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All We Are Saying: The Last Major Interview with John Lennon and Yoko Ono

David Sheff

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all we are saying

The Last Major Interview with
John Lennon and Yoko Ono

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David Sheff : All We Are Saying: The Last Major Interview with John Lennon and Yoko Ono before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All We Are Saying: The Last Major Interview with John Lennon and Yoko Ono:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Feng Shui of John and YokoBy Feng Shui By FishgirlI'm reading "All We Are Saying: the last Major Interview with John Lennon and Yoko Ono" by David Sheff. A must for Beatle fans and art lovers, but more than that it is quite interesting on many levels. Thirty years have passed since both

the 3-week long interview (the book is comprised of transcripts from those taped conversations, some of which you can find here on NPR) and John's tragic death a mere two days after the interview was completed. Yet there are passages in the book where the topics are eerily prophetic (John talks with near clairvoyance about American car manufacturers still designing cars for the 40's and 50's instead of what today's market wants and needs in a way that seems ironic now after last year's automotive bloodbath) and very relevant to where we are. Time after time both John and Yoko say in the interview that they don't have the answers, they are merely saying yet again what has been said before by others. The message is love. The message is peace. The message is do not follow leaders, do not follow us: get educated and make up your own minds. Then you will arrive at your own answers. Yoko Ono was much maligned by Beatles fans back in the day and the rants live on in blog comments being posted every day. The interviewer draws Mr. Mrs. Lennon out on how painful that personally must have been for Yoko as well as for John. I am only partway into the book and I'm sure I'll have more to add later on. I am finding the couple's insights on Love Relationship to be very meaningful and I think you will, too. See more about John Yoko's feng shui at my blog [...]

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sheff did a great job of interviewing and compiling this compelling documentary (in ...By Jan ZinaSheff did a great job of interviewing and compiling this compelling documentary (in book form) of these two very compelling people. I felt like I was in their New York pad listening to the whole thing. I usually read 2 or 3 books at once but this one is now the solid #1 reading. I'll probably read it again too (which I never do -- who has time?)

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful Complete Interview of a LegendBy PeterackThis interview is an amazing series of sessions, made poignant because the life of Lennon would be taken a mere two months after the interviews were complete. John Lennon was at a perfect time in his life to make the interview and the interviewer was very in depth and complete. When Lennon would go off into a direction the interviewer through his questions would travel that path with him, drawinging him out more.I am the owner of the original Playboy Magazine that has the first, edited portion of this interview and remember reading the complete one a year or so later, but coming back to this after 30 years is refreshing. The reader will find some the assumptions of Lennon out and out wrong (i.e. he is not religious...Lennon is sure about only one thing...he is not an atheist).I find the best part of the interview takes place in the last portion where Lennon recounts some history behind Beatle songs...who wrote it, what went on behind the scenes and more. This is a very satisfying read, and I recommend it to any Beatle/Lennon fan.

Twenty years ago David Sheff climbed the back steps of the Dakota into the personal thoughts and dreams of John Lennon and Yoko Ono. From the kitchen to the studio and up those fateful Dakota steps, Sheff recorded 20 hours of tape, discussing everything from childhood to the Beatles. Sheff gives a rare and last glimpse of John and Yoko, one that seemed to look beyond the kitchen table to the future of the world with startling premonitions of what was to come.

.com John Lennon could be angry, as he is in Lennon Remembers: The Full Rolling Stone Interviews from 1970, and nasty, as proven by Albert Goldman's brilliant, scathing The Lives of John Lennon. But he could also be charming, smart, and extraordinarily witty, as he is in his last interview, published in book form as All We Are Saying. Co-interviewee Yoko Ono is charm-free but valuable, because she sparks the conversation and brings up fascinating stuff that Lennon wished she hadn't, like their mad plots to kidnap her daughter from her ex-husband. As interviewer David Sheff's tape rolls, John and Yoko's anecdotes flow effortlessly: the joys of making their 1980 comeback album, Double Fantasy; the mortifying horrors of John's "lost weekend" in L.A. with Harry Nilsson; John's interestingly twisted family life; John and Yoko and Paul's last get-together, watching Saturday Night Live the night producer Lorne Michaels offered the Beatles \$3,200 to reunite on the show (they almost got in a cab and did it!). Best of all is Lennon's song-by-song account of who wrote which famous tunes and where they came from. "Strawberry Fields" contains an entire childhood memoir, and the production reflects Paul's alleged "sabotage" of Lennon's work. "Please Please Me" was based on a Roy Orbison melody and Bing Crosby's punning song title "Please (Lend an Ear to My Pleas)." The "element'ry penguins" in "I Am the Walrus" refer to idiots like Allen Ginsberg who chant "Hare Krishna" worshipfully. "Hey Jude" was Paul's song comforting John's son Julian when John left his family for Yoko, and Paul's unconscious, reluctant farewell to his writing partner ("go out and get her"). Lennon had been publicly silent and artistically dormant for five years before these interviews, and he was just bursting with the exhilaration of the rebirth of his imagination days before his death. Reading this book is like sharing a day in the life of a very happy man. --Tim Appelo

From BooklistAs the song goes, it was 20 years ago today . . . when John Lennon sat down in his Dakota home with wife, Yoko, for a Playboy interview. It was also just a few months before Lennon was killed. Lennon and Ono touched on many different subjects, including Lennon's disappearance from the public arena for five years to be a househusband; the release of the couple's then-new album, Double Fantasy; and more dishy subjects like the Beatles' breakup and John's relationship with Yoko. The interview was a newsmaker at the time, and in retrospect, it is a crucial piece of Beatle history. Ilene Cooper

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Book "The interview is lively proof that some of the best Lennon/Ono art was their life." -- Time Magazine "The interview would hardly have been less engrossing and important even if it were not illuminated by tragedy." -- Los Angeles Times