



IMAGINE

ONCE THERE WAS A WAY  
CEZA

WEDDING ALBUM

1

00:00:05,190 --> 00:00:18,030

[Music] so I thought I'm gonna do the Beatles\h  
which scared me at the time to say I'm actually\h\h

2

00:00:18,030 --> 00:00:25,050

going to set forward and and take a stab at what\h  
if the Beatles stayed together but I found that\h\h

3

00:00:25,050 --> 00:00:33,570

to be endlessly fascinating and once there was\h  
a way actually tell us as as if it's a Rolling\h\h

4

00:00:33,570 --> 00:00:38,940

Stone magazine kind of article looking back on\h  
the Beatles success over the last 50 years and\h\h

5

00:00:38,940 --> 00:00:45,000

it tells their story and focusing on what I call\h  
the years of maximum danger we know the Beatles\h\h

6

00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:52,590

broke up in 69 and 70 they had issues and by 70 it\h  
was all over but it started really in 69 in a very\h\h

7

00:00:52,590 --> 00:00:59,280

strong way of Lennon and I I tried to ask myself\h  
these books are not time travel books they're\h\h

8

00:00:59,280 --> 00:01:04,140

not magic books there's no portals or anything\h  
like that they're just alternate history books\h\h

9

00:01:04,140 --> 00:01:11,760

that aren't meant to sound and be realistic so I\h  
asked myself what are the realistic ways that the\h\h

10

00:01:11,760 --> 00:01:18,210

Beatles might have overcome what were personal\h  
differences and professional differences and\h\h

11  
00:01:18,210 --> 00:01:22,800  
stayed together because the truth is I'm sure you\h  
and your listeners have personal and professional\h\h

12  
00:01:22,800 --> 00:01:29,040  
differences with people and you don't break up\h  
all the time you work them out yeah many people\h\h

13  
00:01:29,040 --> 00:01:34,890  
do so I really tried to create a world where this\h  
could happen and boy did it blow open into a great\h\h

14  
00:01:34,890 --> 00:01:41,610  
fascinating world so I focus on the years I call\h  
a maximum danger where in our timeline they broke\h\h

15  
00:01:41,610 --> 00:01:49,650  
up in 1970 I focus on 70 through 75 and tell\h  
that story where these guys managed to keep\h\h

16  
00:01:49,650 --> 00:01:56,850  
their friendship still alive and the bonds that\h  
had kept them together strong enough to overcome\h\h

17  
00:01:56,850 --> 00:02:06,120  
what would still be very difficult challenging\h  
times for them I wonder if there was any I know\h\h

18  
00:02:06,120 --> 00:02:10,650  
they've tried to get them back together you\h  
know that was a big goal in this and it was\h\h

19  
00:02:10,650 --> 00:02:15,870  
just like no money that could do it obvious\h  
no money couldn't do it and you know and I'm\h\h

20  
00:02:15,870 --> 00:02:22,560  
I'm trying to find a way to enter debate earlier\h  
that was people after they were seriously broken\h\h

21  
00:02:22,560 --> 00:02:26,730  
up trying to get them together for a one-off\h  
or whatever and those stories are well-known\h\h

22  
00:02:26,730 --> 00:02:32,610  
to Beatles fans yeah I just thought I'm gonna do\h  
something I've not read before and quite often\h\h

23  
00:02:32,610 --> 00:02:39,180  
when I've written screenplays on spec or books\h  
it's the book I wanted to read and I couldn't\h\h

24  
00:02:39,180 --> 00:02:44,040  
find it so I wrote it I did that with AD after\h  
disclosure certainly was surrounded by enemies\h\h

25  
00:02:44,040 --> 00:02:49,050  
and now with once there was away I just wanted\h  
to put one thing out because people always ask\h\h

26  
00:02:49,050 --> 00:02:56,010  
we built a pretty solid website to show people\h  
what this concept is all about and it's it's\h\h

27  
00:02:56,010 --> 00:03:01,890  
very simple to remember is simply what if Beatles\h  
calm oh so you can remember what if Beatles what\h\h

28  
00:03:01,890 --> 00:03:06,570  
if Beatles calm and for people that actually just\h  
want to you know buy the ticket and take the ride\h\h

29  
00:03:06,570 --> 00:03:15,390  
then they can get it on Amazon at Amazon Beatles\h  
calm and we've even done a video of the Beatles\h\h

30  
00:03:15,390 --> 00:03:22,200  
playing together in 1971 at George Harrison's\h  
house on a brand-new Beatle song that we had made\h\h

31  
00:03:22,200 --> 00:03:28,320  
for this marketing and it's called more Beatles\h  
calm so the you got three what-if Beatles calm\h\h

32  
00:03:28,320 --> 00:03:34,560  
more Beatles calm Amazon Beatles calm so and by\h  
the way I was pretty shocked that you can still\h\h

33  
00:03:34,560 --> 00:03:42,180  
buy a URL called Amazon Beatles calm yeah that was\h  
insane so I was happy about that and I I've just\h\h

34  
00:03:42,180 --> 00:03:47,430  
enjoyed the process of talking to people about\h  
this and you know what what's so gratifying to\h\h

35  
00:03:47,430 --> 00:03:56,130  
me as an author is that comments on Amazon and on\h  
other locations have been so uniformly positive\h\h

36  
00:03:56,130 --> 00:04:01,350  
and the thing that people seem to be responding\h  
to that really warms my heart if you will is that\h\h

37  
00:04:01,350 --> 00:04:06,270  
they it's this is something we all kind of wished\h  
could have happened you mean the Rolling Stones\h\h

38  
00:04:06,270 --> 00:04:10,080  
are still plans right other so why couldn't the\h  
Beatles have been still playing together right\h\h

39  
00:04:10,080 --> 00:04:17,100  
so people are responding by saying it gave me\h  
a chance to spend a few hours in a world where\h\h

40  
00:04:17,100 --> 00:04:21,390  
they stayed together and you know we live in\h  
a world of trump and dissension and everything\h\h

41  
00:04:21,390 --> 00:04:26,490  
so here's a chance to think about the Beatles\h  
and and they just really found it interesting\h\h

42  
00:04:26,490 --> 00:04:32,940  
now I will say this this is not all champagne\h  
and roses yeah and they had to get through all\h\h

43  
00:04:32,940 --> 00:04:39,300  
oh yeah I mean I'm a dramatist at heart I don't\h  
write I don't write stories without conflict and\h\h

44  
00:04:39,300 --> 00:04:45,900  
the Beatles story has lots of conflict so what\h  
I've done with my drama is try to find some\h\h

45  
00:04:45,900 --> 00:04:51,540  
interest incredible realistic ways that they\h  
could have resolved their conflicts now I know

46  
00:04:54,300 --> 00:05:01,770  
okö Yoko Yoko I'm sorry Yoko boy I'm gonna get\h  
bashed for that one yeah you know we all have\h\h

47  
00:05:01,770 --> 00:05:10,470  
brain farts like that what's the while yeah\h  
so Yoko was a part of it right and well you\h\h

48  
00:05:10,470 --> 00:05:16,860  
you've just raised the the \$64,000 question though\h  
because if you ask most people they'd say Yoko Ono\h\h

49  
00:05:16,860 --> 00:05:23,160  
you know broke up the Beatles now Paul McCartney\h  
says that's not true but most most fans tend to\h\h

50  
00:05:23,160 --> 00:05:29,040  
lay that at Yoko's feet so I knew that the most\h  
important thing this book had to do is treat the\h\h

51  
00:05:29,040 --> 00:05:38,550  
Yoko dissent in a credible way and to find  
a way where not only could Yoko and John have

52  
00:05:38,550 --> 00:05:45,750  
found a way to modify slightly to keep things  
going that that but the other Beatles could

53  
00:05:45,750 --> 00:05:52,080  
find a way to accept that John was not going to be  
part of any group that didn't have something to do

54  
00:05:52,080 --> 00:05:57,510  
with Yoko right everybody had to give a little  
bit it's sort of like when you make a deal in

55  
00:05:57,510 --> 00:06:04,200  
Hollywood right now the idea is it's only a good  
deal if both parties hate it and then you know you

56  
00:06:04,200 --> 00:06:11,220  
made a good deal right so I tried to apply that a  
little bit to the Beatles that you know nobody's

57  
00:06:11,220 --> 00:06:17,040  
happy you know they're not again champagne a rut  
now that didn't happen in this book nobody's happy

58  
00:06:17,040 --> 00:06:25,650  
everybody is just seeing the larger issue and  
without going on too much and just give a couple

59  
00:06:25,650 --> 00:06:30,810  
of things that are not really spoilers to me but  
people do not know that the Beatles almost starred

60  
00:06:30,810 --> 00:06:38,070  
in Lord of the Rings in the early 70s and so in  
this book for example the Beatles actually star

61  
00:06:38,070 --> 00:06:42,870  
in the Lord of the Rings directed by Stanley  
Kubrick something that almost happened I'm not

62  
00:06:42,870 --> 00:06:52,710  
making this up you can check it out and McCart  
he has even told Peter Jackson the same so what

63  
00:06:52,710 --> 00:07:00,900  
I tried to look for were things like that excuse  
me and other things where you could say certain

64  
00:07:00,900 --> 00:07:06,720  
things prevent you from announcing a breakup right  
even even the Beatles when Lennon tried to get out

65  
00:07:06,720 --> 00:07:13,260  
in our timeline in the late 69 they said please we  
got other you know we're making a deal with four

66  
00:07:13,260 --> 00:07:18,990  
different royalties can't just sit on this for a  
while so he did okay so there's already precedent

67  
00:07:18,990 --> 00:07:26,940  
so if you're making a movie you need to publicize  
it well it's certainly not going to be accepted by

68  
00:07:26,940 --> 00:07:32,580  
the studio that you're publicizing a movie while  
you're breaking up right so I tried to find little

69  
00:07:32,580 --> 00:07:38,640  
elements like that and also that we're fun the  
Beatles did not play at Woodstock in our timeframe

70  
00:07:38,640 --> 00:07:45,480  
right but they were invited they were invited they  
could have done it they were busy recording Abbey

71

00:07:45,480 --> 00:07:50,850

Road they could have practiced a few songs and got  
on a plane and gone to Woodstock well they do in

72

00:07:50,850 --> 00:07:56,670

this book and in fact there's there's things that  
happen in the in the timestream is a consequence

73

00:07:56,670 --> 00:08:02,310

you think about it sure in this book once there  
was a way the Beatles do play at Woodstock but

74

00:08:02,310 --> 00:08:06,690

because it's so out of control it would have  
to be out of they almost get killed yeah by

75

00:08:06,690 --> 00:08:11,310

the crowd sighs the surging crowd and it comes  
close to killing them well what does that do to

76

00:08:11,310 --> 00:08:17,190

them it makes them say we have to pay a lot more  
attention to security if we're gonna continue to

77

00:08:17,190 --> 00:08:23,970

show up at places we have to pay some attention  
to this right and so what would that mean well

78

00:08:23,970 --> 00:08:29,820

it would mean going forward that John Lennon if  
he was living in the Dakota with Yoko would not

79

00:08:29,820 --> 00:08:35,490

be signing autographs outside of it he would know  
that he needs to pay attention he would have had

80

00:08:35,490 --> 00:08:41,220

security driven into his brain and instead of  
sitting out front signing autographs he'd had

81  
00:08:41,220 --> 00:08:47,190  
driven his car into the garage yeah right so I\h  
tried to deal with things like that where it's\h\h

82  
00:08:47,190 --> 00:08:52,350  
not outrageous yeah that to think that that could\h  
happen it doesn't involve some guy who came from\h\h

83  
00:08:52,350 --> 00:08:58,350  
the future right it's just how it could have gone\h  
down right so we'd have John Lennon today wouldn't\h\h

84  
00:08:58,350 --> 00:09:04,440  
that be a different world well he might still be\h  
dead by now natural causes those what I did also\h\h

85  
00:09:04,440 --> 00:09:10,590  
with the book and some fans get this some some\h  
don't of course but I tried to say things that\h\h

86  
00:09:10,590 --> 00:09:16,740  
were within the ability to change could change but\h  
certain things like your physical say your your\h\h

87  
00:09:16,740 --> 00:09:24,150  
physical illness stuff you know George Harrison\h  
died because for the reasons that we know right\h\h

88  
00:09:24,150 --> 00:09:30,180  
and I think it would be unlikely for me to change\h  
that John Lennon was murdered that can be changed\h\h

89  
00:09:30,180 --> 00:09:37,380  
yeah alright so and and Linda McCartney died of\h  
cancer you know that doesn't change just because\h\h

90  
00:09:37,380 --> 00:09:43,260  
I'm in an alternative universe or it shouldn't\h  
change in my view so I tried to keep I just\h\h

91  
00:09:43,260 --> 00:09:51,120  
tried to keep it grounded grounded is the word\h  
now before 1970 had Linda and and Paul already\h\h

92  
00:09:51,120 --> 00:09:56,940  
met yo yeah so they can't remember in fact this\h  
is what one of the great things of all time that\h\h

93  
00:09:56,940 --> 00:10:02,910  
I've dealt with I started the changing arrow of\h  
history in 1968 in this book I didn't wait and\h\h

94  
00:10:02,910 --> 00:10:10,320  
do it at the 1970 Break I started it earlier for\h  
example you bring up Paul and Linda met each other\h\h

95  
00:10:10,320 --> 00:10:17,700  
much earlier but they married in 1969 March of 69\h  
and guess what one week later John and Yoko got\h\h

96  
00:10:17,700 --> 00:10:23,550  
married alright now here's the thing that'll blow\h  
your mind none of the Beatles attending attended\h\h

97  
00:10:23,550 --> 00:10:30,750  
the other guy's wedding okay so John didn't go\h  
to Paul Paul didn't go to John I come up with\h\h

98  
00:10:30,750 --> 00:10:36,840  
the scenario in this book where they would find it\h  
important to go to each other's weddings and you\h\h

99  
00:10:36,840 --> 00:10:42,030  
know that could change a man yeah if you're there\h  
with your best friend you know even if you're\h\h

100  
00:10:42,030 --> 00:10:47,520  
having a hell of a fight with them but you go to\h  
his wedding you're gonna feel differently about\h\h

101

00:10:47,520 --> 00:10:57,150

things so and and here's if we have time to real\h  
quick storyline or the book starts in 1968 and in\h\h

102

00:10:57,150 --> 00:11:04,350

1968 for real in our timeframe Paul and John even\h  
though they weren't getting along got on a plane\h\h

103

00:11:04,350 --> 00:11:11,610

flew to New York City to announce and promote\h  
Apple their new company okay so they get there\h\h

104

00:11:11,610 --> 00:11:17,010

and they get booked on The Tonight Show Johnny\h  
Carson's out of town and they end up doing the\h\h

105

00:11:17,010 --> 00:11:24,000

Tonight Show John and Paul 1968 April they end up\h  
doing the Tonight Show with Joe Garagiola as the\h\h

106

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:30,210

host and Tallulah Bankhead is the drunken guest\h  
that night that Tallulah kind of heckled them\h\h

107

00:11:30,210 --> 00:11:35,490

and and Joe Garagiola was kind of clueless about\h  
anything Beatles and they didn't have a good time\h\h

108

00:11:35,490 --> 00:11:43,290

so it didn't really help in any way here's what\h  
happens in the book same thing get on the plane\h\h

109

00:11:43,290 --> 00:11:48,270

show up but the first arrow of history diverts\h  
when they come to tell the Beatles in their\h\h

110

00:11:48,270 --> 00:11:53,310

hotel room John and Paul that guess what Johnny\h  
Carson's not going to be here you got a guest\h\h

111

00:11:53,310 --> 00:12:02,850

host tonight and and Lennon says well F that I'm\h  
not coming so they panic and they called Johnny\h\h

112

00:12:02,850 --> 00:12:08,190

Carson who's actually doing a comedy show in New\h  
Jersey not far away and say the Beatles aren't\h\h

113

00:12:08,190 --> 00:12:13,950

going to show up unless you show up and Carson\h  
says he's not happy about this he doesn't like\h\h

114

00:12:13,950 --> 00:12:19,500

being dictated on his own show but he does know\h  
aget when he gets one which is John and Paul would\h\h

115

00:12:19,500 --> 00:12:25,770

be a really big deal for his show so he agrees to\h  
come back on one condition that they that they do\h\h

116

00:12:25,770 --> 00:12:31,980

the entire show and they sing a few songs alright\h  
and so what ends up happening is the Beatles have\h\h

117

00:12:31,980 --> 00:12:37,260

the least John and Paul have one of the world's\h  
best times together and they end up going out\h\h

118

00:12:37,260 --> 00:12:44,790

drinking afterwards with Ed McMahon and Johnny\h  
Carson okay so that's that's the a little tiny\h\h

119

00:12:44,790 --> 00:12:51,300

thing can just kind of expand outward and turn\h  
into a kind of a joyous experience yeah and so l\h\h

120

00:12:51,300 --> 00:12:57,090

you know I hope I hope that some of your listeners\h  
will give the book a try and you know I certainly\h\h

121  
00:12:57,090 --> 00:13:02,820  
tried to write it with respect for fans but also\h  
for people that don't know much about the Beatles\h\h

122  
00:13:02,820 --> 00:13:07,530  
and I'm close with this the highest compliment I\h  
keep getting from it is people go I had to keep\h\h

123  
00:13:07,530 --> 00:13:14,190  
stopping and and checking you know what really\h  
happened because it all sounded so real that I\h\h

124  
00:13:14,190 --> 00:13:20,010  
didn't know what was true and what wasn't that is\h  
a compliment just one last question you're right\h\h

125  
00:13:20,010 --> 00:13:25,320  
we are at the end here what type of friendships\h  
did they have before the problems happened I\h\h

126  
00:13:25,320 --> 00:13:29,850  
mean were they're very close oh yeah I mean\h  
think about it in the in the late 50s early\h\h

127  
00:13:29,850 --> 00:13:36,330  
60s before they became the worldwide phenomenon\h  
that they were these guys were living together\h\h

128  
00:13:36,330 --> 00:13:43,620  
and literally in in some of their gigs when they\h  
were in Germany they had this tiny room that all\h\h

129  
00:13:43,620 --> 00:13:47,850  
four of them would share and and they'd have to\h  
sleep but two of them would sleep in the same bed\h\h

130  
00:13:47,850 --> 00:13:53,040  
head-to-toe right I mean that's how close they\h  
were they did everything together and they were\h\h

131

00:13:53,040 --> 00:13:58,530

inseparable friends and they adored each other at\h  
that time they were just they were you know they\h\h

132

00:13:58,530 --> 00:14:03,510

were tough guys they were wearing leather back\h  
then and they were having a good time but they\h\h

133

00:14:03,510 --> 00:14:10,860

were learning music but they were with their their\h  
bros and and so they always worked together John\h\h

134

00:14:10,860 --> 00:14:17,190

and Paulin particularly were very close and and\h  
and we're close from the beginning I mean those\h\h

135

00:14:17,190 --> 00:14:23,670

guys were riding together from the beginning and\h  
it wasn't really and they stayed close and even\h\h

136

00:14:23,670 --> 00:14:30,690

when they were fighting they were still close but\h  
yeah with with problems as we all have with close\h\h

137

00:14:30,690 --> 00:14:38,040

friends from time to time so they had every reason\h  
to be able to find a basis for friendship buried\h\h

138

00:14:38,040 --> 00:14:44,280

in the friendship that they'd had very few people\h  
in the world well in fact nobody know let's just\h\h

139

00:14:44,280 --> 00:14:49,320

say that nobody in the world had the experience\h  
that the Beatles had together they got to the\h\h

140

00:14:49,320 --> 00:14:55,320

place where they had to hang with each other and\h  
and support each other and have each other's back\h\h

141  
00:14:55,320 --> 00:15:01,680  
because nobody else would and nobody else was was\h  
capable of understanding the experience that they\h\h

142  
00:15:01,680 --> 00:15:08,400  
were having that's right there used to be an ad\h  
on the TV years ago that said they'll never be\h\h

143  
00:15:08,400 --> 00:15:14,820  
another group quite like the Beatles that's I\h  
you know what and and probably back then some\h\h

144  
00:15:14,820 --> 00:15:19,800  
people heard it and said yeah right yeah but guess\h  
what it turned out to be true that's right your\h\h

145  
00:15:19,800 --> 00:15:25,950  
website one more time okay the main one is what if\h  
Beatles calm and then if you want to see the video\h\h