

## ***Chapter 3: Roll up for the mystery tour***

William was very fond of LSD. John was too. So was George. Ringo would as well go with a joint or his regular booze, but he had also joined the train. Simply, they all loved acid. It was shaping their entire artistic approach.

Paul, on the other hand, never touched LSD. Towards the end of his life, he would regularly smoke pot. That was it. He was afraid of psychedelic substances since he had heard that they could lead to permanent personality changes. The official story is that John and George finally managed to make Paul drop acid in 1965/1966 (sources vary). That is a lie created to make William's addictions seem somewhat logical. Paul never stopped refusing and he became a bit of an outsider because of this. Several people have admitted this, an example being Peter Fonda who shared some parties with The Beatles during that time.

William wasn't only into LSD, he was a big user of cocaine, something that Paul would never get close to either. Paul simply wasn't a huge fan of heavier drugs. He was actually scarred for life after The Beatles' early days in Hamburg when they all had to pop amphetamine pills in order to stay awake at all. William was completely different; he was a drug user of high class. His cocaine use made him very thin, much thinner than Paul, whose baby chub had become a bit of a cuteness symbol. In fact, William was actually forced to go cold turkey in order to gain more weight.

His LSD use made the other members relate better to him. It was another common factor that functioned as a gate into the community. Being friends of Brian Epstein's, the group now wanted to help him lose his acid virginity as well. In early spring of 1967, they managed to make him drop it during a party in his house. Shortly after this event, John and William would write "Baby, You're A Rich Man" about it, by combining two songs on the same topic. Acid wasn't the only thing they introduced him to though. Parties with Brian became a more and more frequent thing. During these parties, they also managed

to make him smoke quite a bit of heroin and snort big amounts of cocaine. Brian, in spite of being upper class, had no major previous experiences with these kinds of substances. He had mainly been smoking pot and popping pills previously. His life completely changed and he now became a big cocaine user. The summer of 1967 was a summer of heavy partying.

Now, when the press stood by William's door and demanded an answer, he chose to be honest about having dropped LSD. At least somewhat honest. Although he had consumed an insane amount of the drug, he had to pretend to be Paul, and therefore pretend to be a careful drug user. He claimed to have done it only four times. The rest of what he said was heartfelt. He agreed to a filmed interview where he admitted his use of the drug, although denying all responsibility for the consequences of the admission.

The interview infuriated the other members. They thought that William was completely careless to agree on a spontaneous recorded interview, and especially regarding a matter that would cause trouble for all of them. I personally think that he was being very reasonable in the interview, but I understand that the other members thought of it as their business only. Another aspect that led to major frustration was the fact that William appeared as extremely different from Paul in this particular interview. His hair wasn't at all like Paul's, the wig was actually horribly ugly. He was awfully thin from cocaine use. He wore fairly poor plastic. Both his nose and his entire face were just too thin and long. He was speaking with a deep voice and mostly came off as both slow and arrogant. I can't understand how all of Britain would watch that interview, believing they were seeing the same man that they had seen just months earlier, during the fall of 1966.

The story had now become a scandal. The press claimed that "Paul" was a bad role model to the young people. William stood his ground and denied all responsibility, repeating that he wasn't the one distributing the story to begin with. He was correct, in my opinion. He took it a bit too far though. It wouldn't be too long before he would become a bit of a spokesperson for drugs, calling for the legalisation of marijuana. I never liked that myself, being fundamentally against drugs, but he made it clear that he was going to be a rebel against society just like the others had been in their own ways. Paul's father Jim was not happy about William using his son's name in order to spread drug propaganda, which he made very clear through several more or less raging letters to the management.

With the enormous success of *Sgt. Pepper* still in mind, The Beatles now had a big plan. They had been asked to represent the United Kingdom in the first global satellite broadcast of all time. The event was called *Our World*, and the boys were absolutely

thrilled to hear about it. The request was accepted and the event was organised. It was to be held a week after the scandalous LSD interview, and at that point I remember how I personally commanded William to care more about getting his appearance right. I believe higher parts of the management had told him the same thing, since he seemed to follow the advice. He would soon appear with much better features, looking a lot more like Paul. I am greatly surprised by how the world failed to notice how his appearance was radically changing in only a week's time.

John had written the song "All You Need Is Love" with the event in mind; a global message that was as simple as it was brilliant. The band rehearsed the song a lot in order to get it right. When they had gotten it all down, they recorded a basic track to play along to for the broadcast. They were all thrilled but extremely nervous about performing live to a global audience of 350 million people. Especially William. Imagine the situation he found himself in. He had gone from absolutely nowhere to being in the very centre of everything. It was completely insane. The band decided to record their part of the broadcast in their usual studio, Studio Two at Abbey Road. This was a way to put themselves in an area of comfort, but also a way to save the recorded take in order to use it for an upcoming single release. Quite a bit of what you hear on the recording originated from the live take, although John re-recorded parts of his vocals since he simply couldn't stand them.

They had turned the whole event into a party, with flowers, balloons and signs containing various loving messages. They had made sure to invite Swinging London people like The Rolling Stones, Marianne Faithfull and Eric Clapton to sing along with them. Paul's brother Mike also joined, although it was very evident from his facial expressions that he was miserable in that place. He was looking up at the ceiling with a frown, as if he was trying to reach Paul. This was the first time that he had really approached the new band at all. At this early point, he felt a strong disdain towards William. This was something that eventually would come to change. Either way, the performance went just amazing and everything was fine. It was an incredible success. The message of the song was very much needed at the height of the Vietnam war. The Beatles were the big leaders of what would be known as the *summer of love*.

In spite of everything going so well, the band was still understandably in a state of heavy misery. Around this time, they had all started to somewhat share George's interest for Eastern mythology and meditation. They needed it in order to stay afloat through their devastation. George had this crazy idea that they could try to make Paul's spirit enter William's body and live on through him. They all liked the idea and by the end of the summer, they would make their way up to Wales to meet up with Maharishi Mahesh

Yogi, a well-known guru of transcendental meditation. They were all curious about what he had to say.

This was definitely a sign of a new time. Media was constantly wondering what the band's next step was going to be. Nobody had really heard the likes of these cultural expressions in the popular culture of the Western world. Everything was going well and this truly seemed like the time when things finally were going to change for the better. However, the great time they had with Maharishi faced an abrupt end due to the most unexpected turn. On the 27th of August they were met with devastating news: Brian Epstein was dead.

Now, there has been a lot of speculation going on about Brian's death. Was he killed? Was he actually intending to reveal the truth about what had happened? I certainly don't think so. He was a key person in the hiding of the secret. But what happened then? The official reason is that he consumed a too big amount of pills and alcohol, causing an overdose. Accidental or intentional? Who knows? Maybe it was actually cocaine? He was often hooked out of his mind and would take it together with his sexual partners. Maybe it was just too scandalous to be made into an open deal? Anyhow, whatever the reason is, he passed away and John was on the verge of suicide after finding out. He couldn't handle the deaths of two of his closest friends that near each other in time. Especially not after the life he had led; getting abandoned by his father at an early age and then facing the deaths of his uncle, his mother and his dear friend Stu. He was just at a loss of words as well as actions. There's a recorded interview with him that was shot shortly after the news had left the band. His devastation was evident. He was shocked and stunned.

George, on the other hand, handled it with spiritual greatness per usual. I can't remember Ringo commenting on it to the press, but I know for a fact that he was devastated. William wasn't allowed to talk to the reporters, partly because it would be evident how little he knew Epstein and partly because they didn't want a repeat of the scandalous LSD interview. He wasn't really trusted at the point. Instead, he found his way back to London very quickly and later met up with the rest to perhaps get to see Brian's body one last time.

The band originally planned to return to India two months later, but this was stopped by the management with the explanation being that it would do more harm than good. Instead, they contacted William and requested a new project for the band. He was the only one able to do it since he was the only one who had enough distance to Brian to think straightly throughout this situation. A new creative direction was now needed in order to keep the band functioning. Without Brian as a central role model and manager,

they had to find ways to lead their own way ahead. The idea was frightening, but it was to become reality. William had to come up with a new idea. A natural step from *Sgt. Pepper*. Eventually, he would.

But first, let me mention Apple. Apple was a brand consisting of small companies. It was founded around this time on William's initiative, although John came up with the name Apple Corps to resemble the words "*A Paul Corpse*". The basic idea was for the company to create a tax-effective business structure, a concept that Brian had been planning before passing away. William was already good with the idea of handling some business, so it didn't seem like too much of a challenge to him. After talking with Alex, a friend to the band, a platform was initiated. A platform dedicated to contributing with technological devices that could help people with a desire to get into the music/film industry. It would also come to work as a record label and a fashion boutique. I will not go deeply into how things went around with Apple since I don't find it to be of much relevance, but it will appear superficially throughout the rest of this timeline. Now when it's established; enter the *Magical Mystery Tour*.

*Magical Mystery Tour* was intended to be all about joy and happiness, something that was really needed in the band's current state. I can go into more detail about this period of time since I was actually inside that bus, although only for a very short time. I clearly remember walking my way to catch up with the boys on a cloudy September day in London Town. I was walking together with Freda Kelly, Brian's secretary and president of The Beatles fan club. She was a good friend of my wife's by this time and would sit our one year old from time to time.

The recording was going to last for two weeks and everyone knew very well what craziness to expect, but those were just the times. It seemed only natural. In the beginning of the tour, we were heading towards the Westcountry, stopping in various places on the way. The tour did become unexpectedly short for me. I was alarmed about family trouble and had to return to home after only a day and a half. Anyhow, I did enjoy myself while it lasted. We all did. William looked so funny when trying to direct the cameras. Since he knew nothing about movies or how to make them, there was only a loose idea without a script of any kind. The others did know a bit more, having starred in two of them, but they were so laidback and didn't want to do anything except trying to enjoy their time. They were smoking lots of marijuana and I remember thinking that they shouldn't get up to such stuff in the vicinity of children. The whole thing was obviously very much based on drugs. The times were extremely drug liberal. John had written some sequences in the movie, such as the one where he's portraying a waiter who keeps on shovelling spaghetti upon the table. It was a result of his tripped up

dreams.

John was really horrible to his wife Cynthia around this time. She was also on the tour. I don't think there was an actual reason for his meanness. His mind was just set on other things and other people, as will be presented later in the story. When Cyn was feeling at her worst, William spent a lot of time with her in order to bring her mood up. Although people claim that he's always selfish and arrogant, he actually did have a sympathetic, sweet and diplomatic nature - just like Paul. That's about the only thing the two of them shared. Someone to look after others was very much needed in such a time of misery.

There is a scene in the movie where William slips and reveals that he's actually 30 years old. At the time, he was 29, but indeed soon to turn 30. Paul would only have been 25 at the time, which should make the statement quite odd in the eyes of anyone who believes that Paul is still alive. I remember watching the movie some time around Christmas of 1967 and immediately reacting to the uncaring mentioning of his age. It didn't draw the world's attention at all since it was only said in the passing by. Maybe it was intentional to feature it in the movie? I can very well imagine that it was a conscious clue.

William and the boys had conversations for hours on end about the early days of The Beatles. He was so curious and since he got to know everything, he could also pretend to share the same memories - something he's become a true master at doing. He's always been somewhat of a deceptive genius. He had also gotten information about Paul and his upbringing through letters from Jim and Mike. It might seem very odd that they would try to get along with William at all, but in a way they were simply forced to since they knew damn well that Paul would turn in his grave if they broke the contract. The McCartney family has always been against William, but they have also always tried to swallow their pride for Paul's sake. Mike wouldn't have showed up at the *Our World* recording if he wouldn't have had the ability to swallow his pride.

As I've stated, I spent most of the time at home to deal with family issues. However, I did eventually drive my car to catch up with the boys at the famous Raymond Revuebar club, not too far from where I was living at the time. This was on the 18th of September; William's 30th birthday. The club was temporarily shut down in order for the scenes to get shot. They were shooting a scene with Jan Carson, one of the club's strippers, doing a topless act. They also shot The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band doing their song "Death Cab For Cutie". The significance of that song is impossible to miss, isn't it? Some people have made up theories about William playing the role as Vivian Stanshall. That is false. They were two completely different people who did happen to get along well. They would collaborate, but they are unrelated apart from that.

The soundtrack was first released in late November, in the form of an American LP, but later also as a British double EP. Clues were of course dropped through the release. On the cover, you will see the band wearing animal costumes. There were no specific reasons behind the choices of animals, besides the walrus which I'll return to later, but there was a reason to why three of the costumes were white as one was black. It's purely symbolic of the three surviving Beatles. Only months prior to *Magical Mystery Tour*, the group had released a promo video for "Penny Lane". In the promo, they were shown riding a horse each - three white horses and one dark one. That's the exact same kind of symbolism. Another noticeable thing about the *Magical Mystery Tour* album cover is that there is an open hole in the chest of William's hippopotamus costume, resembling a heart that's bled out.

Furthermore, a booklet was featured with the release, containing both drawings and photographs from the recording of the movie. The clues were greatly highlighted. There are really too many examples to include them all. Descriptions are often superfluous. William's black carnation, the four or five magicians, William's broken magician hat, William with a crack in his head, William without shoes (bloody shoes can be seen near him, symbolising how he couldn't fill the role that had been empty since Paul died). It goes on and on and on. Small details can be found everywhere. It was a "Paul is dead" goldmine, but the fans didn't pick up on it at the time.

A few days before BBC would air the movie, the band had a masquerade party that eventually would be known as "the embarrassing *Magical Mystery Tour* party". A lot of drugs and alcohol was consumed, in regular Beatles fashion. By this time, John's bad behaviour seemed to be near its peak. He was openly disregarding Cyn and flirting with other women. He was scolded over this by various women present at the party, and he was really ashamed. He didn't fancy being a miserable drunk, but that's what he was during this period. Cyn was heartbroken because of him. The whole family was suffering. John, Cyn and their son Julian all in pain for different reasons.

Something else that happened around this time was that William and Jane got into a phoney engagement. It was an industry trick that was created to let the phoney relationship have a natural progression. I remember how William kept on trying to stop the idea from going through, with no success. He was overpowered and forced into it. Some people are claiming that William is in top of the pyramid of power, but he was actually turned into as much a puppet as the others. If the top parts of the industry wanted to control him, they could. He generated their money.

The movie wasn't received very well at all. It was way too unconventional for people. William was disappointed when reading the negative reviews, and he would blame them

at the fact that the movie was aired in black and white although it was intended to be viewed in colour. However, all in all, I don't think the band was expecting a big success this time around. The project was successful for the band on personal levels since it kept them from breaking down completely.

## ***Chapter 4: On the road to Rishikesh***

In early 1968, life as a Beatle was becoming unbearably tiring. This wasn't helped by the fact that television production company United Artists was pushing the band for another movie. The band had signed a deal early on, promising to record three movies for the company. They absolutely did not want to redo something similar to *A Hard Day's Night* or *Help!*. Especially not with the critical flop of the *Magical Mystery Tour* project fresh in mind. Therefore, they managed to find a way around the deal. They sent them their music and the rights to use it in an animated movie. In this way, they didn't have to concern about more film productions. However, they were forced by contract to appear physically in the movie. This was quickly solved by filming a short physical sequence for the end of the upcoming film, which would come to be known as *Yellow Submarine*. I believe that this solution was the best for everybody.

The band had absolutely nothing to do at this point. They were bored out of their minds. No musical project was approaching and no film project either. They had a lot of time in their hands now. George reminded them about what he had read in a spiritual book of his; the theory that you can revive a dead person's soul through another body. The idea of a cosmic reincarnation was appealing to the band. After the deaths of Paul and Brian, nothing had obviously ever been the same. Now John, George and Ringo were all longing for some proper relaxation. It was a bit of a spiritual experiment, as well as a search for relaxation. They were now heading to India, more specifically to the northern city of Rishikesh. They were finally going to be properly lectured by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

They were to hang out with a group of about 60 people who were all aspiring to learn about transcendental meditation. This included some famous folks, such as Donovan, Mia Farrow and Mike Love. William was happy to have them join since he admired all of them. He may have been one of the most famous people in the world, but he wasn't known as the one he truly was. Therefore, it still seemed absurd to this nowhere man to



get to spend time in the centre of everywhere. The other members really came to support him by this time. They knew more than well what it was like to go from relatively unknown to worldwide stars overnight. The boys had more things in common with William than they dared to admit, and this brought them closer to him every day. There was still an enormous personal tension, but William had become a natural part of the group by this time. One may even argue that he was the leader, since the others were tired of it all and actively chose to step back a bit.

The only thing that really bugged William about going to India was the fact that Jane had to come by his side. It was another management decision. Nobody would get to suspect that the two of them actually weren't getting along. William wasn't the only one facing troubles with his "relationship". John had left Cyn all behind him at this point. At least mentally. They wouldn't legally divorce until later, but he kept on cheating on her with another woman; Yoko Ono. John had met Yoko already in 1966. She worked as an artist, which was something that really fascinated him. He fell for her very quickly. He thought of her as an intellectual equal, something that he had never thought of a woman before. Now, around this time of 1968, he kept on anticipating her letters. He was miserable without her and needed her to be with him.

I don't really want to be one person in a long row of people to throw hate at Yoko. I do think that she is a spectacular artist. I very much appreciate what she has done for women's liberation and world peace. I understand what John saw in her. However, I do think that she was using John as a platform to spread her art. Maybe it turned into love somehow, but from the beginning it was all a plan. She was living in the cultural core of London. She knew all about The Beatles. However, she kept on lying and claiming that she didn't know about them. The whole world knew about The Beatles, so I can't see how she's expecting people to believe that she lived in London without knowing about them.

In fact, before she even met John, her eyes were set on Paul. She knocked on his door and asked him for a contribution to a project she was involved in. He was unable to contribute and therefore he gave her John's address since he would possibly be able to. That's how it all began. She was obsessed with John already before the two of them formally met. She knew about his weaknesses and I'm convinced that she used them to her own advantage. She also hooked him up on some heavy drugs in order to make him even more dependant on her. It was a plan, and even John's son Julian has been very outspoken about that fact.

The management had made one thing awfully clear before the journey; it was time for

another album. *Magical Mystery Tour* had been released only a few months back, but it was only released as a double EP in the UK. It mainly worked as a soundtrack and a collection of some previous singles. Now a real album was requested, featuring new material only. The band made sure to bring their guitars. They knew that songwriting sessions was now a must.

Surprisingly enough, in spite of the state the band was in, the time in India actually turned out to be quite jolly and successful. They got to rest a lot and explore their own minds, but they also got some time to play music with one another and have some fun. William was the big entertainer during this trip, playing his new humoristic songs for everyone. He was awfully productive during this time. He wrote "Back In The U.S.S.R.", "Mother Nature's Son", "Blackbird", "I Will", "Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da", "Wild Honey Pie", "Rocky Raccoon", "Why Don't We Do It In The Road?", "Junk" and "Teddy Boy". He was now acting as a real tough competitor to John. Although John wrote more songs in total, they weren't necessarily of higher quality. His work actually shifted a lot in quality. So did William's. However, the best moments really stood quite equal to one another. George also wrote a few lovely songs, and even Ringo managed to complete his first one - a song he had been working on sporadically since 1963.

John didn't mind the competition between William and himself. In fact, he enjoyed it. It fueled his creativity. However, he was jealous, as he often was. Especially when not winning the battles, the biggest example being when "Mother Nature's Son" got considered much stronger than "Child Of Nature". *The White Album* would be the first release where every "McCartney" tune was to be a William original. No ghost writers or old demos were used. John very much envied William's success and often referred to him as "the phoney" in order to diminish him. He pointed out that he had started the group and that he would always be the leader of it, although it was clear that this was not practically the case.

Now, I will bring up an aspect of the story that has been largely ignored and forgotten. I know it will blow a few minds. The common belief is that John absolutely hated William and that the two of them never really got along. However, in spite of the tensions between the two of them, there was no hate. Quite the contrary, actually. I will try to elaborate this complicated relationship as best I can.

Through the early 60's, William was living in London together with his girlfriend Sally. Because of his position in the industry, he couldn't really have a transparent life and therefore he soon became a part of the underground scene. He didn't fancy to transparently use his own name. To some parts of the scene, he instead became known

by the nickname "Silly Willy". The nickname wasn't only a reference to his first name - it was also a reference to his penis which to some people had a bit of a funny appearance.

Why would people know about the shape of his intimate parts if he was in a relationship? Well, the relationship with Sally was a most open one. She had other men coming over to their apartment and he went out underground to satisfy his bisexual needs. Yes, he was in fact a bisexual and enjoyed sleeping with men as well as women. This was kept a very quiet business since it wasn't accepted by big parts of society during that period.

What does this have to do with John? Well, John was also a bisexual and this wasn't a secret. He wasn't too careful with letting people know that and even Yoko has admitted it. His sexual affair with Brian Epstein is a frequently shared story. So, although it's difficult for some people to admit to themselves as it changes the entire way Lennon/McCartney must be viewed, John actually fancied Paul on a romantic level. In 1960, he wrote a duet for the two of them that has become known as "I Don't Know (Johnny Johnny)". In the song, he cries out his feelings for Paul, and Paul replies that he feels the same way and that the two of them should tell their families about it and run away together. Paul thought of it as a joke. He didn't have the same orientation as John did. John's thing for Paul was deep and that would be reflected in the way he acted towards him. In 1961, he had gotten birthday money from a wealthy relative, and chose to spend them on taking Paul to Paris. I have gotten to know that he did try to hit on him during this trip, but that he got rejected.

Now, being so close to someone so similar to Paul, he couldn't help but feeling something on a physical level. This time around, the attraction was mutual. I am much sure that the two of them were up to something during this time. They were intimate with each other. I'm not necessarily talking about sex, but something beyond our understanding was going on. I don't know what it is myself since William openly has declared that he's not going to share his juicy details with Yoko still alive. Don't get me wrong, John was madly in love with Yoko, but the whole deal between him and William happened on a superficial level and he would come to feel completely awful about it. Fancying the imposter of his dead friend was something that made him ashamed out of his mind. Yoko knew very well what a threat William was to her and John. Not because John would ever engage in a romantic relationship with William since that would never happen, but William was probably the most desirable man in John's life. This would lead to great conflicts between William and Yoko at a later point.

Theories about John having romantic feelings for Paul have been floating around for

quite some time. They are always very criticised for being unfactual. It just happens that they actually are most factual. John was always very confused, both on a sexual and romantic level. He often couldn't tell different emotions apart from each other. During his teenage years, he even had a sexual desire for his own mother. He never had a sweet and open mother figure in his life and that left him all confused about what he really felt. It's something that never ended in his mind, which is why he would nickname Yoko "mother". This might also be why he was so confused about what he truly felt about Paul and William. Was it friendship, love or physical desire? He didn't really know. Love was a very abstract concept to him. He was very much in love with the concept, but he just couldn't tell one kind of love apart from the other.

In India, George and William spent a good amount of time trying to wake Paul's spirit up inside of William. They could spend several hours at a time attempting this. George was convinced that it would actually work. He had a lot of faith in the teachings presented in the books he owned. Maybe you've seen the pictures of the group meditating together in India. As you may have noticed; George and William were often sitting in the middle with all the other people surrounding them, which is exactly what they would do when attempting to reach Paul. Jane also sat beside William to try to channel Paul through him. Those were just the days. It's very mad when you think back on it. Eventually, they gave in and considered the project much failed. William was unchanged and George was rather disappointed.

Ringo left India after just ten days. He got really bored of just sitting around and wanted to go back to London. A group of management associates, me included, personally met him just the day after he had arrived. He played us the song he just had finished, "Don't Pass Me By", on his half broken guitar. He only used his regular chords of A, D and E7, but it was highly entertaining. He was always a great entertainer; a man of humour and selflessness. He told us all about his Indian adventures. We had a really fun time, but the reason to why we went to see Ringo in the first place was that we needed to get in touch with William. William was well aware of the management wanting to get in touch with him, but he never returned their calls. Therefore, we wanted Ringo to reach out to him in order to make him listen. We knew that he respected the band members way more than the management.

Although William was needed in London for some business meetings regarding the *Yellow Submarine* project, that was not the main reason for why he was abruptly called back. Just a few days earlier, a reporter from the BBC had appeared in the management's office in London. His name was Richard Whitmore. He simply told them that a lot of Beatles fans found that something was different about Paul and that he had

done some research that had cracked the entire code of what actually was going on. I have no idea what he actually did know and not, but what he said was enough to freak us all out. One of the associates was reassuring him that everything was fine with Paul and that he would make sure to arrange an interview with Paul and Jane for the BBC as soon as possible to prove that everything was just fine. This offer was accepted.

Ringo managed to get the message through to William. He realised the importance of accepting the interview. If he had declined it, the story of the replacement could have gotten spread on national television anytime. The interview was arranged on March 26, the very same day that William and Jane arrived in London. It was arranged at the very airport they arrived at, which shows what a hurry it was to get it done.

I was so nervous that William once again would do a poor job. However, as soon the interview was aired, a major weight came off my chest. He was brilliant, he made a stunning impression. He was off the cocaine and had therefore made sure to gain some weight, something which really did wonders to his appearance as Paul. The fake ears weren't really perfect and the latex had minor flaws but it wasn't noticeable, especially not on the telly that still had quite poor quality back then. His hair still fell the opposite way from Paul's, but nobody paid that any mind. He had now stopped using the depths of his voice like he would do back in 1967. The voice was simply perfect and the accent was just spot on. He had even learned how to play left-handed properly. It was extremely impressive.

He still didn't handle the questions like Paul would have, but everybody was changing during this period anyway. It all just made perfect sense. Richard didn't doubt for a second that it was Paul he was talking to, and who knows, maybe the spiritual sessions with George had helped a bit? I remember the happiness of Richard calling the whole thing off, apologising for letting his somewhat conservative mind get fooled by the quirky photos and lyrics of the psychedelic era. The threats about his "research" were therefore probably fabrications in order to find some gossip about Paul. The truth was still heavily locked in secrecy. We were all much relieved.

Jane appeared as miserable in the interview and at this time around, she truly was. She had no one. She despised William for blatantly going after other people sexually all the time, risking to break the entire idea of the deal they had. At this time, poor Jane Asher felt like the loneliest woman alive. However, her emotions was something that William just couldn't care less about. He would not under any circumstances change his ways. I remember talking to Jane around this time, perhaps a bit later, and she told me that William was being a monster to her behind closed doors. He wasn't physically violent,

but she would refer to it as psychological violence. He just had no respect for her. He saw her as an obstacle in his life. He wanted to live out all the dreams he had about women (although he dreamed about men as well, he was not allowed to embrace that in his role as Paul McCartney). Now that he was a superstar, he could have any woman at all. He didn't want a deal with this girl that he didn't even fancy.

On the 12th of April, John and George finally left the camp of Rishikesh. It was not done under peaceful circumstances. John was in a state of rage after hearing rumours about Maharishi sexually assaulting women at the camp. Maharishi was confused and asked John why, to which John famously replied something in the style of: "*Well, if you're so cosmic, you'll know why*". Shortly after, he would begin writing a song that went: "*Maharishi, you little twat! Who the hell do you think you are?*". George pointed out that it was a ridiculous lyric, to which John responded by changing the lyrics to: "*Maharishi, what have you done? You made a fool of everyone!*". George still wasn't pleased with the mentioning of the name. They could easily have been sued, had it been released that way. Therefore, the name was ironically changed to "Sexy Sadie", on George's command. Another song was forming and a big repertoire for the upcoming release was bulding up.

Now the band had all come together to initiate some work. John and William had a scheduled press conference in New York and they only had a month to prepare it. The plan was to announce Apple in America. I remember William being extremely nervous. It was to be his very first press conference. When it was finally held on May 11, it actually went very well. William's nervousness was well-hidden. John handled most of the talking. It was a successful event and a great victory for the business aspect of The Beatles. The two of them got out and back into the car that would take them to the airport. Much to John's surprise, he found a blonde woman in the backseat. Linda Eastman. She was with William. In spite of the fake engagement to Jane, he was with another woman in public. John showed dismay and didn't like Linda one bit. He didn't even understand when William possibly had found the time to date her. He was once quoted in an interview, saying: "*God knows when he was doing it, but he must've been doing it*".

Linda wasn't the only woman William was spending time with. He had also fallen deeply in love with a scriptwriter named Francie Schwartz. She had come to Apple with a script, and he would much too soon ask her to move in with him in Cavendish, where both John and Yoko were also staying around this time while looking for a better place. I remember the McCartney family being awfully upset with William treating Paul's old house like a motel, and like what they referred to as "*Bourbon Street*". They filed complaints about

his behaviour, something that he couldn't care less about. He was beginning to live his own life, and the management found that enough time had passed by to let him do so. He was Paul McCartney in the eyes of the people, and Paul McCartney could do whatever he pleased.

However, Jane had really had enough of William openly dating others, breaking the deal that they had made a year and a half earlier. She called the fake engagement off around this time, but chose to wait to make it official to the world. William saw this as a great chance to openly embrace whoever he wanted, which he soon would do.

The landscape was really changing. The creativity was blooming but the tensions were huge. Everyone was depressed on different levels. Ringo felt awful in the band and thought of quitting. George was lost in confusion while trying to find his spiritual truths. John was completely dissatisfied with his surroundings and wanted to get out. They were so tired of being Beatles under these conditions. William may have had a ton of energy left since he was so new in the scene, but he also found himself wishing for better conditions. The depression they all felt was to become most relevant for their upcoming production. It was now time to search for happiness in the roots of the band.