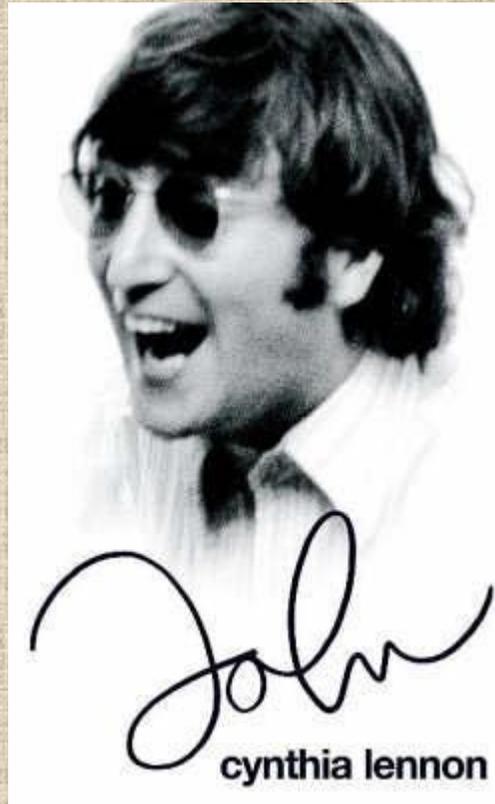


'The time has come when I feel ready to tell the truth about John and me, our ten years together and the years since his death. There is so much that I have never said, so many incidents I have never spoken of and so many feelings I have never expressed - great love on the one hand; pain, torment and humiliation on the other. Only I know what happened between us, why we stayed together, why we parted and the price I paid for having been John's wife.'

Cynthia Lennon



'Fascinating... all Beatles fans will be interested in the book, the best in recent years.'

Hunter Davies, Sunday Times

'This one has the ring of truth that most Beatles books do not.'

Independent on Sunday

'An engaging memoir... it offers a fascinating glimpse into an altogether more innocent age.'

Independent

'Loving but candid... vividly captures the time and place and the characters.'

Washington Post



Cynthia Powell met John Lennon at art college when she was eighteen, and later became his wife. Most people tend to forget her very existence since she was overshadowed by Yoko Ono, John's second wife, as early as 1968.

Cynthia's account of her life with John Lennon is a very moving book, with a foreword by Julian Lennon, Cynthia and John's son : "I recommend this book to anyone who wants to know the truth, the real truth about dad's life," he writes.

Indeed Cynthia - whom John affectionately called Cyn - is very honest and truthful about the ten years she shared with John. As a privileged eyewitness, she gives new insights into John's life.

John and Cynthia obviously loved each other passionately. However she had a hard time having to stay in the shadow - even as his wife - at a time when the Beatles' manager had decided that it was better for the group's image if their fans believed the Beatles were single.

She was deeply hurt by John's non-commitment to Julian, their son - all the more so as he preached universal love while being unable to care for his own son.

Cynthia draws a very complex portrait of the man who had a phenomenal career and is a prominent figure of the 20th century. John could be loving but cruel, affectionate but jealous, lovable but infuriating. He was obviously a tormented soul, having been raised without his mother and abandoned by his father. He was brought up by a bossy aunt - Mimi - who repeatedly disapproved of his choice of a career.

John's heavy drug use caused great strain on the couple's relationship. Incidentally, Cynthia provides an explanation for the title of one of the Beatles' songs, *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*. It does not, as most people think, stand for L.S.D. As a matter of fact, Julian came back from school one day with a painting of his friend Lucy and when asked about it by John, he said : "It's Lucy in the sky with diamonds". John loved it and used it as a title for one of his songs.

John's second wife, Japanese artist Yoko Ono, somehow fulfilled the role of a mother figure, as indeed he called her 'mother'. She masterminded his life and often made it very difficult for his family to get in touch with him.

Cynthia's book contains a certain amount of bitterness. Her dearest wish would have been to remain friends with John for the sake of their son Julian, but it proved an impossible challenge because of Yoko's overbearing influence.

Nevertheless this book may rightly be regarded as a loving tribute to a man Cynthia says she never stopped loving, a man who was so gifted - one of the most talented song-writers and singers of his century.