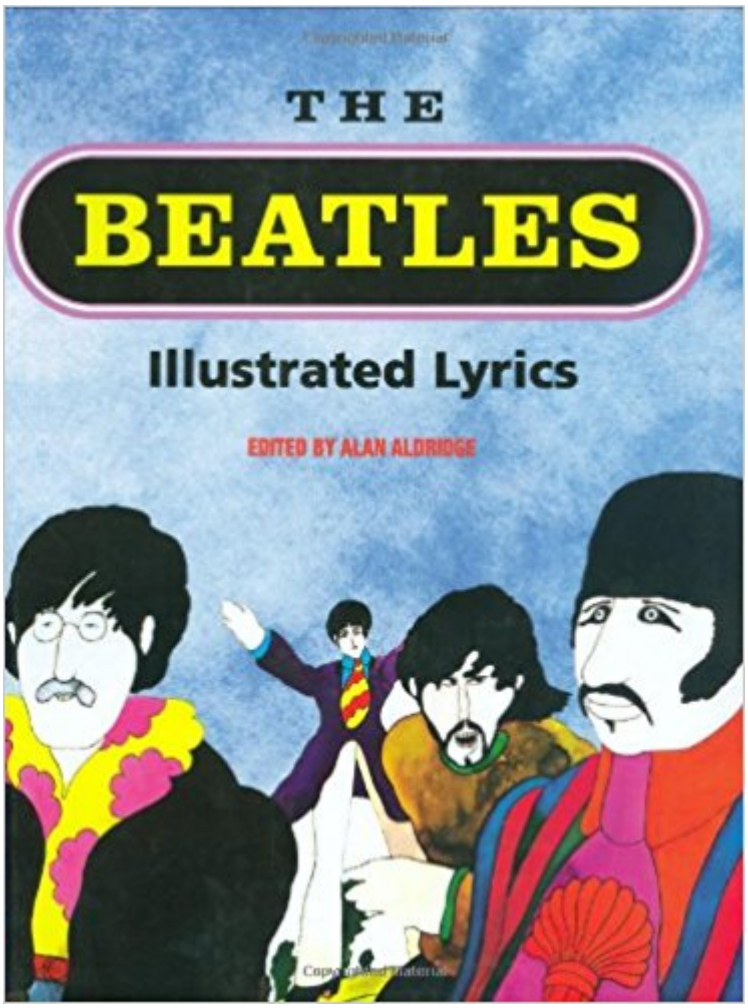
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The Beatles Illustrated Lyrics



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Synopsis

A must-have for every Fab Four fan, this classic visual tribute to their music is now available in a handsomely repackaged and affordable paperback edition. The music and lyrics of the Beatles have proven them to be artists of the page as well as the stage and have here provided inspiration to dozens of artists. Rendered in full color on every page are extravagantly colorful scenes and images, from the psychedelic visions evoked by Ã¢â ¬Å“Strawberry FieldsÃ¢â ¬Â• to the youthful innocence that springs from Ã¢â ¬Å“She Loves You.Ã¢â ¬Â• Witty commentary and candid insights from John, Paul, George and Ringo make this a very special and personal tribute.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First published in 1969, this reissued collection of illustrated lyrics for 200 Beatles songs will be a treasure for any fan of the Fab Four. Editor and Beatle-buddy Alan Aldridge states in his introduction to the original edition: "What I have tried to do is present a book [that] is as entertaining to the eye and the imagination as a Beatles album is to the ear." Indeed, he more than succeeds, creating a lavish pageant of art and music that embraces not only the Beatles but also the psychedelic spirit of the entire era. In 320 photos and illustrations, renowned artists offer their interpretations of various songs. "Help" is visualized by Ronald Searle; "Fixing a Hole," by Tomi Ungerer; "Glass Onion," by Peter Max; "I'm So Tired," by David Hockney; and "Oh, Darling," by Ralph Steadman. Aldridge also contributes his own trippy illustrations, which reflect the bold, bulbous, cartoons-on-acid style of 1960s poster art. This rich compilation also has brief quotes from the Beatles explaining the origins

of the themes and lyrics of certain songs. For example, despite the buzz that "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" is about LSD, according to Paul, "What happened was that John's son Julian did a drawing at school and brought it home, and he has a schoolmate named Lucy, and John said, 'What's that?' and he said 'Lucy in the sky with diamonds.'" Band members also share their thoughts on superstardom, including this now weighty comment from John: "I don't intend to be a performing flea anymore. I was the dreamweaver, but although I'll be around I don't intend to be running at 20,000 miles an hour trying to prove myself. I don't want to die at 40." It can't bring them back, but The Beatles Illustrated Lyrics can take you on a long and winding road of nostalgia.
--Brangien Davis

Alan Aldridge is an award-winning graphic designer and artist based in London. He was also a colleague and friend of the Beatles. This extraordinary collection is the result of his idea to have artists illustrate their songs in any and every way possible for print.

This is a republication of a book first published in 1969 and there's a certain counter-cultural air to it - artists just doing their own thing, maybe inspired by the Beatles, not necessarily ABOUT the Beatles, or even the songs. As a result this is a collection of pretty random artworks, interspersed with the lyrics to 200 songs presented as blocks of text, together with quotes from John, Paul, George, Ringo, and other Beatles-related people.The artwork is a weird variety, which should be great, but there are very few stand-out pieces and a lot of it doesn't seem particularly Beatles-related: Rick Griffin's piece, nominally illustrating "Why Don't We Do It In the Road," is an anti-Amerika political rant; one of Ralph Steadman's contributions, ostensibly for "I Wanna Be Your Man," is a shot at the women's liberation movement; Eduardo Paolozzi's take on "The Long and Winding Road" is some kind of comment on militarism?Steadman provides a couple other pieces in his signature style; readers will also recognize Tomi Ungerer; it's interesting to contrast Heinz Edelman's famous designs for the "Yellow Submarine" movie with Peter Max' contribution. Fans of '60s design are sure to recognize the work of Milton Glaser, Stanley Mouse, Victor Moscoso, Tony Meeuwissen, Barry Smith, and Peter Vos - there's even a piece by David Hockney! A number of Japanese artists contributed, including manga-inspired surrealist Tiger Tateishi. There are also four double-spreads devoted to fan-art sketches of the Fab Four, which feel like filler. However there are interesting pieces by a lot of artists I'd never heard of before. It would've been nice to have a section of artist bios, but there's only one for editor Alan Aldridge himself.Aldridge provided a number of works. These are mostly airbrush pieces in a bulbous-marquee style reminiscent of Monty Python

artist Terry Gilliam - they tend to be more song-oriented than many of the other pieces.There is some very ’60s-style nudity, including nude children and Victorian nudie pictures; we’re not talking Playboy here. A set of Brighton "saucy postcard" images are also included.The songs are all written by members of the Beatles, but are not necessarily Beatles songs, and include some Lennon compositions for the Plastic Ono Band ("Cold Turkey," "Give Peace a Chance," Instant Karma") some unreleased songs ("One and One is Two") and other stray works by McCartney ("Come and Get It," "Love of the Loved," "Tip of My Tongue," etc.) Note that the lyrics for "Woman" are from McCartney’s tune for Peter & Gordon, not from Lennon’s much later Double Fantasy single.The quotes are short statements that sometimes comment on the songs and sometimes don’t. Some are sort of general quotes on the Beatles phenomenon by the Beatles and others (the famous Timothy Leary quote about the Beatles as "evolutionary agents sent by God" is on page 196, Lennon’s infamous "bigger than Christ" remark is also quoted.)All in all it’s worth a glance, but not a keeper imho.

I bought it for my two year old daughter who has been absolutely obsessed with the Beatles since first hearing Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds, and has memorize a dozen or so songs just from listening so she could sing along. We now read/sing the song lyrics during our nightly story time and it’s been amazing to notice how in just a few short weeks it has helped accelerate her word recognition, singing ability, and memory.

Unfortunately, this product was slightly miss represented. It was stated as in good condition with the original dust jacket and neither was the case. I’ve had to spend an additional $150 to restore the item and and replicate the dust jacket, had I known this there wouldn’t have been any disappointment, as I was expecting a product in good condition and what I received was a book with it’s spine broken 4 places.

Cool oversized Beatles coffe table book. Well worth the money spent!!

The Beatles Illustrated Lyrics and the second volume follow-up were an inspiration to me while I was in school majoring in Fine Art. This is the better of the two however. I love The Beatles and the imagery their music inspired. The interpretive artwork in this book is exceptional and I consider it a necessary volume for my home library now that I was able to track down a copy. It is fun to just peruse at your leisure, or use as inspiration for your own creativity and art as I did. Keep in mind

there is some nudity in this 300 page art book.~ Kort

Cool book, but unfortunately didn't realize how much nudity and sexually explicit art it contained. Bought it for my 7 year old who loves the Beatles and couldn't give it to him. Oh well!

The product was falling apart substantially more than it looked like in the photo. Additionally, the sleeve for the book did not come with it, which was very disappointing. If it wasn't a gift, I would have sent it back.

At its inception this collection of "inspired" art works provided a feast for the eyes while the lyrics provided a guide sheet for the aural hallucinations beamed out of my headphones. Even without enhancements, this book (especially in its original coffee table format) was a "trip". So nice after a long, strange trip to have both primal volumes in a handy, yet durable paperback version.

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