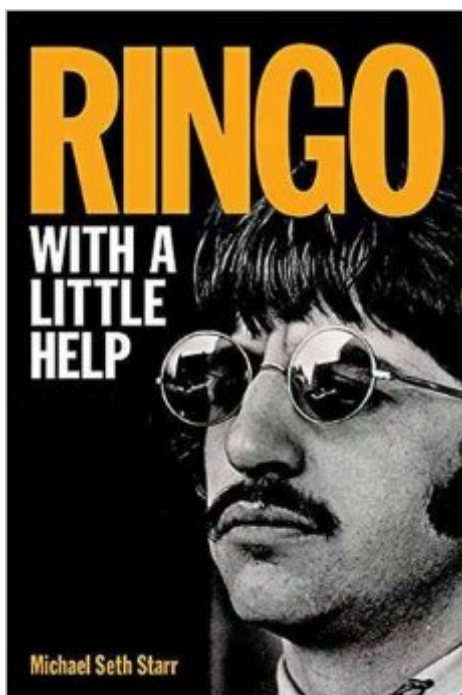


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# Ringo: With A Little Help



## Synopsis

(Book). *Ringo: With a Little Help* is the first in-depth biography of Beatles drummer Ringo Starr, who kept the beat for an entire generation and who remains a rock icon over fifty years since the Beatles took the world by storm. *With a Little Help* traces the entire arc of Ringo's remarkable life and career, from his sickly childhood to his life as The World's Most Famous drummer to his triumphs, addictions, and emotional battles following the breakup of the Beatles as he comes to terms with his legacy. Born in 1940 as Richard Starkey in the Dingle, one of Liverpool's most gritty, rough-and-tumble neighborhoods, he rose from a hardscrabble childhood marked by serious illnesses, long hospital stays, and little schooling to emerge, against all odds, as a locally renowned drummer. Taking the stage name Ringo Starr, his big break with the Beatles rocketed him to the pinnacle of worldwide acclaim in a remarkably short time. He was the last member of the Beatles to join the group but also the most vulnerable, and his post-Beatles career was marked by chart-topping successes, a jet-setting life of excess and alcohol abuse, and, ultimately, his rebirth as one of rock's revered elder statesman.

## Book Information

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[Biographies > Pop](#) #333 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Popular](#)

## Customer Reviews

This year, 2015, sees Richard Starkey's 75th birthday, and this book is being released to coincide with that event. It is certainly time that the drummer of the Beatles had his own, properly comprehensive, biography as there have only been a couple of weak efforts over the years and so I looked forward to reading this. However, this book begins almost apologetically and I had to wonder why this was? Ringo Starr was the drummer in the biggest band in the world, so what

need is there to almost make excuses for writing his biography? I have to admit that this put me on my guard and, having finished reading it, I feel it is something of a missed opportunity. If any of the Beatles were a "working class hero" then young Richy Starkey was a much more likely candidate than his future band mate John Lennon. Growing up in the rough Liverpool area of the Dingle, his father walked out when he was three and his mother, Elsie, worked several jobs to try to make ends meet. If their precarious financial situation was not enough, Richy faced long hospital stays due to various illnesses and an interrupted education, which left him very behind academically; a fact he was all too aware of. Much of this has been well detailed; indeed Mark Lewisohn's book, "Tune In," has covered not only each Beatle's childhood, but their family history, and much of this section of the book seems to have been cribbed from both Lewisohn's research and direct quotes from the Beatles own, "Anthology." Although the author of this book is keen to state that this is not just about the Beatles, but about Ringo's entire life, and career, so far; more than half the book deals with his life up to 1970.

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