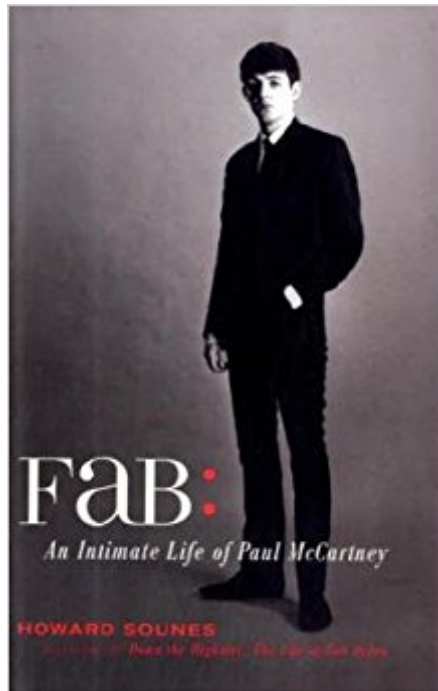




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Fab: An Intimate Life Of Paul McCartney



Synopsis

Howard Sounes, the bestselling author of *Down the Highway: The Life of Bob Dylan* and *Charles Bukowski: Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life*, turns his considerable reporting and storytelling skills to one of the most famous, talented—and wealthiest—men alive: Paul McCartney. *Fab* is the first exhaustive biography of the legendary musician; it tells Sir Paul's whole life story, from childhood to present day, from working-class Liverpool beginnings to the cultural phenomenon that was The Beatles to his many solo incarnations. *Fab* is the definitive portrait of McCartney, a man of contradictions and a consummate musician far more ruthless, ambitious, and moody than his relaxed public image implies. Based on original research and more than two hundred new interviews, *Fab* also reveals for the first time the full story of his two marriages, romances, family feuds, phenomenal wealth, and complex relationships with his fellow ex-Beatles.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review Sounes has earned a well-deserved reputation for writing thoroughly researched, intricately detailed biographies. This comprehensive biography of McCartney is no exception.

Sounes seems to have spoken to every living person with any connection to the former Beatle, from the singer's neighbors near his Kintyre, Scotland, farm to the family veterinarian. Divided into two equally large sections—“With the Beatles” and “After the Beatles”—*Fab* covers all the highlights of McCartney's life and long career: his early days in Liverpool; his meeting with John Lennon; the craziness of Beatlemania; his solo albums; the creation and collapse of his post-Beatles band, Wings; his marriage to Linda Eastman;

his last meetings with Lennon; his drug bust in Japan; his forays into classical music; his disastrous second marriage to Heather Mills. This is by no means a hagiography. On the contrary, Sounes gives criticism when warranted, remarking on McCartney's flaws both as a musician (settling for the ordinary, or, worse, mediocre rather than putting in the extra effort to create something exceptional) and as a man (a streak of selfishness that could turn callous). Indeed, Sounes is often brutally honest, offering a full portraitwarts and all of one of the most famous men of the modern era. A must for Beatles and McCartney fans. HIGH-DEMAND BACK STORY: In spite of his persistent mega-fame, this is the first comprehensive, candid, and up-to-date portrait of Sir Paul McCartney, making it a magnet for boomers and serious music lovers. --June Sawyers

HistoryWire.com, 12/3/10 "[A] doorstep of a biography of one of the few musicians ever knighted by the Queen."

I found the first part of this book intensely interesting from a musical viewpoint, but the second half less so in that regard. The music Paul wrote post-Beatle doesn't have nearly the draw for me, but I was still very keen to read about his family life, and for those rare glimpses into Paul's private world, I was indeed fascinated. The girls in particular have always interested me and I occasionally check out their FB pages to see what they are up to. As far as I can tell, Mary has no Facebook page, and Stella's page is of course centered around her work as a famous fashion designer. In his book, Sounes devotes the most ink by far to Heather, whom he repeatedly describes as a troubled and unhappy child. Yet when you check out Heather's FB page, virtually every picture is one of her childhood, growing up with her famous father. There is almost nothing about her pottery and not one picture or mention of her biological father. Being Paul's adopted daughter now seems to define her identity. If Sounes' description of her is true, she certainly seems to have come round 180 degrees.

Howard Sounes' "An Intimate Biography of Paul McCartney" is the first biography of McCartney I've read that gives the reader a true sense of what this great artist is like. It is a balanced account of McCartney, stressing both positive and negative aspects of his personality. The chapters discussing McCartney's post-Beatles career, particularly those addressing his marriages, shed light on many previously unknown or obscure facts about the man. This biography will be of interest primarily to fans of McCartney, the man, and not so much to fans of his music. In keeping with the book's title, McCartney's music takes a backseat to detailed discussions of his personality and personal life.

This will be refreshing to many of his fans, given that McCartney's music, particularly his Beatles music, has been discussed perceptively by hundreds, if not thousands, of authors. Paul McCartney, the artist and person, continues to fascinate. He is among the handful of truly great popular artists of our time, and yet the quality of his musical output remains inconsistent. Sounes' biography provides several clues as to why this is so. It also delves into the personality of a man who, for all his wealth and fame, has lived his life more normally than one would expect. In this sense, Howard Sounes' "An Intimate Biography of Paul McCartney" is groundbreaking.

I have been reading about the Beatles/John Lennon and/or Paul McCartney for over 30 years now in some shape or form...interestingly, as I read through each chapter reading information that I was already aware of, I kept wanting to read more! I kept telling my husband "I have to read what happens next!", as if I didn't already know what happened next...I was actually intrigued and there were details that I had not been aware of prior to reading this bio...this bio is not a "love story" by an author who adores Paul, but I did feel that it was likely a fair representation of a man, of a human being...lots of yucky stuff in here that is hard to hear about "my beloved Paul", yet I felt that there was a great deal of warmth and neat-o things about Paul in here as well to balance him out as a decent human being...a man who just happens to be incredibly famous...I actually really enjoyed this bio of Paul, keeping in mind, I've been saying since I was aged 5 that "someday I'm going to marry Paul" (and yes, my husband is also aware of this!)...I would recommend this book to any Paul fan, or fan of the Beatles who wishes for a wee bit more...

This book is actually pretty informative and well written (sometimes you can't put it down). In fact, it could have been a GREAT bio, if only the author would have been more objective and had kept his opinion on McCartney's music to himself. Really, nobody buy this book to hear Howard Sounes opinion's on Paul's music. The moment he called "Here There and Everywhere" a weak song, I knew the guy knows nothing about music, and if I was going to keep reading the book, his opinion HAS to be ignored. Apart from that, the book is good. A lot of good info on relevant topics and interviews from people close to Paul McCartney. A great read for any McCartney fan.

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