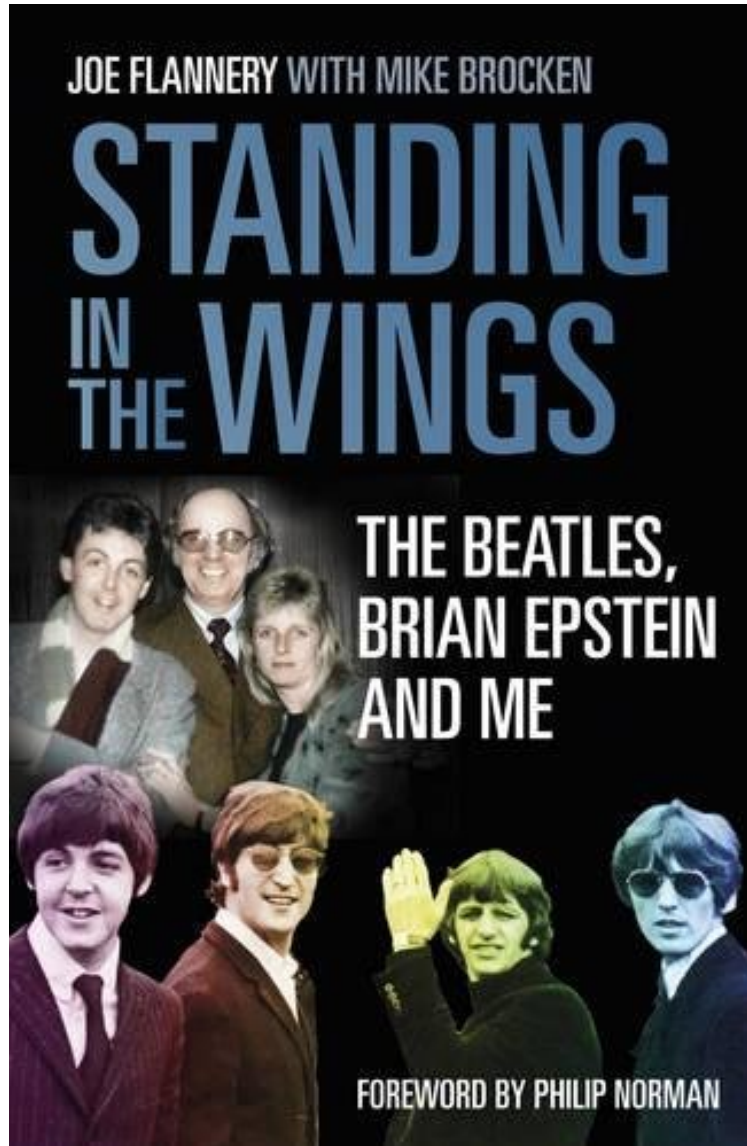


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Standing In the Wings: The Beatles, Brian Epstein and Me

Joe Flannery, Mike Brocken
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#1267703 in Books The History Press 2013-09-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x 1.20 x 6.00l, 1.41 #File Name: 0752490095288 pages | File size: 30.Mb

Joe Flannery, Mike Brocken : Standing In the Wings: The Beatles, Brian Epstein and Me before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Standing In the Wings: The Beatles, Brian Epstein and Me:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Nice Addition to Beatles LibraryBy Kindle CustomerThis book was wonderfully interesting and full of new information. I'm so glad Joe has finally decided to share. A lot of fascinating information on Brian and a great source on the social/sexual climate of the 1950's. Now for the best thing about this

book....his anecdotes about the Beatles. His observances of them were refreshing and exciting, and above all extremely eye opening. His comments on certain people who had something to do with the evolution of their style but have never been mentioned (ever) in any bio, was very interesting indeed. The most fascinating thing of all was his revelation on the real reason (and the person inadvertently responsible) for Pete Best's removal from the Beatles, as well as the aftermath, have never been told before as far as I know. The reason has been hinted at but never much detail was provided, until now. This alone is a reason I would recommend this book highly, to any Beatle fan. However I did give this book only 4 stars instead of 5 and here is the reason why. Although if you flip through the photos as I did, before you read it, there are many photos of the Beatles with Joe or seemingly taken by Joe, in the 70's, 80's, 90's and the present. There is even a pic of Linda taken from far away, so I'm assuming Joe took it with a Kodak camera, sitting on her horse on The Mull of Kintyre. However he never once mentions any contact with them after 1962. So why are there so many photos of him with them, taken well after 1962 as mentioned? Why didn't he include the back stories behind these photos? For instance, in spite of the photo of her on her horse, he doesn't mention Linda at all, as if she never existed. Once the Beatles seemed to be out of his life which occurs around early 1963, he hardly mentions them for the rest of the book. The only mention of any contact with any of them after 1963, is a phone call placed to John just before he died. Nice anecdote which seemingly proves that John did want to return to England and was ready to tour, but where are the stories that go with the photos?? I find that kind of strange. Even stranger is, although all of his stories about the Beatles, take place between 1960 and 1962, and some take place at his own house on Gardner Road, there are only stock photos of the Beatles taken at that time, and another stock photo from around 1965 when he had no contact with them, that seemed to be randomly thrown in. Ok maybe Joe didn't own a camera, or no one thought to take photos, but I'm still perplexed that he chose not to include later stories to go with the many later photos of the individual Beatles. Plus there is a photo of Cilla Black, although she is only mentioned once, very briefly, in passing. Surely he knew, and the publishers knew, that mostly curious fans of the Beatles would buy his book, looking for additional information on the band. Instead there is a whole lot of information on his businesses and his management of his own artists like Lee Curtis, (Joe's bother), an all woman group whose name escapes my memory, and Beryl.....sorry, her last name also escapes my memory. This is fine, after all the book is about Joe's life. I knew that before I bought it. But why so many photos of the Beatles, with Joe in the photos, meaning he obviously had contact with them during the last few decades, but not one word mentioned to go with those photos? Didn't the publishers think to let Joe know that the readers of his book would be much more interested in these stories, than stories about faded, loose cannon, woman singers, who sabotaged their own careers? To me, that amounts to a big marketing blunder, not to mention, the editors didn't organize the photos to match the stories in the book. I still highly recommend this book simply for the revelations on the Beatles' early career and also an insider's refreshing, myth busting take on their personalities, and the real events that shaped that career. Joe's personal life is very interesting to read about as well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant !By JFinnegan Nice read for anyone interested in the early years of the British Invasion 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. new spin on an old subject By J. E. Mynchenberg I had a great time reading this book. It was hard to put down. I felt it gave a really good picture of the music business in England in the early sixties plus a few glimpses into the Beatles' personal history. The prose isn't great literature, but it is easy to read and comprehend and tends to keep things in good order. A bit sparse toward the end -- but, then, the relationship wasn't as close by then.

An in-depth account of The Beatles' rise to fame, written by the man who saw it all Joe Flannery has been described as the "Secret Beatle," and as the business associate and partner of Brian Epstein, he became an integral part of The Beatles' management team during their rise to fame in the early 1960s. This is Flannery's account of this fascinating era, which includes the controversial dismissal of Pete Best from the group, Brian Epstein's fragility, and the importance of the Star Club in Hamburg. This book is not simply a biography, as it also considers issues to do with sexuality in 1950s Liverpool, the vagaries of the music business at that time, and the hazards of personal management in the "swinging sixties." At its heart, this story provides an in-depth look at Flannery's personal and professional relationship with Epstein and his close links with the Fab Four. Shortly before John Lennon's murder in 1980, it was Flannery who was one of the last people in the UK to talk to the great man. Indeed, Flannery remains one of the few "Beatle people" in Liverpool to have the respect of the surviving Beatles, which is reflected in this timely and revealing book.