

*John Lennon...*

*All I want is the th*

A photographic biography by  
Elizabeth Partridge



“All I’m saying is peace...



Give it a chance.”



# May 1969

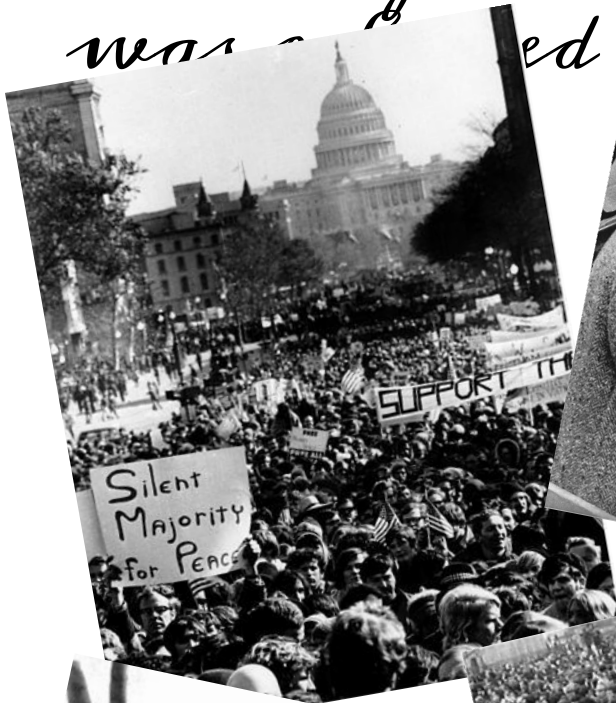
John wrote his song, "Give Peace a Chance", in a week long protest called a "Bed-in for Peace".



Protesting with his soul mate, Yoko Ono, over the hate in the world; Vietnam, assassination of M.L.K Jr., riots, and the Soviet Union

# Weeks Later...

- on July 4, the song was played.



and on November 15, 250,000 Vietnam protesters in Washington gathered for a "Mardi Gras of War" and "forever, and not stopping," he said. "It was one of the biggest mobilizations in U.S. history."

# October 9, 1940

John was born in Liverpool, after one of the German air raid's of WWII.



John's mother, Julia, named him John Winston Lennon, honoring Winston Churchill, the English prime minister who held their safety and future in his hands.

John Lennon was different and he  
"It's that same problem I had when I was five: 'There is something wrong with me because I seem to see things other people don't see. Am I crazy, or am I a genius?'"

It wasn't that he was being raised by his aunt and uncle while his mother, never divorced from his father, lived nearby with another man and their children.

It was something inside him, something in the way he viewed the world.

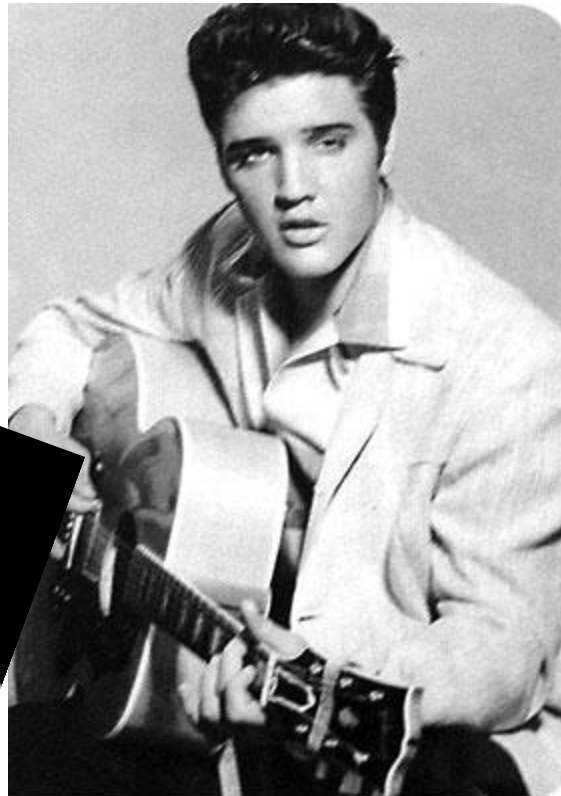
No one else seemed to understand: not his teachers, his aunt and uncle, his friends.

**It made him angry, tough, and afraid.**



“Rock’ n’ roll was real-- everything else was unreal.  
To me it got through- it was the  
only thing to get to me out of all  
the things that were happening when  
I was fifteen.”

# ROCK' N' ROLL 1952-1956





# *John meets Paul*



John and his band, the Quarry Men, were playing for the Liverpool City dance. Paul saw the performance and was amazed that John created some of his own lyrics.

They were introduced to each other and Paul showed the band what he could do.

John accepted him for he knew that he would do good for the band.



*In Paul's house they wrote songs and practiced.*



# “...ABSOLUTELY THE WORST NIGHT OF MY LIFE.”

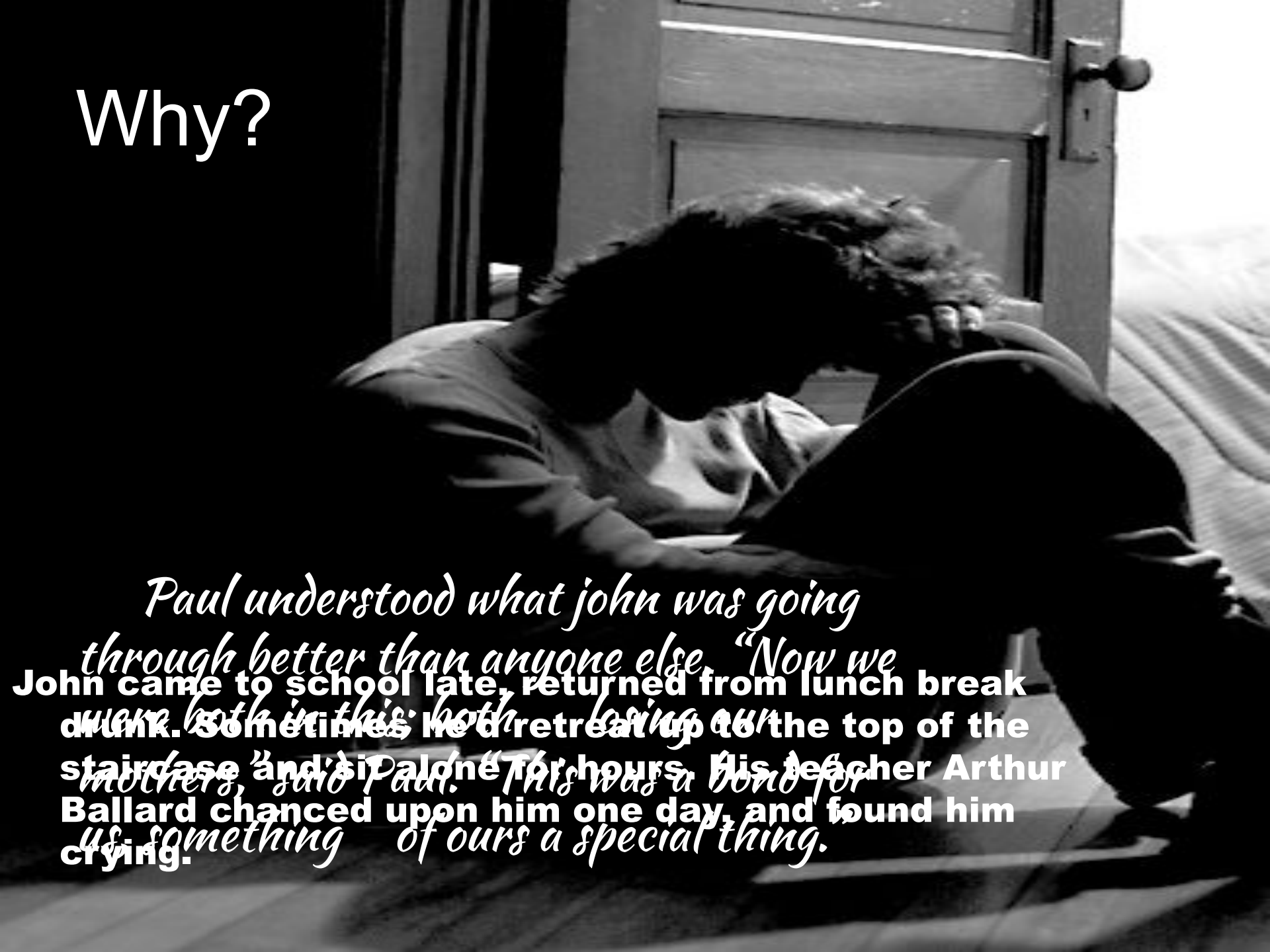
...wondering why Julia was so late, when a police officer knocked at the door.

He asked John if he was Julia's son, then told them she'd been hit by a car and **killed**.

...the driver, a drunk off-duty policeman, stood trial for reckless driving.



# Why?



*Paul understood what John was going through better than anyone else. "Now we were both in this: both losing our mothers," said Paul. "This was a bond for us, something of ours a special thing."*

**John came to school late, returned from lunch break drunk. Sometimes he'd retreat up to the top of the staircase and sit alone for hours. His teacher Arthur Ballard chanced upon him one day, and found him crying.**

# Beatles

**The Quarry Men were getting bigger and needed a new name.**

**They were booked with shows in clubs.**



Brian Epstein, a suit and tie guy heard the Beatles and decided to manage them.

# Beatlemania

And after several concerts and recordings!



**“It was like being in the eye of a hurricane. You’d wake up in a concert and think, Wow, how did I get here?”**

*Getting all four Beatles through the crowds now gathering at train stations, airports, and concert halls required a choreographed strategy:....*



NOW WITH DRUGS AND  
EXHAUSTION, JOHN WAS  
DISTANT FROM HIS WIFE,  
CYNTHIA.

1966



CYNTHIA WAS

“I’VE ALWAYS NEEDED A DRUG TO  
SURVIVE. THE OTHERS TOO,  
BUT I ALWAYS HAD MORE, I  
ALWAYS TOOK MORE PILLS AND  
MORE EVERYTHING CAUSE I’M

After more than fourteen hundred performances the Beatles had just played their "I don't like to do it in front of people," Paul explained. "It's like sex for me, I never was an orgy man."

Late in November 1966, the Beatles filed back into the studio...

No longer fueled by *people* were sophisticated, talented young men. *...he found it nearly impossible to sleep. He* *Despite his fascination with LSD and pop's growing interest in Yoko, John had songs to write, albums to record*

**But...** Their meetings were intense, collaborative, and confrontational. John would tear into Paul's songs.

LET IT BE



John and Yoko meet and fall in love and  
he left his wife Cynthia  
Paul McCartney dies...

1967-1969

The Beatles



John thought to himself, "We've  
fuckin' had it."



"I had no doubt I'd met the  
one."





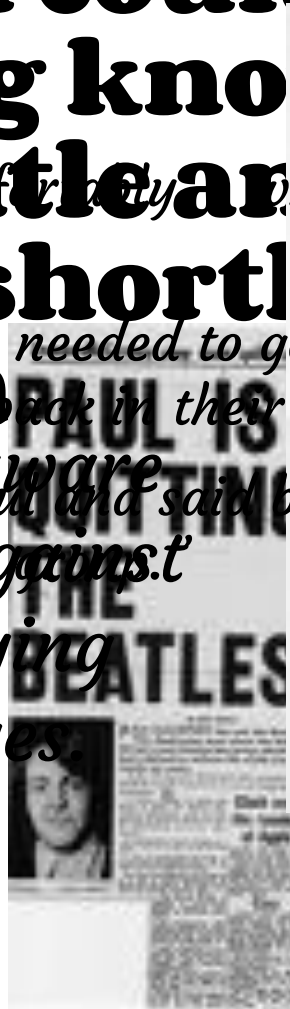
**“I’m not the beatles, I’m me.”**

**John couldn't take  
being kno  
a Beatle  
and shortl**

*They banted and argued for a while where were they heading as a band?*

*As part of his new myth Paul thought they needed to go back on the road and do small gigs in Japan, yet back in their roots. John looked at Paul and said bluntly, “Well, I think yer state, John! spoke out the gains.” racism and sexism, saying Yoko had opened his eyes.*

THE U.S. VS.  
JOHN LENNON  
MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK



1969-1971

**“Nobody controls me. I’m uncontrollable. The only one who controls me is me, and that’s just barely possible.”**

*“This was a bitter time for John,”  
said Rubin. “Bitter, bitter, bitter.”*

*He was bitter about Paul...Ranted  
and raved about being a celebrity.*

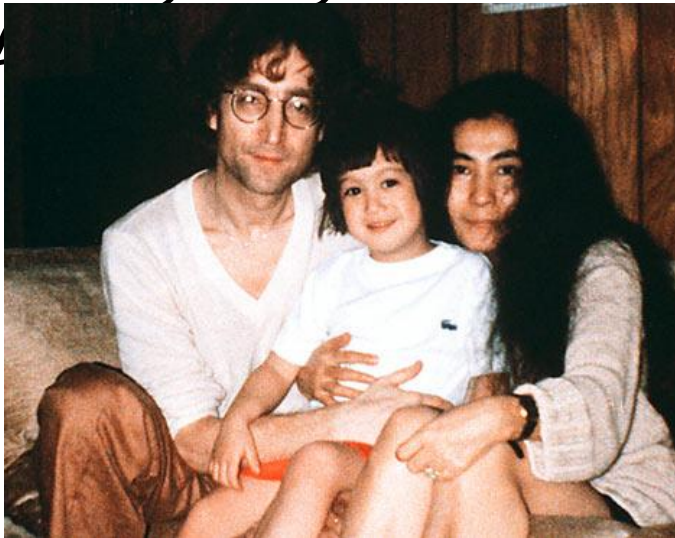
*He hated it.*

# 1975-1980

*“All those years of trying to be tough and the heavy rocker and heavy womanizer and heavy drinker were killing me. And it is a relief not to have to do it.”*

*...on John's 35 birthday, October 9, 1975, Yoko gave birth to Sean.*

*John became a family man and found himself.*



*Both of them having children reunited John and Paul's friendship.*

...CALLED JOHN'S NAME, DROPPED TO  
ONE KNEE

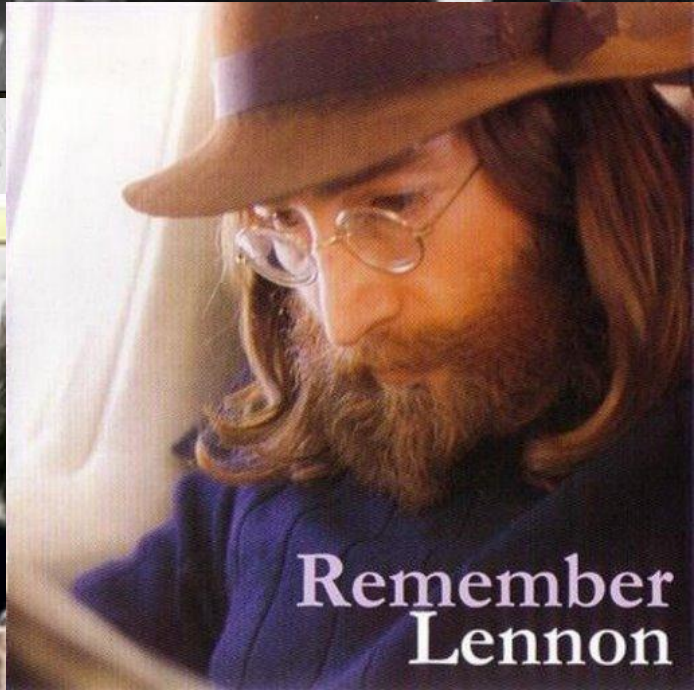
WITH A .38  
REVOLVER  
POINTED  
STRAIGHT  
AT JOHN



AND  
REPEATED  
LY  
SQUEEZE  
D THE  
TRIGGER  
DECEMBER 6,  
1980

11:00 A.M

"I'M SHOT, I'M SHOT."



“I want people to love me,” John

