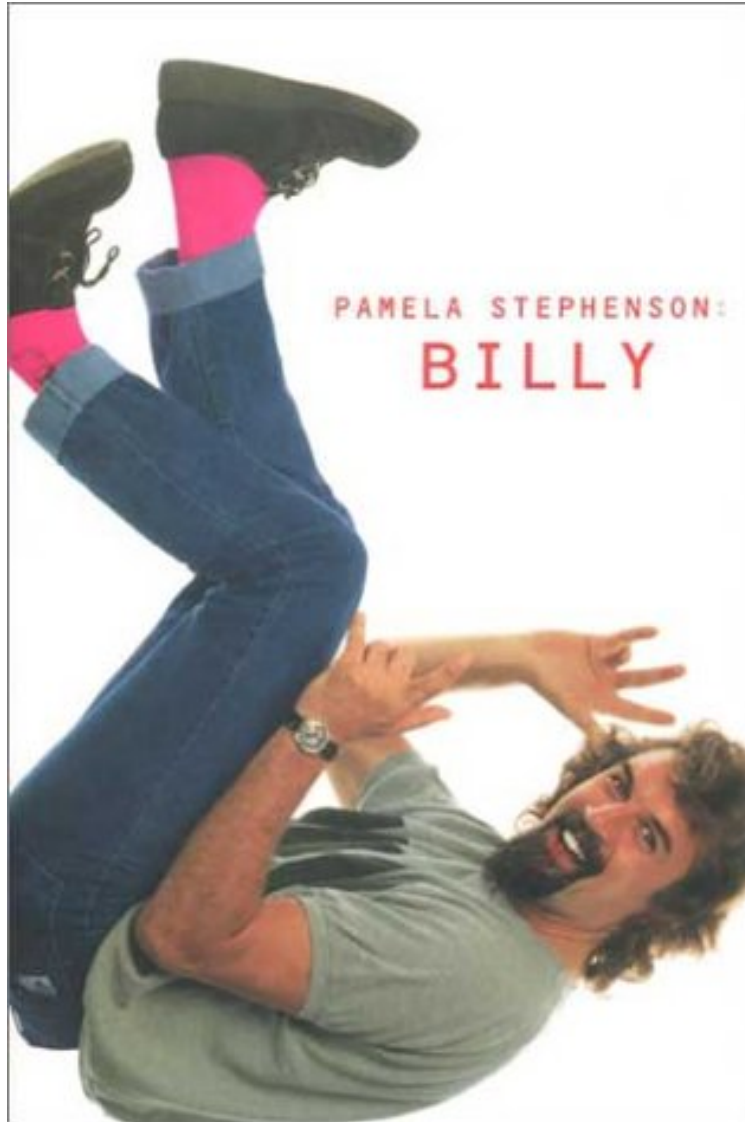


(Ebook free) Billy

## Billy

*Pamela Stephenson*

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#1336295 in Books Overlook Hardcover 2002-09-11 2002-09-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.29 x 1.15 x 6.291, 1.38 #File Name: 1585673080304 pages | File size: 60.Mb

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

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. BrilliantBy JSI have always loved Billy Connolly for both his comedy and his movies (I wish all of his comedy dvds were available for region 1!). I was very sorry to learn he had a terrible childhood and youth. But rather than merely divulging a chronological life history, his wife Pamela, a psychologist, has poignantly written his biography interwoven with insight and humor. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, I highly recommend it, and Im currently reading her sequel Bravemouth.0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. The Biggest Yin of all...By sharperoyThe story of Billy is both heart-warming and pragmatic... Many people have had a rough start in life bad beginnings and easily overcome them to be happy successful, but Billy does so with humour and dry intellect born of good common sense. He doesn't hate anyone, or feel disadvantaged in any way. To the contrary he feels very fortunate to have a beautiful talented wife, and happy well-adjusted children but always says so wi'out bein' maudlin... Billy knows no one is perfect and that's a reality check that keeps him on top of life, and helps us as well, thanks! Its one of those books that you're sorry to reach the end, and you want to know more! Watch his personal journeys around the world on DVD, I love them!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wished i had read it when it was first released, but glad I finally go to. Brilliant.By P. S. Gifford- Horror authorI will confess, up until recently I was not a fan of biographies. However, considering this was penned by the brilliant Pamela, who happens to be Billy's wife, I naturally made an exception. It portarys a stunningly insightful portal of , arguably, one of the funniest men of his, or any other, generation.

A favorite of American audiences, Billy Connolly, who now lives in Los Angeles, is the outrageous comedian whose unsurpassed comedic talent has won him countless fans. Billy, the revelatory, poignant, and wildly entertaining biography is written by the woman who knows him besthis wife. With insight and objectivity, Pamela Stephenson, a clinical psychologist, takes us through the heartbreaking and hilarious life of a comic legend and what made him the man he is today. The descriptions of Scottish life evoke the poignancy of the Ireland in Angela's Ashes as she tells of the troubled, abused. and desperately poor child in the docklands of Glasgow who grew up to shock and awe audiences around the world with his notoriously bawdy humor and a remarkable range of performances as a brilliant comic, a serious actor who played opposite Dame Judi Dench in Mrs. Brown , and the star of the U.S. television show Head of the Class.

.com 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 LamontFrom Publishers WeeklyAmerican audiences only know Billy Connolly-if they know him at all-from his HBO comedy specials, or from his role opposite Judi Dench in Mrs. Brown. But Connolly is one of England's most popular and infamous comedians. This biography, written by his wife, explains why. Connolly broke into show biz in the late 1960s with a banjo-comedy routine that he performed in Glasgow pubs. By the end of the '70s, Connolly was booking sold-out shows all around England and appearing frequently on TV and film. His antics were notorious: he looked like a hippie, swore like a sailor (he used "the 'f' word in every single sentence and double on Sundays") and drank incredible amounts of liquor (he named his comedy tours after his drink du jour: the gin tour, the brandy tour, etc.). He was also prone to singing songs like "What Does a Scotsman Wear Under His Kilt" to the tune of "Blowin' in the Wind." But, Stephenson argues, there was considerable pain behind Connolly's headline-grabbing behavior. As a child, he was abandoned by his mother and raised in a slum, subject to physical and sexual abuse from relatives. It's Connolly's past, and his strength in overcoming it, that rescues this book. What could have been a humdrum biography turns into a triumph of the will, an Angela's Ashes with punch lines. Apart from an annoying tendency to name-drop American celebrities who just adore Billy, Stephenson admirably describes a man who manages to be very funny despite very unfunny beginnings. Photos. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalIn the United States, comedian/actor Billy Connolly is best known for playing the teacher in the sitcom Head of the Class. In the U.K., however, he's a superstar, and this book was a huge best seller there. While it could use a subtitle and some tweaking for the U.S. market, it remains a candid (more matter-of-fact than melodramatic), sympathetic, and insightful biography. Credit "the unlikelihood of his extraordinary life," as well as the author: Stephenson, a performer turned psychologist, is Connolly's (second) wife. Growing up in

Glasgow, Billy suffered poverty, abandonment, and abuse. His worldview expanded in the shipyards and the army. As a banjo player on the folk scene, Billy discovered his gift for verbal and physical comedy and gained fame especially as a song parodist. Stephenson was the first to challenge him about his drinking which "turned him into a mean, violent, out-of-control nutter with psychotic rage" but he not only cleaned up, he and his new wife took custody of his two children from his first marriage. Billy, writes the author, doesn't appreciate "beige people," and, as a man who got his nipples pierced after he turned 50, he certainly isn't one himself. For most performing arts collections. Norman Oder, "Library Journal" Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.