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Mark Skipper

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Mark Skipper : Paperback Writer: The Life and Times of the Beatles, the Spurious Chronicle of Their Rise to Stardom, Their Triumphs and Disasters, Plus the Amazing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paperback Writer: The Life and Times of the Beatles, the Spurious Chronicle of Their Rise to Stardom, Their Triumphs and Disasters, Plus the Amazing:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fab Fun!By J.D. GuinnessOne of the few books I wish I'd written, Paperback Writer is the fab tale of the Beatles' reunion (circa 1979) and its hilarious consequences.It's reminiscent of Eric Idle's The Rutles TV movie and records, but I daresay Mark Shipper's book is more accessible, and is therefore funnier, building with great precision and care on the Beatles' well-known characteristics and story, then bending and twisting it all with astonishingly consistent hilarity, while making many bright, but affectionate, comments on the sillier aspects of the Rock Biz in general.As much as Mark Shipper clearly loves both the Beatles and rock music, there is a playful and therefore healthy cynicism in his writing that suggests he finds it all a bit ridiculous.That, ultimately, is how his book won my heart, as I detected a kindred spirit; I hope you do too (In fact I hope Shipper won't mind my saying he was a major influence on my own comic writing, as I deal in a sort of pop-culture fascination

in a literary-slapstick-comedy kinda way). Back to Paperback Writer, and why it's so wonderful. There are many extremely funny running jokes throughout the novel, delivered in a sort of Dave Barry boisterousness; literate and hilarious. Even the Beatles album covers are parodied in a series of uproarious graphics. Shipper sustains the story and jokes all the way through, he even moves us by the end of it, and that is pretty damn sensational in a comic novel. So few hold together as well as this; it's truly brilliant. Since Beatlemania is showing no sign of ever really going away...since sounds and images of the Fab Four continue to batter at our consciousness with every single new invention that can play a song...I urge every Beatles fan in the world to buy this book. Thanks to the Beatles' staying power, Mark Shipper, too, is always in style, and he's guaranteed to make you LAUGH. I think I'll even buy another copy!

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Beatlemania in a Parallel Universe By Boz Anyone who thought the Rutles are funny haven't seen funny until they have read this book. A total alternate universe where Paul is already famous before he joined the Beatles. Brian is a plumber and the once much desired reunion of the mop-tops occurs but not in the way we would have thought. A loving, biting reimagining of Beatlemania in a manner that I'm sure John would have found hysterical. But the amazing thing about it is that dialogue that Mark Shipper has his Beatles saying is not at all out of character with our real ones. Read this book and then tell yourself that Paul wouldn't have said this or John that. The authenticity of the dialogue is what gives this book its beauty and charm. You can just see the four lads speaking Mark's words instead of the ones we know they said. Brilliant as the Beatles story itself.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. pretty strange and obscure By A Customer I read about this book in an old Beatles A-Z encyclopedia, and it was listed as a work of fiction, chronicling the Beatles' past and "future." Written in 1978. The author, Shipper, has tried to make the book semi-fiction, mostly with comedy and wrong album titles and stuff that really isn't that funny at all. For example, John meets Yoko through her boyfriend, Mick Jagger. Then the story picks up in 1979 when the remaining Beatles get together and make a new album. One interesting thing is that the public doesn't want to hear this new record; they much prefer the memories of their youth. Actually, if the Beatles had reformed, there is a good possibility that would have happened, so it was smart of Shipper to add this little "plot twist." But he has the four of them at a creative low, unable to write new material. (Meanwhile Paul McCartney has been putting out a steady stream of good work in these past 20 years since the book was written.) Other strange things is that Shipper chose to write that David Bowie was dead, killed in a plane crash in 1978. And, saddest of all, the Beatles reformation he has placed in Dec 1979. In real history it was one year after this that John Lennon was murdered, in December 1980.

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