

Ken Dodd The Biography

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Very Best of Ken Dodd

Sandra Dodd's Big Book of Unschooling is an insightful summary of her website, with hundreds of practical ideas about how to move from schoolish thinking to living a life of natural learning and joy. Its more clearly landmarked journey flows beautifully and feels deeper; more connected and personal.

What Matters Most

'Who gave the drugs to the Beatles? I didn't invent those things. I bought it from someone who got it from somebody. We never invented the stuff.' - John Lennon
Riding So High charts the Beatles' extraordinary odyssey from teenage drinking and pill-popping, to cannabis, LSD, the psychedelic Summer of Love and the darkness beyond. Drugs were central to the Beatles' story from the beginning. The acid, pills and powders helped form bonds, provided escape from the chaos of Beatlemania, and inspired colossal leaps in songwriting and recording. But they also led to break-ups, breakdowns, drug busts and prison. The only full-length study of the Beatles and drugs, Riding So High tells of getting stoned, kaleidoscope eyes, excess, loss and redemption, with a far-out cast including speeding Beatniks, a rogue dentist, a script-happy aristocratic doctor, corrupt police officers and Hollywood Vampires. 'The deeper you go, the higher you fly'

Letters from Nuremberg

Shortlisted for the Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Prize 2008
The Snowball is the first and will be the only biography of the world's richest man, Warren Buffett, written with his full cooperation and collaboration.

Combining a unique blend of "The Sage of Omaha's" business savvy, life story and philosophy, *The Snowball* is essential reading for anyone wishing to discover and replicate the secrets of his business and life success. Warren Buffett is arguably the world's greatest investor. Even as a child he was fascinated by the concept of risk and probability, setting up his first business at the age of six. In 1964 he bought struggling Massachusetts textile firm Berkshire Hathaway and grew it to be the 12th largest corporation in the US purely through the exercise of sound investing principles - a feat never equalled in the annals of business. Despite an estimated net worth of around US\$62 billion, Buffett leads an intriguingly frugal life taking home a salary of only £50,000 a year. His only indulgence is a private jet, an extravagance he wryly acknowledges by calling it "The Indefensible". In 2006, he made the largest charitable donation on record, with most of it going to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. *The Snowball* provides a comprehensive, richly detailed insight one of the world's most extraordinary and much loved public figures.

In the Psychiatrist's Chair II

Sir Kenneth "Ken" Arthur Dodd OBE, born on 8th November 1927, Knotty Ash, Liverpool, Lancashire, England, UK, was a stand-up comedian, singer and occasional actor. Dodd was described as "the last great music hall entertainer," being best known for his live stand-up performances.

The Trials and Triumphs of Les Dawson

This long-awaited memoir from one of Britain's best-loved celebrities - a writer, broadcaster, activist, comic on stage, screen and radio for nearly forty years, presenter of QI and Great British Bake Off star - is an autobiography with a difference: as only Sandi Toksvig can tell it. 'Between the Stops is a sort of a memoir, my sort. It's about a bus trip really, because it's my view from the Number 12 bus (mostly top deck, the seat at the front on the right), a double-decker that plies its way from Dulwich, in South East London, where I was living, to where I sometimes work - at the BBC, in the heart of the capital. It's not a sensible way to write a memoir at all, probably, but it's the way things pop into your head as you travel, so it's my way'. From London facts including where to find the blue plaque for Una Marson, 'The first black woman programme maker at the BBC', to discovering the best Spanish coffee under Southwark's railway arches; from a brief history of lady gangsters at Elephant and Castle to memories of climbing Mount Sinai and, at the request of a fellow traveller, reading aloud the Ten Commandments; from the story behind Pissarro's painting of Dulwich Station to performing in Footlights with Emma Thompson; from painful memoirs of being sent to Coventry while at a British boarding school to thinking about how Wombells Travelling Circus of 1864 haunts Peckham Rye; from anecdotes about meeting Prince Charles, Monica Lewinsky and Grayson Perry to Bake-Off antics; from stories of a real and lasting friendship with John McCarthy to the importance of family and the daunting navigation of the Zambezi River in her father's canoe, this Sandi Toksvig-style

memoir is, as one would expect and hope, packed full of surprises. A funny and moving trip through memories, musings and the many delights on the Number 12 route, *Between the Stops* is also an inspiration to us all to get off our phones, look up and to talk to each other because as Sandi says: 'some of the greatest trips lie on our own doorstep'.

That Will Be England Gone

The unique story of Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise – British television's most iconic double act. British television has hosted some celebrated double acts over the years – from the Two Ronnies to Reeves and Mortimer, from French and Saunders to Fry and Laurie and from Mitchell and Webb to Matt Lucas and David Walliams. But none of these acclaimed duos come within a million miles of challenging the cherished place in television's golden age occupied by Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise, whose partnership lasted from 1941 to Morecambe's death in 1984. Icons of British television in the 1970s, Eric and Ernie were, in the words of one commentator 'the most illustrious, and the best-loved, double-act that Britain has ever produced'. Louis Barfe has a gift for narrating celebrity lives in a manner that is informative and affectionate but never hagiographic. Funny, human and incisive, *Sunshine and Laughter* gets to heart of what made TV's most enduringly popular double act tick.

Amphibian Ecology and Conservation

Know someone with an antwacky stem-winder? Heard the Band of Hope Street? Ever been on a vinegar trip? Do you jangle? Ever met a Cunard yank in the Dingle? Could you pay for a dodger with a joey? Have you heard a maccyowler in a jigger? The Liverpool English Dictionary records the rich vocabulary that has evolved over the past century and a half, as part of the complex, stratified, multi-faceted and changing culture of this singular city. With over 2,000 entries from 'Abbadabba' to 'Z-Cars', the roots/routes, meanings and histories of the words of Liverpool are presented in a concise, clear and accessible format. Born and bred in Liverpool, Professor Tony Crowley has spent over thirty years compiling this bold and innovative dictionary, investigating historical lexicons, sociological studies, works of history, local newspapers, popular cultural representations, and, most importantly, the extensive 'lost' literature of the city. Illuminating, often remarkable, and always enjoyable, this book transforms our understanding of the history of language in Liverpool.

No Ordinary Man

A recording of the stand-up Ken Dodd, a non-stop blast of his comic energy.

Democrat and Diplomat

A biography of the author of the Sherlock Holmes series reveals a man of Victorian times who was loath to be remembered as the creator of Holmes

Juke Box Karma

Does God LOL? Does God even have a sense of humour? How important is laughter to the Christian life? A fantastic selection of leading comedians give their unique response to this intriguing question.

Does God LOL?

Prepare to take a journey back in time - step aboard the decks of one of the world's largest, finest, fastest and most beloved ocean liners, and relive her history in all its splendour.

Happiness and Tears

The complete history of one of the most long-lived and legendary bands in rock history, written by its official historian and publicist—a must-have chronicle for all Dead Heads, and for students of rock and the 1960s' counterculture. From 1965 to 1995, the Grateful Dead flourished as one of the most beloved, unusual, and accomplished musical entities to ever grace American culture. The creative synchronicity among Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir, Phil Lesh, Bill Kreutzmann, Mickey Hart, and Ron "Pigpen" McKernan exploded out of the artistic ferment of the early sixties' roots and folk scene, providing the soundtrack for the Dionysian revels of the counterculture. To those in the know, the Dead was an ongoing tour de force: a band whose constant commitment to exploring new realms lay at the center of a thirty-year journey through an ever-shifting array of musical, cultural, and mental landscapes. Dennis McNally, the band's historian and publicist for more than twenty years, takes readers back through the Dead's history in *A Long Strange Trip*. In a kaleidoscopic narrative, McNally not only chronicles their experiences in a fascinatingly detailed fashion, but veers off into side trips on the band's intricate stage setup, the magic of the Grateful Dead concert experience, or metaphysical musings excerpted from a conversation among band members. He brings to vivid life the Dead's early days in late-sixties San Francisco—an era of astounding creativity and change that reverberates to this day. Here we see the group at its most raw and powerful, playing as the house band at Ken Kesey's acid tests, mingling with such legendary psychonauts as Neal Cassady and Owsley "Bear" Stanley, and performing the alchemical experiments, both live and in the studio, that produced some of their most searing and evocative music. But McNally carries the Dead's saga through the seventies and into the more recent years of constant touring and incessant musical exploration, which have cemented a unique bond between performers and audience, and created the business enterprise that is much more a family than a corporation. Written with the same zeal and spirit that

the Grateful Dead brought to its music for more than thirty years, the book takes readers on a personal tour through the band's inner circle, highlighting its frenetic and very human faces. A Long Strange Trip is not only a wide-ranging cultural history, it is a definitive musical biography.

Erebus

With a cast of thousands, including Peter Cook, Ken Dodd, Dusty Springfield, Spike Milligan, Rolf Harris, Bruce Forsyth, and Reeves and Mortimer, this book reveals a world of comedians and cavorters, dancing girls, and crooners. From the early days of vaudeville, via the golden age of radio, live television spectaculars, the rise of the chat show, and alternative comedy, Louis Barfe pulls back the curtain of variety to reveal the world of light entertainment in all its glory.

Wake Up At The Back There: It's Jimmy Edwards

In 1964, a single appearance on TV talent show 'Opportunity Knocks' made 'Parrotface' comedian Freddie Davies famous overnight. Spectacular success followed, stars such as Judy Garland, Cliff Richard, even Cary Grant, were fans. But when it all began to slip in the 1980s, Freddie became a producer and then forged yet another career as a series actor. 50 years on from his television debut, Freddie finally tells his own story, revealing for the first time the tragedy behind his early days in Salford and a family secret that rocked his world. He paints a vivid picture of a gruelling apprenticeship in the Northern clubs - revealing how 'Parrotface' spluttered into life.

Britain Speaks

Robert Dallek, a luminary in the field of political biography--author of the Pulitzer Prize finalist Nixon and Kissinger and the New York Times bestselling biography of John F. Kennedy--offers here a look at the life of William Dodd, an American diplomat stationed in Nazi Germany. An insightful historical account, Democrat and Diplomat exposes the dark underbelly of 1930s Germany and explores the terrible burden of those who realized the horror that was to come. Dodd was the U.S. Ambassador to Germany from 1933 to 1937, arriving in Berlin with his wife and daughter just as Hitler assumed the chancellorship. An unlikely candidate for the job--and not President Roosevelt's first choice--Dodd quickly came to realize that the situation in Germany was far grimmer than was understood in America. His early optimism was soon replaced by dire reports on the treatment of Jewish citizens and his pessimism about the future of Germany and Europe. Finding unwilling listeners back in the U.S., Dodd clashed repeatedly with the State Department, as well as the Nazi government, during his time as ambassador. He eventually resigned and returned to America, despairing and in ill-health. Dodd's story was brought into public prominence last year by Erik Larsen's New York Times bestseller The Garden of Beasts. Dallek's

biography, first published in 1968 and now in paperback for the first time, tells the full story of the man and his doomed years in the darkness of pre-War Berlin.

Ken Dodd

'For those who fear the worst for the sport they love, this is like cool, clear water for a man dying of thirst. It's barnstorming, coruscating stuff, and as fine a book about the game as you'll read for years' Mail on Sunday 'Charming . . . a threnody for a vanished and possibly mythical England' Sebastian Faulks, Sunday Times 'Lyrical . . . [Henderson's] pen is filled with the romantic spirit of the great Neville Cardus . . . This book is an extended love letter, a beautifully written one, to a world that he is desperate to keep alive for others to discover and share. Not just his love of cricket, either, but of poetry and classical music and fine cinema' The Times 'To those who love both cricket and the context in which it is played, the book is rather wonderful, and moving' Daily Telegraph 'Philip Larkin's line 'that will be England gone' is the premise of this fascinating book which is about music, literature, poetry and architecture as well as cricket. Henderson is that rare bird, a reporter with a fine grasp of time and place, but also a stylist of enviable quality and perception' Michael Parkinson Neville Cardus once said there could be no summer in England without cricket. The 2019 season was supposed to be the greatest summer of cricket ever seen in England. There was a World Cup, followed by five Test matches against Australia in the latest engagement of sport's oldest rivalry. It was also the last season of county cricket before the introduction in 2020 of a new tournament, The Hundred, designed to attract an audience of younger people who have no interest in the summer game. In *That Will Be England Gone*, Michael Henderson revisits much-loved places to see how the game he grew up with has changed since the day in 1965 that he saw the great fast bowler Fred Trueman in his pomp. He watches schoolboys at Repton, club cricketers at Ramsbottom, and professionals on the festival grounds of Chesterfield, Cheltenham and Scarborough. The rolling English road takes him to Leicester for T20, to Lord's for the most ceremonial Test match, and to Taunton to watch an old cricketer leave the crease for the last time. He is enchanted at Trent Bridge, surprised at the Oval, and troubled at Old Trafford. 'Cricket,' Henderson says, 'has always been part of my other life.' There are memories of friendships with Ken Dodd, Harold Pinter and Simon Rattle, and the book is coloured throughout by a love of landscape, poetry, paintings and music. As well as reflections on his childhood hero, Farokh Engineer, and other great players, there are digressions on subjects as various as Lancashire comedians, Viennese melancholy and the films of Michael Powell. Lyrical and elegiac, *That Will Be England Gone* is a deeply personal tribute to cricket, summer and England.

Turned Out Nice Again

In this ruthlessly honest bestseller, the bass player for the greatest improvisational band in American history tells the full, true story of his life, Jerry Garcia, and the Grateful Dead.

The Neutron and the Bomb

Stairlift to Heaven (The journal of an OAP.) Although this book is written by an old age pensioner, non-coffin dodgers should not be put off. Everyone will be old someday, and there are valuable lessons in coping with old age to be learned here. Written by Terry Ravenscroft, former scriptwriter to Les Dawson, The Two Ronnies, Morecambe and Wise. Stairlift to Heaven has been likened by one reviewer to be 'Like Last of the Summer Wine on cocaine' Review by Pauline R for Readers Favorite. Stairlift to Heaven is an irreverent, hilarious look about one man's life after retirement. He pokes fun at everything, no one and nothing is spared including how to silence the neighbour's barking dog, telephone salespeople and Christmas carolers. His long suffering wife, known as 'The Trouble', provides a perfect foil of sanity against the mad antics of the author and his friend Atkins. Like a grumpy old man on funny pills Terry punctures the ridiculousness of life. A particular favorite is a visit to a faith healer and an examination of the concept of a Nuclear Free Zone. There is enough in "Stairlift to Heaven" to keep the whole world laughing.

Funny Bones

Juke Box Karma: One writer's search for something real is 'a search for meaning by a writer coming of age at a time when this elusive prize seemed the object most worthy of pursuit' Follow poet, playwright and screenwriter James Vollmar as he shares his journey from the small Northamptonshire town of his childhood through the black-and-white world of radio request shows, early TV and seaside holidays in 1960's Cromer, with its magical juke box, to the colour, chaos and cultural ferment of 1970's London and beyond. In the wake of the deaths of both his parents, and drawing inspiration from sources as diverse as Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, the Beatles, William Blake and Ken Dodd, Vollmar explores a philosophical landscape of religion, politics, rationalism and alternative culture in search of 'something real'. Blending personal memoir and cultural commentary with philosophical enquiry, Juke Box Karma: One writer's search for something real is a journey in every sense of the word and will appeal to all interested in the culture of the 1960s and 1970s.

The Assistant

A young horse discovers that whatever our differences, love connects us all. What matters most of all to you? What matters most to me? Let's take a look around us, and maybe we will see. A small horse and a large horse celebrate their unconditional love in a sweet story full of gentle rhymes and foil-embellished illustrations. Beloved children's book creator Emma Dodd explores important themes of identity and belonging in this warm and uplifting story of love.

The Snowball

Every British comic actor that followed Will Hay owes Hay a debt of gratitude -- for it was Hay who defined the modern essence of British comedy. Working closely with Hay's family, Graham Rinaldi's definitive tribute to the respected comic actor, takes a close look into Hay's on-screen and off-screen personae. Drawing upon Hay's own writings -- newspaper articles, notes from his astronomy observations and pilot's logbooks and extracts from his unfinished and previously unpublished autobiography "I Enjoyed Every Minute" -- the book gives a unique insight into Hay's childhood, his continuous thirst for knowledge and his passion for aviation, astronomy and comedy. The book is illustrated throughout with previously unpublished photographs from Hay's family albums including a rare photograph of Hay with Amy Johnson, plus memorabilia from his performing career. Extensive research into Hay's stage work includes extracts from his original Fourth Form at St Michaels sketches, The Will Hay Radio Programme and, for the first time, from all of his revue and variety shows including Nosey Knows and Moonstruck for Fred Karno. Each of Hay's 18 films is examined, with insightful information regarding their production, written extracts from deleted scenes (including for the first time in their entirety the missing sequences from Ask a Policeman,) previously unpublished stills and interviews with those who worked with him from Val Guest, Leslie Gilliat and Roy Ward Baker to Dame Thora Hird, Barry Morse and Googie Withers. Did you know that in addition to creating the mould for British comedy, that Hay was an accomplished astronomer, linguist and pilot? No? Then you must read this book about one of British film's most fascinating characters!

Simon Cadell

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • ONE OF ESSENCE'S 50 MOST IMPACTFUL BLACK BOOKS OF THE PAST 50 YEARS In this iconic memoir of his early days, Barack Obama "guides us straight to the intersection of the most serious questions of identity, class, and race" (The Washington Post Book World). "Quite extraordinary."—Toni Morrison In this lyrical, unsentimental, and compelling memoir, the son of a black African father and a white American mother searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black American. It begins in New York, where Barack Obama learns that his father—a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man—has been killed in a car accident. This sudden death inspires an emotional odyssey—first to a small town in Kansas, from which he retraces the migration of his mother's family to Hawaii, and then to Kenya, where he meets the African side of his family, confronts the bitter truth of his father's life, and at last reconciles his divided inheritance. Praise for *Dreams from My Father* "Beautifully crafted . . . moving and candid . . . This book belongs on the shelf beside works like James McBride's *The Color of Water* and Gregory Howard Williams's *Life on the Color Line* as a tale of living astride America's racial categories."—Scott Turow "Provocative . . . Persuasively describes the phenomenon of belonging to two different worlds, and thus belonging to neither."—The New York Times Book Review "Obama's writing is incisive yet forgiving. This is a book worth savoring."—Alex Kotlowitz, author of *There Are No Children Here* "One of the most powerful books of self-discovery I've ever read, all the more so for its illuminating insights into the problems not only of race, class, and color, but of culture and ethnicity. It is also beautifully written, skillfully layered, and paced like a good

novel.”—Charlayne Hunter-Gault, author of *In My Place* “*Dreams from My Father* is an exquisite, sensitive study of this wonderful young author’s journey into adulthood, his search for community and his place in it, his quest for an understanding of his roots, and his discovery of the poetry of human life. Perceptive and wise, this book will tell you something about yourself whether you are black or white.”—Marian Wright Edelman

Sandra Dodd's Big Book of Unschooling

When Simon Cadell announced to the world that he may have only days to live, it signalled the end of a twenty-year stage career that had just seen its finest hour-winning an Olivier Award for *Travels With My Aunt*. The British public had fallen in love with the charms of Cadell as Jeffrey Fairbrother, part of the hugely successful sitcom *Hi-de-hi!*, constantly dodging the amorous advances of Ruth Madoc's Gladys Pugh. But behind the lop-sided smile lay a man full of nerves and insecurity about the looks that ultimately defined his television career. As the hapless civil servant Mr Dundridge, in *Blott on the Landscape* he displayed perfect incompetence played to perfection, brought to triumph by his naked escape from the clutches of Lady Maud as played by Geraldine James. Equally adept at Shakespeare and Chekhov as he was with Whitehall-style farces, Cadell's was a highly respected stage career achieved via a relentless workload. His many appearances as Noel Coward earned him a reputation as the definitive Coward interpreter, something he had first turned his hand to at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. With access to family photographs and documentation, and sourced by numerous interviews, *Simon Cadell: The Authorised Biography* tells for the first time the story of a fourth generation actor who oozed charm and had a zest for a life that was cut tragically short at the peak of his powers.

Fleetwood

This practical manual of amphibian ecology and conservation brings together a distinguished, international group of amphibian researchers to provide a state-of-the-art review of the many new and exciting techniques used to study amphibians and to track their conservation status and population trends. The integration of ecology and conservation is a natural outcome of the types of questions posed by these disciplines: how amphibians can and should be sampled, marked, and followed through time; how abundance and population trends are measured; what are the robust statistical methods that can be used in ecology and conservation; what roles do amphibians play in community structure and function; how do animals function in their environment; and what affects the long-term persistence of species assemblages? Although emphasizing field ecology, sections on physiological ecology, genetics, landscape ecology, and disease analysis are also included. The book describes the latest statistical approaches in amphibian field ecology and conservation, as well as the use of models in interpreting field research. Much of this information is scattered in the scientific literature or not readily available, and the intention is to provide an affordable, comprehensive synthesis for use by graduate students, researchers,

and practising conservationists worldwide.

Dreams from My Father

One of rock's master musicians describes how he nurtured his band, Fleetwood Mac, as it dominated the late 1960s, came back in the 1980s, and survives into the 1990s

Between the Stops

The Doctor and the Detective

Newly divorced Jo is delighted to move into her best friend's spare room almost rent-free. The high-tech luxury Camden flat is managed by a meticulous tech tool, a Home Assistant called Electra, who takes care of the heating and the lights - sometimes Jo even turns to her for company. Then, late one night, Electra speaks one sentence that rips Jo's fragile world in two: I KNOW WHAT YOU DID. Jo is horrified, because in her past she DID do something terrible. Something unforgivable. Only two other people in the whole world know her secret. And they would never tell anyone. Would they? As a fierce winter brings London to a standstill, Jo begins to understand that the Assistant on the shelf doesn't just want to control her; it wants to destroy her

Pre:Fab!

Ken Dodd is a national institution, yet very few people really know the man behind the famous 'tickling stick'. Now, for the first time, the Squire of Knotty Ash provides a rare insight into his life of laughter, talking about his career and those who inspired him.

Lusitania

HOW DO YOU BEAT THE BULLIES AND THE BIGOTS? HERE'S HOW. The heart-breaking, inspirational (and very funny) story of the man who overcame so much, and won a very special place in a nation's heart. 'A proper delight to read: honest, revealing, human, and always, at its heart, funny.' NEIL GAIMAN *** In his long-awaited autobiography, Sir Lenny Henry tells the extraordinary story of his early years and sudden rise to fame. Born soon after his Jamaican parents had arrived in the Midlands, Lenny was raised as one of seven siblings in a boisterous working household, and sent out into the world with his

mum's mantra of 'H'integration! H'integration! H'integration!' echoing in his ears. But 1970s Britain was a hard place, and a bewildering experience for a lone black teenager. A natural ability to make people laugh came in handy. At school it helped subdue the daily racist bullying. In the park, it led to lifelong friendships and occasional snogs. Soon, it would put him on stage at working men's clubs and Black Country discotheques -before an invitation to a TV audition changed his life for ever. ***BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week***

Ken Dodd: How Ticked I Am!

The first ever narrative biography of a towering figure in British comedy Les Dawson, more than any other comedian, spoke for the phlegmatic, pessimistic British way of life. A Northern lad who climbed out of the slums thanks to an uncommonly brilliant mind, he was always the underdog, but his bark was funnier and more incisive than many comics who claimed to bite. Married twice in real life, he had a third wife in his comic world—a fictional ogre built from spare parts left by fleeing Nazis at the end of World War II—and an equally frightening mother-in-law. He was down to earth, yet given to eloquent, absurd flights of fancy. He was endlessly generous with his time, but slow to buy a round of drinks. He was a mass of contradictions. In short, he was human, he was genuine, and that's why audiences loved him. This is his story.

Who am I, again?

The senior U.S. senator from Connecticut provides an insider's glimpse of the famed Nuremberg trials, based on the letters of his father, a prosecutor at the trials, to his mother, offering insights into the daily events in the courtroom, the Nazi war criminals who were on trial, and the standards of justice and international rules of law exemplified by Nuremberg. Reprint. 30,000 first printing.

The Liverpool English Dictionary

From a Storm to a Hurricane

In this, the first serious biographical assessment of Ken Dodd since the death of the feather duster-wielding Liverpudlian in spring 2018, respected historian of British light entertainment Louis Barfe charts the life and extraordinarily long comedic career of a man whose career straddled the very tail end of variety and the golden age of television comedy. When Dodd died, social media divided into two camps: those who wondered what all the fuss was about, and those who had seen him in live performance. Barfe argues that Dodd was the last of the great variety acts, a creator of superb absurd vulgarity who

was at his best not on the small screen but on stage, where his act – 'a rolling boil of cumulative humour' – delighted his audiences across seven decades. This is the definitive life of the man called 'the last great music-hall entertainer', and a true British eccentric, who beat his audiences into submission with stand-up shows that stretched into the wee small hours of the morning.

Searching for the Sound

This is the first complete biography of the last of the great British comedians. A new generation of fans and comedians, including Johnny Vegas, Victoria Wood and Vic Reeves, are now rediscovering Dodd's unique talents. Dodd has a huge and fiercely loyal fanbase and is still touring the country, performing in packed venues an average of two nights a week with his legendary four-hour sets. 'I do it because that is what I do. I do it because that is what I am,' he said, when asked why he continues with this punishing schedule. Ken Dodd's career has spanned over five decades as he went from singer to actor, and presently, most famously, comedian. He is considered the last, great, music-hall-inspired variety comic, but what drives this man whose career has been tainted by hardship? Dodd still lives in his childhood home of Knotty Ash and has never married, despite having two-long term fiancés. In 1989, his strange relationship to money culminated in a trial for tax evasion, and he was also famously stalked by a mystery woman. How did this feather-duster salesman become one of the most loved, though least-lauded, British comedians of all time? Stephen Griffin interviewed friends, colleagues and fellow comedians to get inside the mind of the original Diddyman.

Will Hay

This is the first biography of Sir James Chadwick (1891-1974), the discoverer of the neutron and Nobel Laureate. His central role in the unfolding drama of nuclear physics is reflected in his publications and correspondence with other leading figures like Bohr and Rutherford. Chadwick's researches in radioactivity began as an 18-year old student, and culminated within four years with the observation of the continuous beta-spectrum - a finding which caused long and furious debate. In the 1920s, Chadwick rose to be the operations director of the Cavendish Laboratory under Rutherford's leadership. The discovery of the neutron came from an intense burst of work in 1932, after a decade of disappointment. While he changed the course in science, Chadwick's life was moulded by great events. In 1914 he was studying with Geiger in Berlin and spent the next four years in a remarkable internment camp. In the Second World War, he became Britain's foremost authority on the atomic bomb, and her chief scientist on the Manhattan Project. His voluminous correspondence gives a unique feeling of the tensions of those years, both for scientists and politicians. Chadwick's profound influence on atomic policy continued after the war, his career ended with the controversial mastership of a Cambridge college. This biography draws on Chadwick's extensive correspondence with many of the leading scientists of his day, and offers a fascinating insight into the life and

work of the man who discovered the neutron.

Sunshine and Laughter

The complete inside story of one of the biggest bands of the Merseybeat era.

Look at it My Way

“ Jimmy Edwards was a Great British Entertainer ” Ken Dodd “ Not merely a peculiarly British comedian but an authentic English character ” The Times The holder of the Distinguished Flying Cross, in recognition of his World War Two career with the RAF, Jimmy Edwards came to fame as an exuberant and bombastic, trombone-playing comedian in the 1940s, with early success at London’s Windmill Theatre. He went on to star on radio in Take It from Here and on television in Whacko! as the cane-happy headmaster of a run-down school for the sons of gentlemen. He was definitely politically incorrect and audiences loved him for it. While Jimmy authored two autobiographies, Wake Up at the Back There!: It’s Jimmy Edwards is the first book-length study of the comedian, providing both a full biography and a critical appraisal. For the first time, the full Jimmy Edwards story is told, with documentation on his relationship with his family, his domestic life, his “outing” as gay, and the man in his life. Jimmy Edwards was a complex human being, who embraced alcoholism perhaps as a means of handling his homosexuality. Ultimately, the gay life proved more of a concern to Jimmy than to his audience, while the drinking helped create a persona that the same audience loved and accepted. Presently and sadly, it would seem that Jimmy’s homosexuality has tended to diminish his legacy not only as a major British comedian but also as a genuine World War Two hero.

Riding So High

The successful defence of former Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe, on charges of conspiracy to murder, made George Carman QC famous. His mastery of cross-examination and speech-making succeeded in winning him a string of high-profile cases that earned him the titles of Great Defender and King of Libel.

Stairlift to Heaven

Pre:Fab! is a memoir which tells the story of Colin Hanton’s formative years up to and including his career with John Lennon’s Quarry Men. Colin Hanton related his memories over a period of two years to Colin Hall and as a team they worked together to piece together Colin Hanton’s fascinating story. As such it is an insight not only into Colin and John’s

early musical adventures but a vivid social history of war-time and post war Liverpool/ Britain. Colin was a Quarry Man when both Paul McCartney and George Harrison joined the group. Colin tells the story of these heady days and history-in-the-making days in this book. Colin Hanton and Colin Hall were both Liverpool born and bred. Colin Hanton was born in 1938 and became the drummer in John Lennon's very first group, The Quarry Men. He drummed for three years between 1956-1959, during which time Paul McCartney and George Harrison joined the band. In 1958 Colin Hanton played on the very first single that John, Paul and George ever recorded – their version of Buddy Holly's "That'll Be The Day" and a Paul McCartney and George Harrison tune, "In Spite of All Danger", which happened to be the only song that Paul and George ever wrote together. Colin Hall is a former and current resident of Woolton and the Wirral. He read Law at the University of Liverpool, graduating in 1970. For 14 years Colin Hall has been the custodian for 'Mendips', John Lennon's former childhood home in Liverpool which is owned by the National Trust. It was donated to the Trust by Yoko Ono in 2003. Before this he managed rock musicians Sam Genders and Liam Bailey (who wrote and sang "Blind Faith" for Chase and Status, and was signed to Amy Winehouse's record label). For years Colin has written music features and reviews for R2 and before that What's On In London and Get Rhythm. Colin and his wife Sylvia (who is the custodian for Paul McCartney's former home) are currently Liverpool City Region 'Tourism Stars of the Year, 2017'. Colin was a lead member of Bob Harris's research team on his Sony Radio Award winning BBC Radio 2 documentary, "The Day John Met Paul."

A Long Strange Trip

Driven by a passion for travel and history and a love of ships and the sea, former Monty Python stalwart and beloved television globe-trotter Michael Palin explores the world of HMS Erebus, last seen on an ill-fated voyage to chart the Northwest Passage. Michael Palin brings the fascinating story of the Erebus and its occupants to life, from its construction as a bomb vessel in 1826 through the flagship years of James Clark Ross's Antarctic expedition and finally to Sir John Franklin's quest for the holy grail of navigation—a route through the Northwest Passage, where the ship disappeared into the depths of the sea for more than 150 years. It was rediscovered under the arctic waters in 2014. Palin travels across the world—from Tasmania to the Falkland Islands and the Canadian Arctic—to offer a firsthand account of the terrain and conditions that would have confronted the Erebus and her doomed final crew. Delving into the research, he describes the intertwined careers of the two men who shared the ship's journeys: Ross, the organizational genius who mapped much of the Antarctic coastline and oversaw some of the earliest scientific experiments to be conducted there; and Franklin, who, at the age of sixty and after a checkered career, commanded the ship on its last disastrous venture. Expertly researched and illustrated with maps, photographs, paintings, and engravings, Erebus is an evocative account of two journeys: one successful and forgotten, the other tragic yet unforgettable.

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