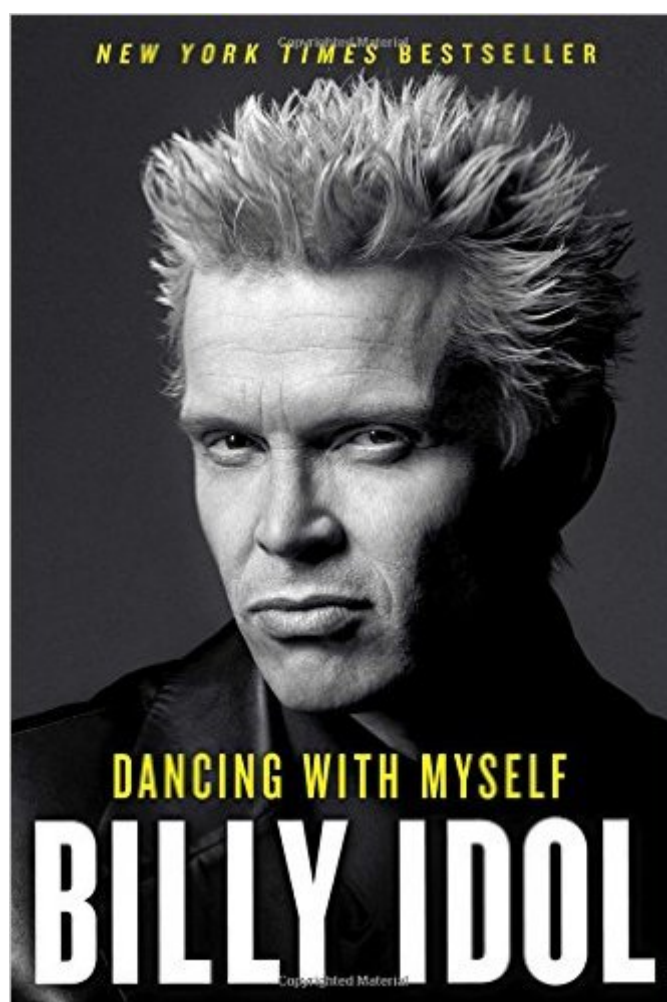


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Dancing With Myself



Synopsis

Chosen by Rolling Stone as one of the 10 Best Music Books of 2014 — That's what I'm talking about. Of all these memoirs, *Dancing With Myself* was the only one that stimulated my envy — made me want to be Billy Idol for five minutes. He's a genuine romantic, writing in a kind of overheated journalese about his London punk rock roots — and then falling head over heels for America. • (James Parker, *The New York Times Book Review*). An early architect of punk rock's sound, style, and fury, whose lip-curling sneer and fist-pumping persona vaulted him into pop's mainstream as one of MTV's first megastars, Billy Idol remains, to this day, a true rock & roll icon. Now, in his *New York Times* bestselling autobiography, *Dancing with Myself*, Idol delivers an electric, refreshingly honest • (Daily News, New York) account of his journey to fame — from his early days as front man of the pioneering UK punk band Generation X to the decadent life atop the dance-rock kingdom he ruled — delivered with the same in-your-face attitude and fire his fans have embraced for decades. Beyond adding his uniquely qualified perspective to the story of the evolution of rock, Idol is a brash, lively chronicler of his own career. A survivor's tale at its heart, this sometimes chilling and always riveting account of one man's creative drive joining forces with unbridled human desire is unmistakably literary in its character and brave in its sheer willingness to tell. With it, Billy Idol is destined to emerge as one of the great writers among his musical peers. I am hopelessly divided between the dark and the good, the rebel and the saint, the sex maniac and the monk, the poet and the priest, the demagogue and the populist. Pen to paper, I've put it all down, every bit from the heart. I'm going on out a limb here, so watch my back. • — Billy Idol

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Touchstone; Reprint edition (September 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 145162851X

ISBN-13: 978-1451628517

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews — (326 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #40,496 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Punk #14 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies >

Customer Reviews

For any hardcore Idol fan, a detailed account of the business and debauchery behind his career. A few nuggets of advice thrown in and a history lesson...it's obvious there are two sides to him. One an intelligent thinker who loves history, the other an insane out of control sneering deviant. You gotta love them both...long live BFI!

I pre-ordered this book through . I came home yesterday and it was at my door steps. I thought to myself I'll read the first chapter and finish the rest later. I couldn't put it down. As one might expect, Billy has had an amazing life, and surely has many stories to tell. in this case it is not only the stories, but the way in which he tells them that is fascinating. I can't wait to see him on tour now. He made me laugh with this book and transported me to so many vibrant places. I haven't read something this good since Duff McKagan's autobiography. If you are fascinated with the lives of Rock Stars it is a great read, even if you aren't the book is surely entertaining!

I grew up in the 80s and Billy Idol was my first crush. I used to daydream about him during school assembly: He'd barge in, push the principal off the podium, call out my name over the mic, and take me away. That was 6th grade and I didn't understand the sexual image he portrayed...I just liked what I saw. So I started plastering his posters all over my pink and green Laura Ashley wallpaper. My parents thought it was cute...I guess they were clueless too. Another reviewer posted having to wait through Boy George videos for White Wedding to come on MTV...it never even occurred to me that Boy George might be gay. Maybe I was naive, but hey I was 12 and I'm thinking many of Billy's female fans started out just like me. And time can't squash a Billy Idol thing. I call it a thing because for me (and I assume many others) it is more about him than it is about his music. Thirty years later and my husband now takes me to Billy's concerts. He puts on a great show- sound, attitude, music, looks- it is all there 100%. Now to the book: I don't know what I was expecting but it definitely was not this. He starts with his early childhood (normal and unremarkable except that his family was often in transition from one place to the next). The book soon goes into the origins of English punk. Billy was right there in the middle of it and has great insight into what was happening- explaining the fashion, ideology, and music of punk. Much of the book covers Billy's experiences from his Generation X days to his height of fame in the 80s. He broke away from his family and became successful at a young age, basically raising himself while using his surrounding punk culture and

the sleazy music scene of that era as his moral guideline. No wonder he became a drug/sex addict. He unabashedly goes into the full details of his escapades but keeps his feelings slightly out of reach from the reader's grasp. He remains mysterious, allowing his fans to continue to see him as their imaginations desire. He skims over the latter part of his career/life up to the present time so the reader doesn't get a true feel for where Billy stands today after all he went through in the eighties and nineties. He does delve a little into his personal relationships with his parents, Perri Lister, and his children, all of whom are obviously important to him. But the focus of the book is on his music and the punk/80s rock and roll culture that he helped define at the cost of almost being engulfed by it. The book is well worth reading but I couldn't give it 5 stars because I wanted more more more.

I am a man of few words. This is a fantastic book. I ordered this on my kindle last night, and I was up till the very early hours of the morning reading it. Could not put it down. Billy Idol made some of the greatest music of the 80s and 90s. If anyone was ever made to write a book of his life, it's him. Buy!!!!

A fantastic book and an even better story. In a sea of musician autobiographies woefully crafted for consumption by outside influences and ghostwriters like a disposable corporate-produced pop song, this book rises above, coming straight from the "pen" of the artist himself. Billy's intelligence and articulate nature are immediately evident in the opening pages. He's obviously a well-read and sensitive chap with a deep knowledge of history as well as the musical and artistic surroundings and influences which birthed his very own rise to fame. Truly a survivor's story and a rock 'n' roll tale of risk versus reward when you stick to your belief in yourself despite everything around you advising you otherwise. While neo-purists and the sadly misinformed may quickly dismiss Billy Idol from the ranks of punk rock pioneers and legends, his true story quickly negates such lunacy. A must read!

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