

Lennon Revealed – In Depth With Author Larry Kane

By John Kenney

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If you think once you've read one John Lennon biography, you've read them all, think again. Author Larry Kane was one of a select few journalists who actually *knew* John Lennon, and he's a man Lennon considered to be a friend. Lennon Revealed (Running Press, 2005) is a fascinating, humanizing account of Lennon's life - which thankfully, doesn't gloss over the difficult times.

Kane, who spent the past 25 years anchoring the Philadelphia Evening News, was fortunate enough to be there from the beginning of the Beatles' 'invasion.' As a 21-year-old budding journalist, he was invited by Beatles manager Brian Epstein to hit the road with the band for the entirety of its first North American tour. During this time, and on subsequent tours, he had complete insider access, conducted numerous interviews, and spent plenty of 'quality time' with the biggest band in the world. John Lennon developed an affinity for him because of his no-nonsense approach, and the two became fast friends.

This special friendship enabled Kane to write Lennon Revealed with a personal insight which exposes his readers to a more human side of the icon. His account is especially important because Lennon has oftentimes been referred to as an untouchable legend rather than as a mere mortal who could sing and play the guitar. Kane captivates us with his unique ability to portray John Lennon as simply an ordinary guy with an extraordinary talent.

It's refreshing to hear the author describe the inner workings of Lennon's mind, his creative influences, his passions, and how this extremely sensitive man stood firm in his beliefs despite the consequences. And, it's also refreshing to read a Lennon biography that doesn't harangue Yoko Ono.

"John was an imperfect human being," Kane said in a recent phone interview. "Truly, [his] imperfections make him a real human, not just a hero of idol worship."

Lennon Revealed is Kane's honest account of what it was like on the road with the Beatles during the first few crazy years, and it continues with John's often-turbulent life in the '70s. Writing with the genuine respect of a friend, he portrays a deeply sensitive rock star who was brutally honest in all facets of his life and his music.

According to Beatles historian Mark Lewisohn, "The key to John is his integrity. No one doubted that he believed what he said when he said it. He was a passionate believer of what he believed."

Lennon Revealed is a must-read because it's the Lennon biography the artist himself would appreciate. It provides a realistic look at his life through the loving eyes of a friend. In publishing this book, Kane has succeeded in paying his respects.

"If John were still alive - and if I had written a bunch of [lies] - he would've screamed at me!" Kane exclaimed.

Lennon, who would have turned 66 on Oct. 9, wouldn't have screamed after reading Kane's respectful account. It's a safe bet to say he would have been proud of his friend's tribute.

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