



The Beatles' Shadow: Stuart Sutcliffe & His Lonely Hearts Club

By Pauline Sutcliffe

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Stuart Sutcliffe is the most famous contender for the crown of 'fifth Beatle'. One of the founding members, a close friend of Lennon, he left the band after their Hamburg sojourn in order to pursue his promising career as an artist, dying shortly thereafter of a brain haemorrhage. For years his sister Pauline has tried to protect his memory against the Beatles' need to sanitise their early history and now she is ready to tell the real story. In so doing she sheds new light on their formative period - the rivalry with McCartney, how George Harrison tried to keep the peace, the truth about Stuart's intense relationship with Lennon and why Lennon was haunted by guilt over her brother's death. And she describes what it was like for those like herself and Cynthia Lennon who have had no choice but to live with the Beatles all their lives.

'Gripping . . . the story of Stuart Sutcliffe. . . holds the key to the birth of pop's greatest group' *Daily Mail*

'An odd, fascinating book' *MOJO*

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Editorial Review

Review

"Gripping...the story of forgotten Beatle Stuart Sutcliffe...holds the key to the birth of pop's greatest group."

From the Publisher

Stuart Sutcliffe's strange, sudden death in Hamburg at the age of 21 is now part of Beatles folklore, but his importance to the Beatles—he was one of the founding members and a close friend of John Lennon—has never been fully examined. Now, after 40 years, his sister Pauline, a prominent psychologist, talks openly about her brother's life and death. Drawing on her own memories, as well as the many letters in her possession, she gives us a candid and insightful portrait of the Beatles' formative period, including the full truth about Stuart's relationship with John Lennon and why Lennon was haunted by guilt over her brother's death. She also reveals her struggle to protect Stuart's memory against the Beatles' need to sanitize their early history. This fascinating memoir is, above all, a loving tribute to a brother, whose contribution to the Beatles' legend lives on.

About the Author

Pauline Sutcliffe is a family psychotherapist and former social services manager. She is the executor of her brother's estate. Douglas Thompson's most recent collaboration was *The Truth At Last*, Christine Keeler's bestselling autobiography.

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