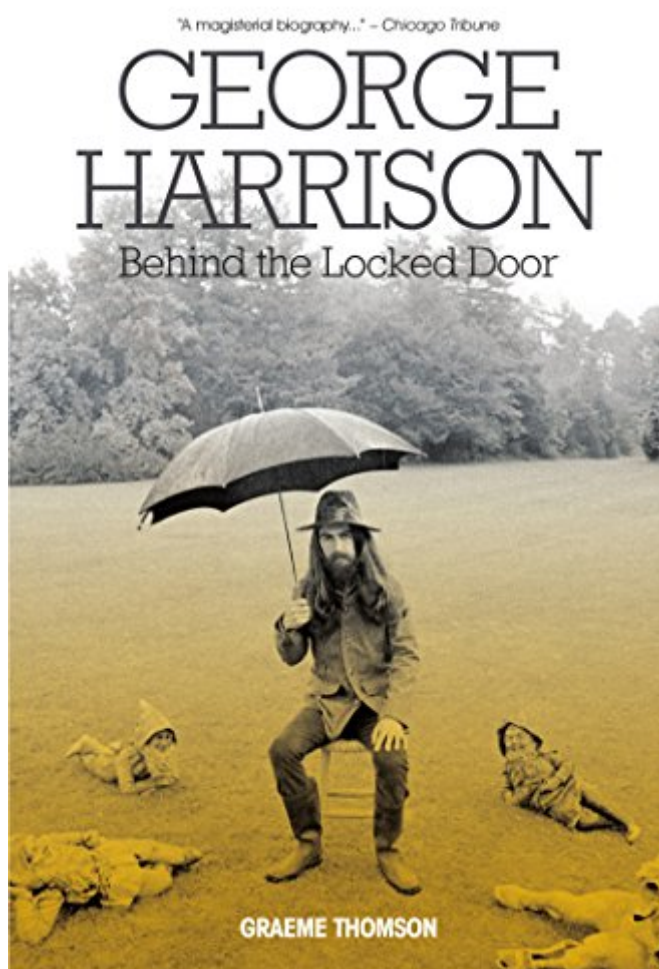


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# George Harrison: Behind The Locked Door



## Synopsis

Behind The Locked Door is Graeme Thomson's rich, insightful account of George Harrison's extraordinary life and career. This Omnibus Enhanced digital edition includes Spotify sections, detailing Harrison's early influences, his contributions within The Beatles and the best of his solo career. Additionally, an interactive Digital Timeline leads you through a collage of music, videos and images, displaying live performances, interviews, memorabilia and more. As a Beatle, Harrison underwent a bewilderingly compressed early adulthood, buffeted by unprecedented levels of fame and success, from schoolboy to global superstar. "Beatlemania" offered remarkable experiences and opportunities, and yet dissatisfaction still gnawed within. His life became a quest for meaning and truth which travelled far beyond the parameters of his former band and his former self. This elegant, in-depth biography tracks these changes and conflicts, marking the struggle of walking a spiritual path lined with temptation. Drawing on scores of interviews with close friends and collaborators, rigorous research and critical insight, Behind The Locked Door is a fascinating account of an often misunderstood man. As well as an intimate character study, it offers a full analysis of Harrison's music, from his earliest songs for the Beatles to his landmark solo album All Things Must Pass, his work with The Traveling Wilburys and the posthumous Brainwashed. Behind The Locked Door provides the definitive account of a compelling, contradictory and enlightening life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very thorough and engaging study of a complicated and frustrated man who was unfairly overshadowed by two of his bandmates. Yes, we all have our craziness - as did George. But his development as a guitarist and solo artist is not to be dismissed at all. The anecdotes seem accurate and well-documented. His "any road will get you there" approach was true. George left us with more than just good songs. He gave us hope that you can break out of a shell and become your own person. His search for something more spiritually rewarding than The Beatles is to be commended. Not just his religious pursuits but his need to evolve into his own persona. This was a great read. I wish he was still with us to continue his journey.

A must read for any Harrison fan.

Great book . Hard to put down! You learn a lot about George,,,things you never know.....Highly recommended! I came away as seeing George as a different person than before. Not in a bad way! But, you realize he was human too,,,and suscepable to temptations also,,,whether drink, drugs or women. The Beatle years..you really get the feeling , he was being shafted by John and Paul. Well...not shafted...but held back? held down? I think he really made his point with #1 album. All Things Must Pass.A pretty good sized book. Best one Ive read on George.

A great read even for those who thought they had read it all .

This book will likely be the definitive biography of George Harrison, being extensive, covering his entire life, and the author having interviewed numerous acquaintances across his life. Thompson is excellent, with a good turn of phrase, a dispassionate approach, who also has a musician's inside knowledge that considerably helps and is appreciated (without his showing off too much).Many of the reviewers here decry the harsh view that the author gives to Harrison's work, but I believe Thomson is being honest and objective and thus meets a biographer's objective. There are lessons to be gained from considering Harrison's complex life, including that life itself is complex.George

Harrison is my favorite musician of all time, I perform his pieces on guitar and piano, and at his best, his voice and slide guitar soothe me. Yet he lived a very tumultuous life. Part of that was simply from being part of the most famous musical quartet ever. Harrison, more than the other guys it appears, could not evade the threats to his sanity by rabid fans; there was nowhere on earth where he could be left alone, except at times in India. As I followed his career while he was alive, I could not understand the contradictions: Why was this Hare Krishna devotee, who in his songs worshipped God and railed against spiritual abandonment, nonetheless bitter to colleagues at times, a habitual womanizer too. At the Concert for Bangladesh, Ravi Shankar, George's mentor, began by saying, "No smoking." Yet George smoked most of his life, probably knew better, and the habit ultimately claimed his life. (I am not sure, but I consider it likely that the brain disease he had was metastatic from the earlier lung cancer.) He poached tunes and songs from colleagues, feeling that as a Beatle, he could get away with it. Half of the Electronic Sound album was composed and performed by another individual. One learns in the book that the credit for "My Sweet Lord" most likely is due to Delaney Bramlett. Contrary to the judicial decision that Harrison had inadvertently borrowed the melody from "He's So Fine," the book provides testimony that Harrison knew again and again the source of his composition while he was in the process of developing and recording it. As with just about any other popular musician, he made bad choices at times. The 1974 Dark Horse tour could well have been delayed until his laryngitis had resolved, but he chose not to, the promise of money was too great. Even so, that would not have changed his decision to radically alter his Beatles songs, to the point that he practically rejected the original intent of the lyrics (for example, "Something's in the way--we move it."), to the upset of fans, critics, and even Shankar himself. After *Living in the Material World*, his albums became uninteresting to much of the public, and he had lost touch with the popular audience for whom he intended his releases. "His Name is Legs," the final cut on *Extra Texture*, was an elaborate inside joke--why bother? Although an accomplished musician, on tour he could be a bundle of nerves, lacked self confidence, and in guest appearances stuck with the old familiar rock and roll songs he knew by heart. Yet when he took the time, he could be very thoughtful, crafted an unmistakable (often since imitated) fluid guitar sound that was not heard on the Beatles' recordings (although his breaks on "Something" and "Octopus's Garden" veer close). When he had time to reflect (and wasn't intoxicated or stoned, a frequent vice), he could write earnest pleas for understanding, forgiveness. He had a thin voice, yet there are catches in his passionate voice that always bring me to my knees ("For You Blue," "True Love," "Can't Stop Thinking About You," among others). There is a consensus among his intimates that he could be very generous, as well as humorous. His final album, *Brainwashed*, was composed without a time

pressure, and allowed Harrison free expression of ideas he held most passionately, including the authority of the Catholic church (also heard on "Awaiting On You All"), perils of fame, the destructiveness of Western society, and the appreciation of popular music from the mid-20th century. (Harrison used the most complex chords and chord progressions of any of the Beatles, no doubt inspired by American popular showtune composers he admired.) The author clearly admires his subject, and thus tries his best to adopt a respectful, objective, and informed examination of George's weaknesses. It is hard to do, but the author succeeds. The book provides the best account of the All Things Must Pass sessions that one will find anywhere. (Ken Scott, the engineer, has elsewhere revealed that careful notes about the session musicians were not kept, and Ringo could not even remember having played on the album.) The tensions behind the Japan tour with Eric Clapton and his band are given great detail. Of course, most galling was how Paul and John (and to a lesser extent the Beatles' producer, George Martin) belittled his accomplishments, despite having brought him into the band to be their lead guitarist. (When the surviving Beatles reunited for the Anthology TV program and albums in the 1990s, in an amusing anecdote at one point George snapped at Paul, "I was second one on the right--remember?") The book will not likely interest readers who do not appreciate the Beatles. If one is truly a fan and cares about the music, one should embrace this very honest account, an examination of the destructive force of fame, how it can go to one's head, and that people can shuttle between opposites of conduct and outlook as if they have split personalities. The book in the end is a detailed account of human nature. None of us is perfect.

Solidly researched, continually interesting, well-written account of the Quiet One's journey through this material world. Thomson doesn't shy away from George's complexities, contradictions, and controversies; nor does he spare readers his own personal opinions, critical or otherwise, when it comes to George's complex personality, his business faults and relationship foibles, his musical output (solo and otherwise), or his romantic pursuits and spiritual journey. One of the better ex-Beatle bios; well-worth the effort.

Good read

Graeme Thomson's *GEORGE HARRISON, BEHIND THE LOCKED DOOR* chronicles the life and musical times of the legendary musician/singer/songwriter/seeker of truth. There have been a number of Harrison bios published over the years; this is the latest. A 2015 Overlook Omnibus

release, Thomson's door-stopper of a book - 447 pages - is the first Harrison bio I've read. Thomson's book takes Harrison from his Liverpool youth through the madness of Beatlemania and subsequent career as a solo artist, concert producer, film producer, reclusive gardener to his death from cancer in November 2001. Though the book hits all the biographical marks, it concentrates heavily on Harrison's spiritual life and his conflicted search for meaning. To be honest, I found GEORGE HARRISON hard slogging. GH was a complicated, contradictory individual who experienced the highest highs and the lowest lows life has to offer so you have to give him credit for just surviving. Yet, his Krishna connection, based on my reading of the book, didn't bring him peace and contentment; the book relating endless problems, squabbles, retreats from reality to his beloved garden, etc. And when you consider Thomson's 'faint praise' treatment of Harrison's music, what's left to enjoy or marvel at about the man and his music? In the end, you're left with the rather glum portrait of a filthy rich musician who wrote some ok songs but whose own character flaws kept him from realizing his goal of nirvana. Really!?! While Thomson's book told me everything I could possibly want to know - and not want to know - about George Harrison, it was overall a joyless expose. Given the joy Harrison gave the world in his music, dry Liverpool witticisms and charity work, by book's end, you're saddened he never achieved his goal as espoused in the lyric: "Give me love, give me love, give me peace on earth..." Your call, folks.

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