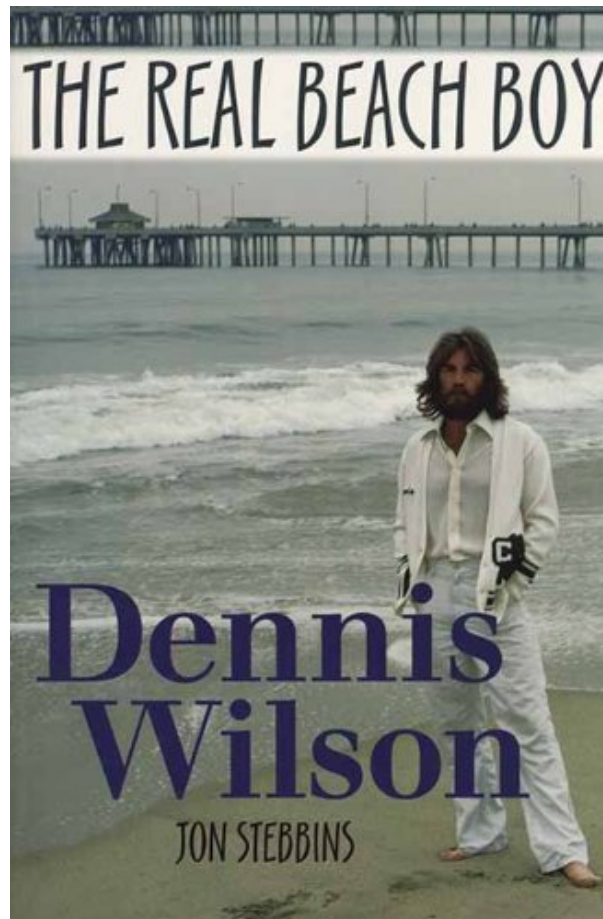


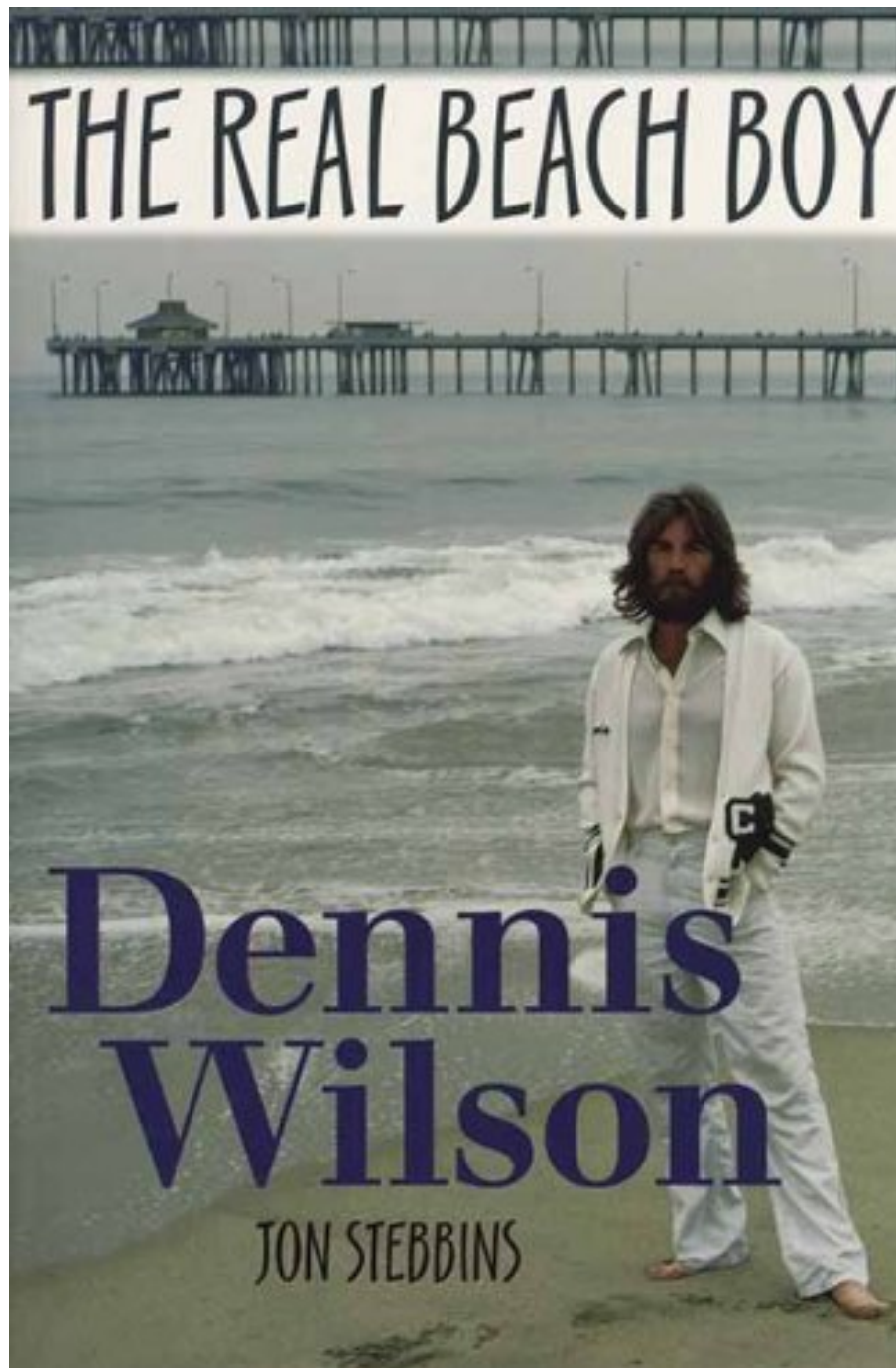
DENNIS WILSON: THE REAL BEACH BOY

BY JON STEBBINS



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From the Publisher

The staggering tale of the freewheeling brother who fired Brian Wilson's imagination and influenced the Beach Boys' sound, style, and attitude. He was the embodiment of the sun-drenched California dream, a sandy-haired sex symbol that sparked a cultural tidal wave. Surfer, lover, drummer, Beach Boy. His life was a short, brilliant, intoxicating ride that inevitably curled into a torturous spiral of addiction and despair. Profoundly gifted but destructively wild, Dennis Wilson was dead at age 39, drowning quietly while his influence made millions for others. Volumes have been written about the troubled past of Dennis's older brother Brian Wilson and his amazing impact on the history of popular music. But *Dennis Wilson: The Real Beach Boy* tells for the first time the staggering tale of the freewheeling brother who fired Brian's imagination and permanently influenced the Beach Boys' sound, style, and attitude. While Brian stayed in his room, brother Dennis hurled himself at life with an unquenchable lust for action. From surfing teenager to drag-racing daredevil, from his legendary sexual appetite to his chilling friendship with mass murderer Charles Manson, this biography follows the hair-raising trail blazed by the real Beach Boy. Author Jon Stebbins candidly and passionately offers the first in-depth look at one of rock and roll's most compelling figures in a book packed with rare, never-before-published photos and previously unknown facts.

From the Author

Jon Stebbins is a fourth-generation Californian who has spent most of his life composing, performing, collecting, studying, and writing about popular music and has contributed to numerous collectors' guides and music-related publications. He is currently working on a screenplay about Buddy Holly's last tour.

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent Portrayl by Stebbins

By Lion Hearted Guy

In-depth chronicle into the life and times of not only the mega-talented and tormented Dennis, but also the band and the Wilson family as a whole, and how each individual member related to each other and their music.

As a teenage surf rat who grew up in Southern Cali. the 60's, I admired their music from the first time I heard "Surfin".

Stebbins pulls no punches in his excellent weaving of the story from the band's beginnings to DW's tragic final day in Marina Del Ray.

A wealth of information on the band's extensive catalouge of music, and all of the players included therein, and some great pics. as well.

Definitely a must read for any BB/DW fan.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

What might have been..

By C. Ross

This thing actually moved me to tears in the last couple of chapters. What a sad, sad ending to an amazing life. What a wave, what a ride.

One of my favorite elements of this book is how Stebbins ponders a lot of 'what ifs' based on Dennis' musical collaborations that were never (or very sparsely) recorded, with people like Christine McVie, Brian Wilson, members of Chicago, and many others. Absolutely fascinating. Dennis had so many plans but ultimately lost his ambition and the ability to sing. There were lots of contributing factors (a lot more than I was aware of), and the weight of this tragedy - personally and historically - is simply heartbreaking. Dennis was, after all, an extremely generous and humble person (not to mention a brilliant composer and musician). He lived a very unique life.

I've read almost all the BB books out there but I still learned so much about the band itself from this book. Dennis' influence was very, very significant within the band. His solo material speaks for itself. His songs are so different from one another but all so good. Man...

A completely worthwhile purchase.. I lucked out and got one for \$35.00 a few weeks ago, just keep checking.

Why isn't this back in print?!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Some books have a life of their own

By W. March

Jon Stebbins has in a sense given the opportunity to meet Dennis Wilson in writing this book. Some books just grab some people and this one surely had its effect on my life. I always had an interest in "The Beach Boys" music ever since I was a kid so naturally as I grew older I became familiar with all of their albums and through discovering albums like "Sunflower" and of course "Holland" I became acquainted with the songwriting capabilities of Dennis Wilson. It was not until I read this book that I began to feel like Dennis was waiting for me to find his solo album "Pacific Ocean Blue", like he was calling out to me through the words of his life story that this author has done such a good job writing. The first time I listened to P.O.B. I liked it, but was not blown away or anything. After a few listens though the songwriting technique, vocal style, instrumentation, lyrics, and overall feeling of this man's music started to grow on me. A lot. By the time I finished this book I had an even greater appreciation for the music when you think about his life and all he must have been going through. It's amazing that he could have made music that good in the midst of a downward spiral to his own death. I often open this book to a random page and just read parts of the book even though I've already read it all the way through. It is like a Dennis Wilson song; You only learn to love it more with time, and parts that may have seemed incidental before begin shining in all their beauty. Whether or not Stebbins gets every detail right or every part of the story told is irrelevant to me. Enough of the true story of Dennis is told to then listen to the music and put the pieces together. Because of that very reason it is one of my favorite books. Highly recommended, just be careful you might get pulled in.

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Yeah, reading a book **Dennis Wilson: The Real Beach Boy By Jon Stebbins** can add your pals checklists. This is among the formulas for you to be successful. As recognized, success does not imply that you have terrific things. Recognizing as well as recognizing greater than other will offer each success. Beside, the message and perception of this Dennis Wilson: The Real Beach Boy By Jon Stebbins could be taken and also chosen to act.

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