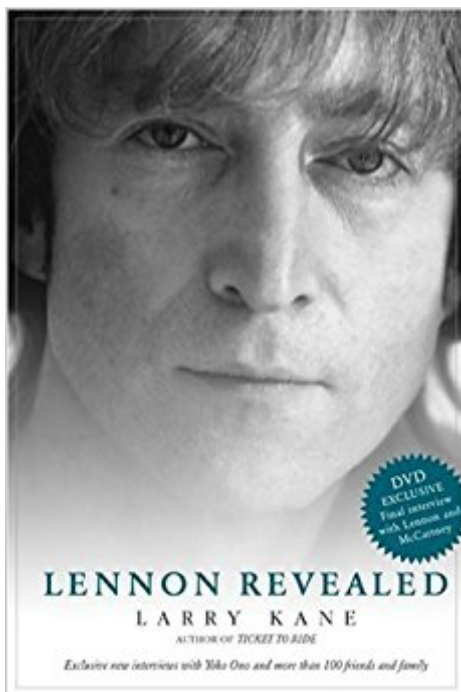


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# Lennon Revealed



## Synopsis

John Lennon-working class hero, rebel with a cause, citizen of the world. He would have been 65 this year. A quarter of a century after his death, the questions remain: what was John Lennon really like, what drove him to the heights of creativity and the depths of despair, and why do his music and message still resonate for millions around the world? Now acclaimed broadcast journalist and author Larry Kane uncovers the mysteries of Lennon's life and implodes the myths surrounding it. Kane definitely has the right credentials for the job. He was the only American reporter who traveled in the Beatles' official entourage to every stop on their history-making first American tours, and he stayed in touch with Lennon until an assassin ended the former Beatle's life. *Lennon Revealed* is filled with revelations about John Lennon's path from public glory to personal destruction, and ultimately to the inspiring rebirth that defines a triumph of the spirit. Drawing on extensive personal accounts and extraordinary new interviews with more than 50 confidants and experts-most notably, with Yoko Ono-Kane brings the reader closer than ever to the man who, in life and in death, has had a singular impact on humanity. Kane also provides stunning new information about Lennon's relationships with Ono, his childhood soulmate Stuart Sutcliffe, his lover May Pang, and Beatles manager Brian Epstein. The book includes an exclusive DVD featuring the final filmed interview with Lennon and Paul McCartney, conducted by Larry Kane in 1968. Brief clips from this famous interview have appeared in just a few places, including the official documentary *Imagine*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this breezy collection of remembrances, journalist Kane (*Ticket to Ride*) fondly-if a bit too reverentially-remembers his times with enigmatic Beatle John Lennon. In 1964, Kane, then a radio reporter, was assigned to follow the Beatles in America, beginning a relationship with Lennon that lasted throughout the musician's short life, and one that obviously engendered some real affection. In brisk, entertaining prose, Kane, with a supporting cast of many Beatles associates, assesses the many faces of Lennon from a journalistic yet intensely personal perch. "Was John Lennon a mean bastard? A foolish prankster? An aggressive sex fiend? A musical tyrant? A gay man?" The answers, Kane says, are as complex as Lennon himself. Kane shares his take on the man and the pivotal moments in his life, including Lennon's relationships with his bandmates and Yoko Ono, his involvement in the peace movement, and the infamous "lost weekend" and the Yoko-ordained affair with secretary May Pang. A final chapter of letters written by Lennon fans, however, feels tacked on. There are certainly better books on Lennon, but readers should enjoy Kane's personal, honest recollections. "My reporting of Lennon and his adult life will no doubt vary from others," Kane aptly notes, "but it is mine." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Kane met John Lennon when he traveled with the Beatles on their American tours, which he chronicled in *Ticket to Ride* (2003). Now, 25 years after Lennon's murder, he offers an affectionate but clear-eyed look at the musician's life, based on his recollections and interviews with many of Lennon's friends and associates. Eschewing chronological treatment, Kane proceeds somewhat disjointedly, dividing the book into chapters on such aspects of Lennon as his significant relationships (including with second wife Yoko Ono and paramour May Pang), wild streak, peace activism, love for New York City, and relations with the other Beatles, particularly Paul McCartney. Perhaps because Kane is a reporter rather than a critic, he downplays Lennon the musician; otherwise, he reveals many facets of a complex figure. If the book ultimately doesn't constitute a definitive portrait, it demonstrates why expecting one is probably futile. Yoko Ono told Kane that Lennon "didn't want people to just adore him. He wanted people to know what he [was] made of." Kane's account hews to that wish. Gordon Flagg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

This book offers nothing new, and a number of glaring errors (stating that John was 15 years old at the July 6, 1957 Woolton Fete where he met Paul, for example). Larry Kane glorifies his minor role in the Beatles' history--how he saved the day when underage fans visited them, how he made

helpful suggestions that he would have you believe changed their careers. Further, it is overly worshipful and fawning--students of John know how he felt about that. Read Cynthia's book instead.

I was hoping that this would fill in gaps left out of other Lennon biographies. It does take some stands on issues such as Lennon's supposed homosexuality (this author votes "no"), but the poor writing and editing hurt this biographer's credibility. Not knowing the difference between "waste" and "waist", and using "compliment" when it should have been "complement" makes the author seem like something less than a seasoned journalist. These are freshman-level grammatical errors that proofreading should have caught. Books on the life of John Lennon seem to have taken a cottage industry status these days. No single one of them is truly complete, but the lot of them makes a sloppy, overlapping patchwork quilt.

Lots of info on Mr. Lennon.

In 1964, a young Miami radio newsman named Larry Kane, to his surprise, was part of the legendary Beatles tour of the U.S. (and Canada), as chronicled in "Ticket To Ride". Now semi-retired from a celebrated TV anchor run (35 years!) in Philadelphia, he's back with a most interesting look at the most interesting Beatle- John Lennon. I'm not a hard-core Beatle or Lennon fan, but I liked the way Larry tells this story. It begins with a vivid retelling of the night Lennon was shot (12/8/80), as recalled by fellow broadcasters and others who were on the scene. From then on, we learn- through interviews with everyone from Yoko Ono to Pauline Sutcliffe (whose brother Stu, dead at 21, was an original Beatle and brilliant painter)- not about Lennon the Beatle or the superstar, but Lennon the man. Larry Kane may have been a pup with a mike, but he was nobody's puff artist. From the beginning, he spoke to the boys as an equal, who wanted to know the real people, not the entertainers. He was especially drawn to the brilliant, witty, often-passionate and complex Lennon, and stayed on his trail not just as a reporter but as a friend. The wild, whirlwind American visits; the trip to the Maharishi's Indian retreat; the fling with sometime lover May Pang; the post-Beatle confessional songs on "Plastic Ono Band"- they're all here, well-told and presented in a way that even casual fans (like myself) can appreciate. The final chapter collects Lennon memories from ordinary fans (and a couple of TV personalities). There's also a short (35-minute) DVD with Larry Kane, in conversation with a local Philly deejay who has an all-Beatle show. In addition to his own stories- and his warm, thoughtful manner shines- there's a vintage Lennon-McCartney segment from '68 and a brief film of Lennon doing the weather (!) on local Philly

TV, the story behind which you'll find in Chapter 10 (he came down to co-host a charity radio-thon). It's the '68 interview, with Lennon at his dry, droll best, that shows how he could have been what Larry calls "the best TV talk-show host ever" had he lived. Full disclosure: I met Larry Kane at a reading/promo for "Ticket To Ride" here in Boston, and continue to keep in touch via e-mail. The man's a class act and one of the nicest guys around. He has no agenda, and he's no musicologist or psychologist either. All Larry wants the reader to do is get to know the brilliant, witty, contentious, opinionated and giving man named John Lennon- not through his recordings or tabloid headlines but straight-up. He succeeds, and I learned a lot more about both Lennon and the world he lived in from this book. "Lennon Revealed" is a different kind of Beatle bio- not an encyclopedia or a flashy Rolling Stone kind of book, but a look at a quirky guy from Liverpool who made an imprint on both music and life. And who better than Larry Kane, a guy with the gift of being able to talk to anyone (check "Ticket to Ride" and his earlier "Kane's Philadelphia"), to bring us a close-up glimpse at one of the most unique people in or out of music?

This is one of those fascinating reads that you don't want to put down until you've finished it. Kane's account of Lennon is both intimate and revealing, yet he has respect for John Lennon and the people in his life. He tries to give a fair, well-rounded portrait of a complex man, discussing his strengths as well as his faults. He is also fair and objective when talking about the three most prominent women in his life: Cynthia, Yoko Ono, and May Pang. Often Yoko is villified but the author recognizes her positive influence on John. He is also kind to May Pang, who has been dismissed by Yoko-Sychophants as nothing but a fling, recognizing May's value and influence on the rock star as well. He feels that all three contributed and influenced John's music, which is refreshing. Other biographers tend to bash one or more of these women, producing a sometimes unfair and distorted view. The book is well-written and enjoyable to read.

Enjoyed this so much. It told of the wonderful side of John. Sure, he had his quirks and issues. But underneath he did have feelings, love, caring, fears, anxieties. Larry Kane surely saw the good in John, not just the "bad".

Great book. Honest and real John Lennon. I was fascinated by this one and read it in one sitting. Do yourself a favor and get this one. Has a cool audio CD as well.

I never write reviews, but I had to for this book. I actually purchased the audiobook and enjoyed it

every morning on my way to work. Larry Kane, the author was a personal reporter of the Beatles and "hung out" with them for years. He was one of the trusted reporters of the group. What's special about this book is the new information I learned. Kane, recalls moments and stories that I have never heard and I HAVE HEARD it all. I will not reveal these moments, but I promise you will enjoy this book.

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