

BLAME IT ON THE BEATLES ... AND BILL SHANKLY

Some reviews of the e-book when it was released in June, and a few more recent reviews of the paperback version of the book

I really enjoyed reading this. I live relatively close to Liverpool so it was good to read about various areas from a bygone era. Enjoyed the fiction interlaced with it too.

K.S.

This book is a wonderful read for anyone who was a teenager in America in the 1960's and can remember the first time they heard 'She Loves You'. The city of Liverpool features in the story, and as an American who has never been there I was able to immerse myself in the travels of Tony, the fictional main character, to The Cavern, The Kop, Lennon's Art School, Penny Lane, and the coffee and record shops in the city centre. The author, John Winter, writes with great empathy about Liverpool's bomb sites and post-war deprivations while revealing how the younger generation brought joy into their lives through the sexual energy of their music and the ascendancy of Liverpool Football Club. Tony endures personal tragedy against this life affirming background. His story parallels the events of the 1960's and, by the end of the book, he has grown up – as we all have to. His eventual happiness provides an uplifting ending.

D.A.

Having loved The Beatles' music, played soccer for ten years, and visited Liverpool several times, I am completely enthralled with this book. Winter very effectively takes fictional characters and weaves them into a story that illuminates the history of Liverpool in the tumultuous 60's. I could feel the vibrations of The Beatles' music and the excitement of the crowd at the Cavern Club, and I was there with the fans on the Kop at Anfield as they went wild for every Liverpool goal. In addition, the life lessons learned by the main character, Tony, are as applicable today (maybe more so) as they were then. I highly recommend 'Blame It On The Beatles ... And Bill Shankly.

J.K.

This made an excellent read for me and proved to be a real page turner. I moved to the West Country 45 years ago having spent my formative years in Liverpool. I enjoyed the story John Winter has woven against the factual backdrop of the time. It transported me right back to the 60's. I was there and I can vouch for the authenticity. Indeed I can identify in parts both with Sarah and Fiona.

R.J.

I have just been transported back in time and place by the book 'Blame It On The Beatles... And Bill Shankly'. In 1964 I was one of those screaming teens who couldn't get enough of the four moppets from Liverpool and only imagined what life was like in the city which spawned The Beatles and the musical groups who followed. As an adult I have been privileged to visit Liverpool where I was also exposed to the unabashed enthusiasm and loyalty of the fans of Liverpool Football (Soccer) Club. As an American my musings fell short of the descriptions and events portrayed in this book. From an adult perspective I now have a new appreciation of how music and sport drastically changed a city. This is a coming-of-age tale that describes the impact events had upon a whole generation.

K.K.D.

As an American, this book allowed me to experience the very beginnings of The Beatles in their environment of Liverpool. I was able to walk around the city, visiting all of the places where they gained their inspiration, like Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields, and the clubs where they played. It's a story rich in detail of time and place; the fictional characters give the book its emotional tone, from the dullness of post-war living, to the energy of music, and from the success of the soccer team. I highly recommend it.

Steve

This is a really pleasant nostalgia trip, filled with real-life incidents of the rise of The Beatles and Liverpool Football Club. The fictional story forms a framework on which to hang a factually accurate account of the exciting times that were the early 1960s, which the author actually experienced. My husband is from Liverpool and was a young teenager at that time also, so it felt very real to me. Thanks, I enjoyed it.

A.F.

I enjoyed this read as a fan of The Beatles. I only knew a little about Liverpool before reading. Good read.

A.D.

I loved the fictional story and all the background information about what it was like in Liverpool back in the sixties. Great read. A definite five star book.

C.B.