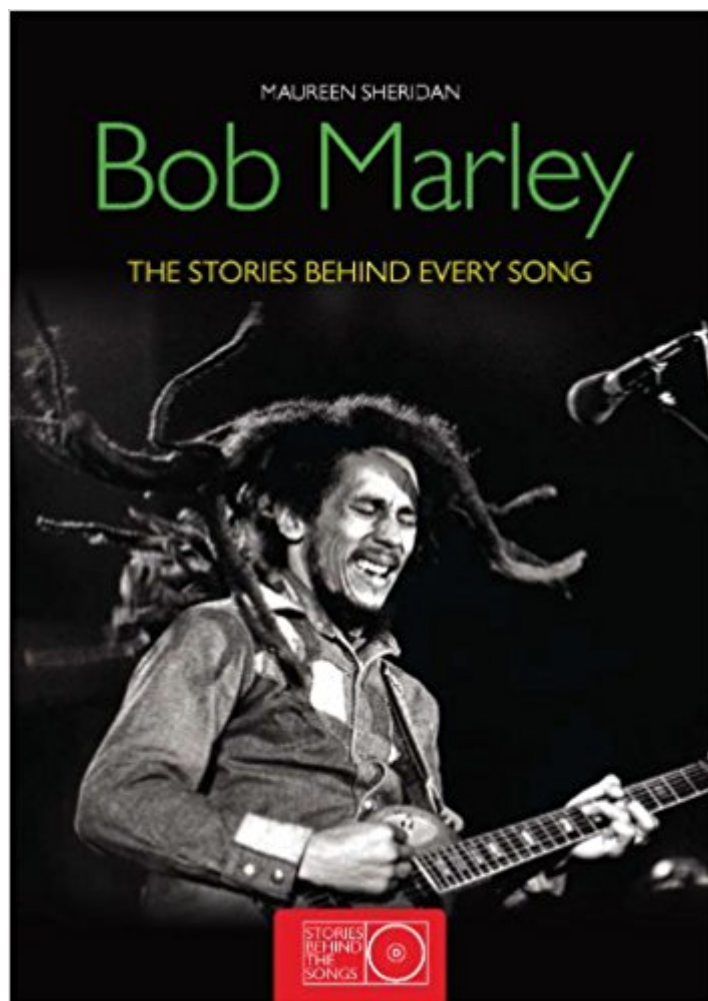


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Bob Marley: The Stories Behind Every Song (Stories Behind The Songs)



Synopsis

Reggae superstar Bob Marley died 30 years ago, and this Behind the Songs compilation pays tribute to his musical legacy. Written by Maureen Sheridan-a writer and editor for Billboard-it features specially conducted interviews with Rita Marley, all the surviving Wailers, studio engineers, and others.

Book Information

Series: Stories Behind the Songs

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Maureen Sheridan was a reggae writer, special editor and producer for Billboard between 1984 and 1993. Her interview with Marley collaborator Peter Tosh was the last before his death. She is based in Jamaica and now heads her own music company, One World Limited.

This is a pretty good book covering the songs Bob recorded during his Island career - 1973 to 1980. The title is very misleading however, because it states "every" song, while the entire first two thirds of his career are not truly covered. Bob & The Wailers recorded over 200 songs from 1964-1972 and the Author chose to write about 14 or so of them.

Excellent book it help me to understand the meaning or reason for each song.

I like the format of this book - going through album-by-album with some backstory on the time frame

of making the album, and then song-by-song on the album, and there are some good photos. However...boy, did she need an editor. Loads of typos - from printing "Mesta" instead of Nesta (more than once!) or "bock" instead of back, to quotations that start but never end, to superfluous or missing punctuation, to partial sentences, to sentence structure that just makes no sense. Some of the typos were such that they changed the entire meaning of the sentence ("I was..." instead of "It was..."). Just frustrating and distracting. Names are often mixed up and frequently misused, with name changes unexplained and unacknowledged (in one paragraph she refers to Bob's mom in one sentence as Cedella Marley, and as Mrs. Booker in the very next sentence). For someone who doesn't already know all the relationships of people to one another, remarriages, name changes, etc. it would be nearly impossible to follow who is who and their relationships to each other. She starts referring to and quoting Cindy Breakspere long before she bothers to explain who Cindy even is. Again, if you know all this already, I guess not a big deal, just poor writing, but if you don't already know...well, the author isn't giving you any help here. She also *gets the date of Bob Marley's death wrong*!!!!!! In the text of the book where she talks about his return to Miami after failed treatment, and his subsequent passing, she says that he died on May 11, 19...82!!! She later gets it correct in a caption, but it's too late. This is an unforgivable error. There is some interesting stuff here - although I hesitate to put much stock in her interpretations, and I don't know how much I trust her accuracy in relating stories and history. Overall, I can't recommend this one. I was really looking for some interesting insight into all the songs, what they mean, and how they came to be. This did not live up to that expectation. Maybe check it out if you can get it from the library, but don't spend good money on it. I would feel bad re-selling it - like I was pawning off a lemon on some poor unsuspecting fan. :(

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