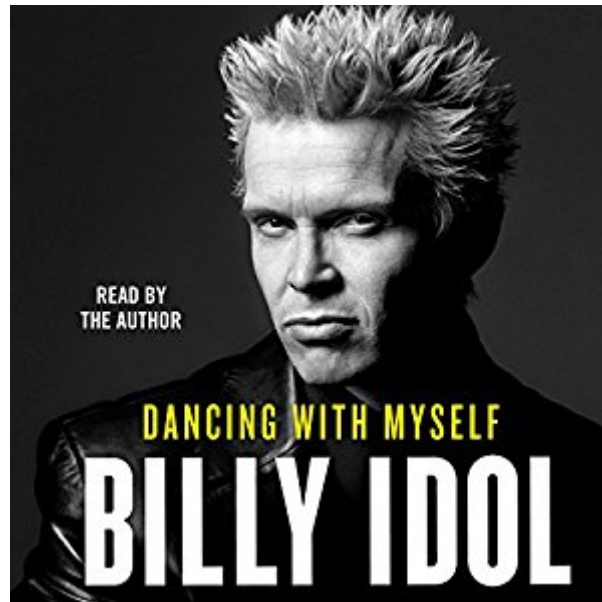




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Dancing With Myself



Synopsis

"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 out on a limb here, so watch my back." (Billy Idol) 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 'n' roll icon. Now, in his long-awaited autobiography, *Dancing with Myself*, Idol delivers an electric, searingly honest 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.

Book Information

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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've been a Billy Idol fan since 1982. He is my favorite. I still go to see him in concert when he performs nearby, and I was thrilled to hear about a new album. I've held off on writing a review of this book for a month because I needed to think about it. I will give it 3 1/2 stars. The book is well written and intelligent. Billy Idol is articulate without using an extensive amount of curse words. I appreciate that as it shows the man does have a working mind. The book was interesting and gave a great music background to the punk movement and Billy Idol's career. I can't help but feel he glossed over some of his more productive/memorable moments and most especially his friendship/work with Steve Stevens. It feels like something is missing. I do not believe the man owes me or anyone else every detail of his life. Maybe his MTV highlight years are ones he doesn't remember too well considering all the drugs. There is a depth to him that just isn't coming across in this book. It's wonderful that he appreciates and acknowledges his fans. Too few musicians and actors today forget that fans are what make you. It doesn't matter how damn brilliant you are if we aren't buying what you are selling. His personal life is his own, but I did like that he emphasized education to his kids.

I can not give this book five stars, it is choppy in some places, and should have been edited by a journalist. Some chapters are hard to follow thorough, full of cliches, long winded and repetitive in nature. However, for a first time write Billy wrote well. The book is a typical sex, drugs, fu*k the world attitude, rock and roll lifestyle. I am a Billy Idol fan and love his music, and I am glad he made it to his 60's. With his twenty year addiction to sex, heroin and crack cocaine, it is amazing he didn't die from a STD or a heart attack. Billy Idol never have a monogamous relationship with the mother of his child Perry Lister- the love of his life. Throughout their relationship he describes the many sexual escapades and orgies with prostitutes and strippers. He describes in his book, his drug fueled rages, depression, anxieties and agonizing heroin withdraws with honesty.

I've been a Bil Idol fan since he first exploded on the MTV scene; hard to believe he and I are the same age! I remember hearing "Eyes Without a Face" on the radio and was enchanted: who was this amazing singer with a voice like Jim Morrison (my favorite singer)? I've seen him three times in concert at the Hampton Beach Casino in New Hampshire and I've brought my kids and their friends. He is a great performer, puts on quite a show and looks like he himself is having a ball! And so it appears in "Dancing with Myself." I think the negative reviews are a bit harsh; true, the writing is a

bit sappy at times and the prose can get purple, but overall I think Billy is quite literary. You can tell he reads a lot and I think he wants to write (more). It's a good first attempt. I enjoy the allegories he makes and the quotes--some were very surprising (for a rock star) and delightful. The tone is overall informative and extremely upbeat, as I imagine Billy must be himself. I learned a lot, not just about Billy, but about music. I was there when punk morphed into something else, and never knew Billy helped that. He kind of created a new sound, a new genre, and explains his roots, and the changing musical scene. He was an MTV dream-come-true and no doubt propelled ratings for MTV and himself. His videos and persona are still great to watch. What I loved best of all was what I am most curious about: how do songwriters write their music? What is their inspiration? How do they create? Billy explains this process and it is fascinating. I wish I knew more about music theory to appreciate it. (I remember arguing with the DJ I hired for my wedding --on my wedding day on the dance floor--to play "White Wedding" and he refused, deeming it inappropriate. I replied, "I'm paying you to play what I want! Please! It's my day!" No way. We settled on Mony Mony.) I was saddened to know of Billy's sexual addictions that led him to have affairs even while Perri (the love of his life) was pregnant and just after his son was born. Not unusual for a rock star, I guess, but still a character flaw. Of course, the drug addictions are nothing new for a rock star either. His motorcycle accident was life changing, and I admire his relationship with his mom. Billy is very candid about everything and makes his mea culpas to all. Somehow, everything Billy writes seems upbeat. I would have liked to know more about Steve Stevens, who still tours with Billy and is AMAZING. At times he steals the show! They are a great team, and I hope Billy keeps putting on shows. He is in fantastic shape, ripped and has so much fun, and is fun. He treats his fans very well at these venues. His music sounds as good as ever. I've read autobios by Slash (horrible addictions), Duff McKagan (tender, soulful and inspirational), and Chuck Negron (no one gets as shockingly low as Chuck). Billy's bio is a walk down punk-lane: fun, nostalgic but with the usual rock-band sex and drugs. A colorful snapshot of an era of music, and a unique human being.

I have always been a Billy Idol fan, though I really didn't know much about him personally. This autobiography lays it all out... the good, the bad and the ugly. You can hear his voice on the page. At times quite full of himself, and at others humbled and open. It was great to read and I didn't want it to end. I am an even bigger fan now having heard his story.

The one and only Idol and king of the punk rock & new wave era lays his soul bare to take us on a ride through his career and foibles that would have killed the average person. In fact, if after reading

this you don't shake your head and wonder HOW he survived everything he recounts then chances are you skipped over some parts of the book. When all is said and done, this book resonates with his new CD Kings and Queens of the Underground and makes listening to that even more poignant. We come away learning that Idol is more than just the bad ass of rock & roll. He's a very learned man who is very well read. He just happened to let some elements of success and excess get to him as did ALL the stars of that era. I'm just glad he is back with vengeance in print and in the recorded medium. Let's hope he sticks around for many more years and recordings so that he can write the follow up to this book!

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