

(Download) Billy Connolly

Billy Connolly

Von Pamela Stephenson

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #488086 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2012-06-07Erscheinungsdatum: 2012-06-07File Name: B0086VGZQ8 | File size: 30.Mb

Von Pamela Stephenson : Billy Connolly before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Billy Connolly:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. From haunted childhood to classic comedianVon Mark O'NeilBeing Scottish myself, Billy Connolly is one of my heroes. He started with nothing, having an abusive and poor childhood and he worked hard to become one of the world's most successful comedians and actors. He is best buddies with lots of Hollywood stars and his stand-up comedy shows are

always sold out in hours. But many people only see the glitz and the success. They don't realise that before his now-famous appearance on Parkinson in the 1970's, his life was very hard and he almost didn't make it. Billy's wife, Pamela, a former comedian who once appeared alongside comedians such as Rowan Atkinson and Stephen Fry, is now a clinical psychologist so when the time came to write Billy's autobiography, Pamela Stephenson-Connolly was the best person to write it. Billy would reveal his darkest secrets to his wife and she would be able to write about it and also put her training as a psychologist into practice to explain how and why things happened the way they did and how Billy's negative experiences as a child affected him in later life. That's the theory anyway but after reading the book, I think that Pamela was the WRONG person to write the book, simply because as his wife, she can't be objective and impartial. As his wife, she naturally jumps to his defence. She reveals something bad that Billy did and then says something along the lines of "but don't think badly of him because it wasn't his fault". So the observations and comments are not entirely impartial and independent because as his wife, she naturally feels obligated to stick up for her husband. But that doesn't take away the fact that this is still a very well-written book and I was shocked at some of the things Billy went through in his life. If you think you have or have had problems in life then read this book and you'll realise that your problems pale in comparison to Billy's. He was sexually abused by his father, abandoned by his mother, raised by an abusive aunt (who later became schizophrenic and ended up in a mental hospital) then as he grew up, he became an alcoholic with a side serving of drug addiction. His first marriage fell apart as his career as a banjo player, folk singer and comedian suddenly rocketed. But as the saying goes, "what goes around comes around". By the end of the book, Billy has defeated his foes and overcome his demons. He is a highly successful comedian, actor and performer. He has some of the best known names in Hollywood on his telephone speed-dial. He has a beautiful wife and great kids. His addictions have been beaten. Meanwhile, all his former tormentors in his life have died and he can finally put the ghosts to rest and be happy. What makes this book even better is that Pamela inserts snippets of songs, poems and jokes that Billy has made throughout his career. So we get to see the highlights of his 30 year performing career which made me laugh my insides out. I would have given this book 5 stars if there was a bit more objectivity and impartiality in the writing. But still a great book for true fans of the "Big Yin".

Kurzbeschreibung The inside story of the one of the most successful British stand-up comedians, as told by the person best qualified to reveal all about the man behind the comic, his wife of over 20 years Pamela Stephenson. Once in a lifetime, there strides upon the stage someone who can truly be called a legend. Such a person is the inimitable, timeless genius who is Billy Connolly. His effortlessly wicked whimsy has entranced, enthralled and split the sides of thousands upon thousands of adoring audiences. And when he isn't doing that he's turning in award-winning performances on film and television. He's the man who needs no introduction, and yet he is the ultimate enigma. From a troubled and desperately poor childhood in the docklands of Glasgow he is now the intimate of household names the world over. How did this happen, who is the real Billy Connolly? Only one person can answer that question: his wife, Pamela Stephenson. Pamela's writing combines the very personal with a frank objectivity that makes for a compelling, moving and hugely entertaining biography. This is the real Billy Connolly. This genre-defining book is now released as an ebook for a new generation of comedy fans, with a new Foreword from the author. Pamela's vision of Billy is as true now as it ever was as groundbreaking, as moving and as laugh-out-loud funny and here she brings the book fully into its context, as one of the most influential biographies ever written. Billy Connolly is loud, hilarious and contradictory. His biography, written by his wife, former comedian and practising psychotherapist Pamela Stephenson, is pretty much the same. Over the years Connolly has grown from Glasgow shipyard welder to folk-singing bearded hard man (yes there is such a thing) to darling of the good and great (or at least famous) around the world. That he is so many things to so many people while in no way compromising his core self can only be good. It would be no mean feat for Stephenson, then, to pen a history to that would satisfy Connolly audiences of fans and contemporaries from all periods of his life's journey. In most places, but in truth, not all, the author manages to do this well. The first half of the biography is somewhat anthropological in tone. Not surprisingly, a post-war Glasgow upbringing is somewhat alien to the antipodean author and Stephenson errs towards Angela's Ashes intonation as she describes her husband's tenement childhood (Scots readers may also find her regular translation of seemingly self-explanatory Scots phrases--which Connolly would use--obtuse). In contrast her examination of her experience of living with the comedian and his life from that point on is much better. Anecdotes which Connolly uses in his live shows pepper the text and laughs are raised as he tells of the time he was mistaken as a drug dealer on Speyside, of his cheeky friendships with cinema's elite and even through the more difficult times; the difficulty of balancing an almost manic humour with a troubled life. Pages turn quickly as we grow to understand more of what makes the man tick. Certainly fans of Billy Connolly will enjoy this book. It is not perfect but it is certainly entertaining and should fill a gap in the market until Billy--with his half-remembered stories and off-centre view of the world--decides to let us into his head as well as his history. There's surely one ideal way to do this and that's by writing his story himself. --Helen Lamont *Pressestimmen* "Billy Connolly is my inspiration." Eddie Izzard "Billy Connolly is quite simply the most successful popular British stand-up

comedian of modern times." The Guardian "A triumph of the will, an Angelas Ashes with punch lines." Publishers Weekly