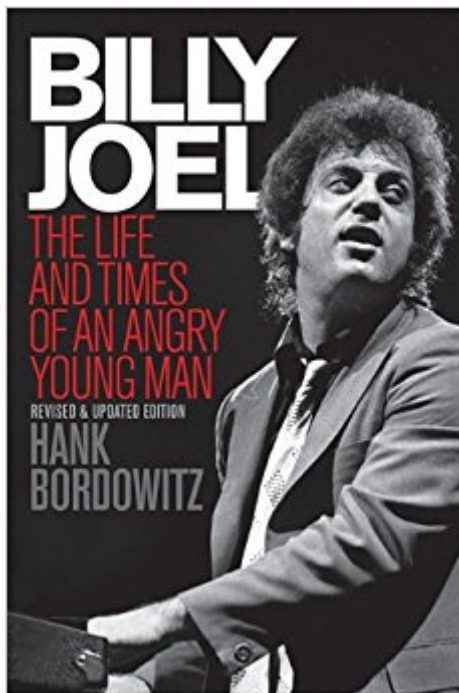




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Billy Joel: The Life And Times Of An Angry Young Man (Revised And Updated)



Synopsis

(Book). Billy Joel: The Life and Times of an Angry Young Man is a look at the superstar's entire career, including his troubled youth as a gang member; the controversy surrounding his first hit, "Captain Jack"; his legal problems; his storied marriage with Christie Brinkley; and his continued artistic frustration. "The Beatles did 'Michelle' and 'Yesterday,'" he has said. "They also did 'Revolution' and 'Helter Skelter' and they weren't pegged as balladeers. But because I had hit singles that were ballads, I became known as a balladeer. I've always resented it." Joel one of the top ten touring takes of the decade has continued his standing road date with Elton John on the never-ending Two Pianos tour. It was one of the world's top-grossing tours in 2009, just behind U2 and Bruce Springsteen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This quick and dirty biography of the Long Island kid turned American pop icon is both surprisingly intimate and quite removed. Bordowitz (Bad Moon Rising: The Unofficial History of Creedence Clearwater Revival) adopts a pugnacious and somewhat grating man's man attitude from the start, a tone that admittedly dovetails quite nicely with Joel's scrappy youth. A journeyman musician from an early age (he was born in 1949), Joel played in almost every dive and piano bar that would have him, sleeping in Laundromats when he had to. After numerous false starts and even a suicide attempt, he finally hit the charts in the early 1970s and has had steady work in the upper reaches of the music industry ever since. It all ends somewhat uncertainly, with Bordowitz not seeming to know what to make of Joel these days, what with the star's tabloid drinking problems and Broadway show.

Bordowitz didn't interview Joel, although he did speak to musicians Joel has worked with and former publicists and managers. He sticks mostly to the facts at hand, only occasionally overreaching. This work should please fans of the Piano Man who prefer their celebrity bios sans footnotes or deep analysis. Photos. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Hank Bordowitz is the international best-selling author of eight books on music, including definitive biographies of three other rock and roll Hall of Famers - Creedence Clearwater Revival, Bob Marley, and Bruce Springsteen - and soon-to-be Hall of Famers U2.

I find myself scratching my head at the reviews who say there is "nothing new" here. I've been a devout Billy Joel fanatic all my life, and there is a LOT of new info here. One thing that stands out is Billy's attempted suicide: Billy always kind of laughed the incident off, saying he "just went around farting furniture polish. I'd sit on the chair and polish the furniture." The Borowitz book reveals that (a) Billy was admitted to the hospital in a coma; (b) he did not admit himself into a mental health facility (as he long suggested) but was admitted by the authorities; (c) he did not get himself sprung (again, as Billy has suggested) but had to get his then-manager Irwin Mazur to pose as a psychologist(!) to get him out. And all of this is just the tip of the iceberg. Not to call into question the fans who say they already knew this stuff--but unless you're Billy's sister, you did NOT know all of this. And yes, band members, former managers, and family members were contacted for this book, and many of them--for a change--apparently talked. As of this writing, this is by far the most detailed Billy bio out there.

Bought this book for my husband, he loves it!

I bought this book imagining it would be another authorized biography, without many surprises. It amazed me when I read the book and found how rich in details and deepness of Billy Joel's life it is. A rare item that is not easily found. I'm in total awe. To tell you the truth in less than a month I've read this book twice. Congratulations to Mr. Hank Bordowitz for a wonderful, patient and inspired work.

Enjoyed reading the book very much. I felt the author did a good job in portraying the truth in the way He lived and worked.

Author Hank Bordowitz's glimpse into the life of the legendary Piano Man has answered more than one question for me...

I really enjoyed the story and the background of his life..... it was just a little hard to follow the chapters

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I didn't know much about Billy Joel. We are going to a concert of his. Wanted to know more about him.

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