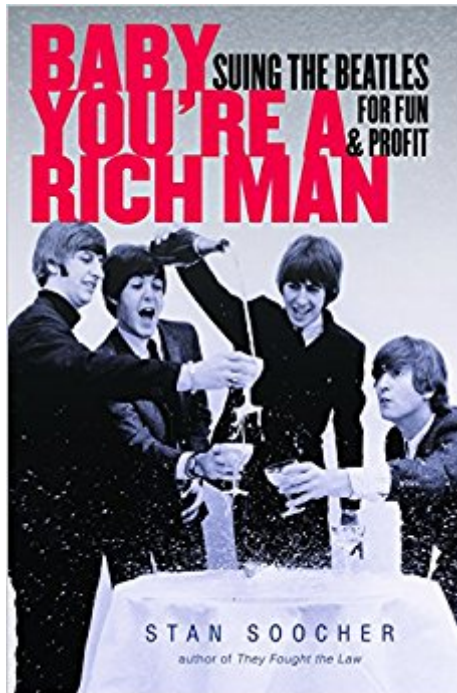




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# Baby You're A Rich Man: Suing The Beatles For Fun And Profit



## Synopsis

The Beatles, the most popular, influential, and important band of all time, have been the subject of countless books of biography, photography, analysis, history, and conjecture. But this long and winding road has produced nothing like *Baby You're a Rich Man*, the first book devoted to the cascade of legal actions engulfing the band, from the earliest days of the "lovable" mop-heads to their present prickly twilight of cultural sainthood. Part Beatles history, part legal thriller, *Baby You're a Rich Man* begins in the era when manager Brian Epstein opened the Pandora's box of rock 'n' roll merchandising, making a hash of the band's licensing and inviting multiple lawsuits in the United States and the United Kingdom. The band's long breakup period, from 1969 to 1971, provides a backdrop to the Machiavellian grasping of new manager Allen Klein, who unleashed a blizzard of suits and legal motions to take control of the band, their music, and Apple Records. Unsavory mob associate Morris Levy first sued John Lennon for copyright infringement over "Come Together"; then sued him again for not making a record for him. Phil Spector, hired to record a Lennon solo album, walked off with the master tapes and held them for a king's ransom. And from 1972 to 1975, Lennon was the target of a deportation campaign personally spearheaded by key aides of President Nixon (caught on tape with a drug-addled Elvis Presley) that wound endlessly through the courts. In *Baby You're a Rich Man*, Stan Soocher ties the Beatles' ongoing legal troubles to some of their most enduring songs. What emerges is a stirring portrait of immense creative talent thriving under the pressures of ill will, harassment, and greed. Praise for *They Fought the Law: Rock Music Goes to Court*: "Stan Soocher not only ably translates the legalese but makes both the plaintiffs and defendants engrossingly human. Mandatory reading for every artist who tends to skip his contract's fine print." — *Entertainment Weekly*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ä“[T]his accessible and well-written book [is] a worthwhile read for serious Beatles fans interested in the legal and financial details of the world’s most popular band.Ä“  
Library JournalÄ““Fab! Soocher’s cast of mobbed-up producers, cut-out shilling managers, and opera-composing judges reads like Elmore Leonard in the Sky with Diamonds.Ä“  
Steven Lee Beeber, author of The Heebie-Jeebies at CBGB’s: A Secret History of Jewish Punk,Ä““As mega-successful but legally clueless young men, the Beatles both as a group and individually collected more lawsuits than gold records. Stan Soocher, painstakingly and accessibly, sorts it all out in the fascinating, entertaining, and meticulously researched Baby You’re a Rich Man. The book should serve as a cautionary tale for anyone even thinking of entering show business.”Ä“  
Jeff Tamarkin, author of Got a Revolution!: The Turbulent Flight of Jefferson Airplane,Ä“[Soocher’s] work is relevant to both Beatles maniacs from back in the day and modern musicians alike.Ä“  
Colorado Music Buzz“Baby You’re a Rich Man foregrounds lost or little-known details to provide a kind of alternative biography. [Soocher’s] achievement is to present detailed analysis of dry legal material in a manner that is as enjoyable as a thriller. In daily newspaper-ese, Baby You’re a Rich Man is unputdownable.”--Times Higher Education (U.K.)

Ä““As mega-successful but legally clueless young men, the Beatles both as a group and individually collected more lawsuits than gold records. Stan Soocher, painstakingly and accessibly, sorts it all out in the fascinating, entertaining, and meticulously researched Baby You’re a Rich Man. The book should serve as a cautionary tale for anyone even thinking of entering show business.” (Jeff Tamarkin, author of Got a Revolution!: The Turbulent Flight of Jefferson Airplane)

I liked the book, and I got exactly what was promised - a well-researched deep-dive into the decades of litigations against The Beatles (as well as in their solo years). It seems fairly clear that the death of original manager Brian Epstein and the insinuation of Allen Klein spelled the demise of what was once a seemingly inseparable and artistically cohesive band.

I've read a bit about these topics going back to 'Apple To the Core' McCabe Schonfeld 1972 and Jon Wiener's books and this is a great read!! wonder how they had time to pursue their artistic endeavors with all this going on, gives a bit more depth to the 'business' of being a 'legendary rock star'.

A wealth of financial info as regards the Fab Four. Not for everyone but Beatles nerds will love it!

The book 'Baby, You're A Rich Man' by Stan Soucher was a disappointment, didn't finish reading it. Why he spent 2 chapters talking about John Lennon's deportation problem is beyond me, had nothing to do with the topic. I only recommend this book if you are a die hard Beatles fan, which I'm not. Sue

According to the contents of this book, being a member of the Fab Four was often less than fabulous. Rephrasing the title of their hit song, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" to "I Want to Take Your Money" gives the reader an idea of the sorry saga told within these pages. Payola, back room deals, dummy corporations, and the eventual splintering of the mop-top quartet famously known as The Beatles is carefully outlined in this well researched and fully documented work. What may surprise the reader is how much political pressure and governmental meddling here in the United States added to the emotional and financial woes of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. The ugly relationships involving artists, record companies, managers, and hangers-on provides a cautionary tale for would-be entertainers. One can forgive the foursome of bitterness as serial lawsuits, tax collectors, and immigration officials stripped away copyrights, civil liberties, and basic common courtesies. Long story short, just as where there's smoke there's fire, so to where there's great wealth, there's naked greed.

I received this book from LibraryThing's Early Reviewers program. The author certainly did his homework! There are references for everything, and a bibliography if you're interested in further reading. My personal recommendation for more reading on the subject would be "You Never Give Me Your Money: The Beatles After the Breakup" by Peter Doggett, 2009. I read one right after the other, and the books complement each another. As another reviewer stated, I wonder how they had

time to make any music with all of this going on! From copyright infringement to the IRS attempt to procure a LOT of money that was earmarked for UNICEF, this story amazed me. I will never hear Beatles' songs the same way again; now each era of their music will be remembered with the bit of history behind it as contained in this book. There were some things I really would have rather NOT known, but that's life, right? I won't elaborate on that since everyone has their own opinion. One sad thing, though, and this could be a spoiler if you didn't already know it, was a ruling by a St. Louis bankruptcy judge, Barry Schermer, against George Harrison in July 2001 (Harrison had filed against his former manager, Denis O'Brien for mishandling of funds - O'Brien lost that case, was ordered to pay \$11 million to Harrison but instead of paying it, he filed bankruptcy) because George couldn't travel from England for a deposition, due to his illness. From p. 222: "Unbelievably, Judge Schermer accused George of attempting 'to fool this court... Harrison's disregard of an order to answer questions was obviously willful.' Sadly, Harrison died from cancer only a few weeks after the harsh decision was issued." Another surprising situation, or maybe not considering that the IRS was involved, was that agency's attempt to grab millions of dollars from the Concert for Bangladesh monies which were obtained from George Harrison's (also appearing were Ravi Shankar, Bob Dylan, Leon Russell, Billy Preston, Badfinger, Eric Clapton and Ringo Starr, among others) live concert at Madison Square Garden in NYC, and subsequent sales of related merchandise. You will have to read the book to see how that complicated situation played out over the years. One more thing that I knew very little about, or perhaps had forgotten, as a lot of years have passed since the Beatles' glory days, was Allen Klein, Beatles manager after Brian Epstein, and his shenanigans, and there are many! Another interesting character in this tale is Morris Levy. If you have ever been a fan of the Beatles, or if you just love music, I think you will really enjoy this book, just be aware that, as the rest of us, they have 'feet of clay'.

*Baby You're a Rich Man* by Stan Soocher is a very interesting read. This volume ties together the various legal and financial battles which surrounded the Beatles as soon as they began to make money. I would likely have given 4.5 stars if available, my only issue is something that is difficult to completely avoid when writing about these issues, a certain amount of dryness creeps in periodically. That said, Soocher keeps that to a minimum and never loses sight of the artistic aspect of the group. Definitely recommended for any Beatles fan as well as those interested in the business side of the music business. This would also serve as a nice cautionary tale for any aspiring artists out there. Reviewed from a copy made available by the publisher via LibraryThing.

If you're still blaming Yoko for breaking up the Beatles, you need to read this book. It traces the major legal battles the group fought from the beginning of their meteoric rise to their post-Beatles solo careers. It's not a pretty tale. If you're a Beatles fan I'd imagine you'd rather read a book about their music over one about the band's legal misadventures. Well, congratulations, Beatles fan!--By opening this book you can now get the authentic Beatle experience of not being able to focus on the music over the the myriad of lawsuits lobbed your way from friends, associates and strangers hoping to make a buck off you. Or those legal actions you have to lob back towards friends, associates, and strangers still hoping to make a buck off you. The dark side of fame in 224 pages. And as a fan, I have to say: John, George & Ringo: You should have gone with Eastman.4 & 5 stars (Taking a 5 star off for legal and financial weed-wading I couldn't quite follow)

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