

High Hopes *by* Billy Hopkins



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Author: Billy Hopkins

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Reviews of the **High Hopes** *by* Billy Hopkins

Reddefender

Excellent, thank you

Arith

You need to begin with reading Kates story and work your way through this family saga. They are all brilliant books written well

wanderpool

Heck, what can I add to a review like this one, culled from Amazon-across-the Pond? . . . Except to say: make sure you check out Billy's website (try, Author Billy Hopkins on Google)- it's worth an accolade all of its own!

WARRINGTON GUARDIAN

CHRISTMAS 2000

More High Hopes for Billy

by Alan Domville

When Wilfred Hopkins self-published his first semi-autobiographical book, OUR KID two years ago, he had no idea it would ultimately project him to national fame. Perhaps Bryson, Archer and McCourt all felt the same on their literary debuts.

I rarely spot a winner myself but in this case, I wrote that his book would be a certain hit especially with anyone who grew up in the north west in the 1930s, 40s and 50s - and I looked forward to a sequel. Sales were rather better than Wilf, then writing under the name of Tim Lally, anticipated - but word then got to Headline, part of Hodder, who concurred with my view; two years ago it was republished under the more appropriate pen-name of Billy Hopkins.

Sales rocketed last Christmas and a few weeks ago, sales of that book had topped 150,000 putting him among the nation's top 12 most popular writers - and Wilf, who lives with his wife Clare in retirement in Southport, had become a literary success at 71.

That much-awaited sequel has now duly arrived in the bookshops. It's just right to capture the Christmas market - but not surprisingly it already appearing in the lists of top 10 best sellers compiled in the Sunday supplements and by our larger retailers.

HIGH HOPES, tracing the next stage of our Hoppy's life - firstly at teacher training college in London and then as a rookie teacher in a tough area of Manchester is even more riveting than Wilf's first book.

Our hero is stunned by treatment he receives at the hands of his utterly wayward and unruly first class comprising seniors only four years younger than himself - but how he wins them over is filled with poignancy and hilarity and the end of term farewell is pure Hollywood.

Most of this actually happened - though Wilf throws in a totally fictitious yet so meaningful old-fashioned romantic relationship with a staff colleague for good measure - and that features another round of hilarity at a musical "at home".

FASCINATING

What was especially fascinating about Wilf's first book and also this follow-up are the continual reminders of one's past - the events of the time, the cars, the shows, the films, the advertisements, the cigarette packets and so on.

They add up to a veritable treasury of nostalgic, happy thoughts.

But Wilf also has a special gift for relating emotion be it happiness, hope, fear or despair and fully involving the reader.

Did I mention Bryson, Archer and McCourt? I bet each of them had wished they'd written this one. And guess what? - there's more to come.

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