



Billie Jo

Kimberley Chambers

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Terry, the lucky villain with a heart of gold, is riding for a fall in this marvellous down-to-earth first novel, full of humour, warmth, sexual shenanigans — and violence. Kimberley Chambers is a talent to match Martina Cole.

From the Paperback edition.

Billie Jo Details

Date : Published August 5th 2008 by Preface Publishing (first published July 3rd 2008)

ISBN : 9781848091108

Author : Kimberley Chambers

Format : Hardcover 400 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Thriller

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From Reader Review Billie Jo for online ebook

Mo says

I am a huge fan of Kimberley Chambers. This is her first published book. It was good but I felt it definitely lacked the finesse of her later books. I guess "practice makes perfect"! It did not seem to flow as well as her later books (Butlers, O'Hara's and Mitchells). Maybe it was the editing of the kindle edition I was reading ... felt a bit stilted. One minute you were reading about one character and then had to jump to another one without any real clarity. Saying that, it was a good read and totally in her style.

He never felt Irish and having never really lived there, he classed himself as an Englishman. Irishmen reminded him of his drunken father.

OK. Going on a fucking rant here now.... every fucking Irish character in this book was portrayed as a fucking drunk! WHY? JUST WHY THE FUCK WHY? It really gets my fucking goat up when authors portray the Irish as DRUNKS. Yeah, we enjoy a drink but so do other nationalities... fucking stereotypical SHITE ANNOYS THE FUCK OUT OF ME. There was Nan, Bridie, the brother, Terry's mother, his father I really hate it. OK, Chell liked her booze too and she was a Brit but to have EVERY Irish person portrayed as a drunk was as annoying as fuck for me. Oh, by the way, we love to curse too, as I can fucking attest to!!!!

RANT FUCKING OVER!

I like her music references.

As Terry Keane went to sleep that night, he was positive that he'd endured the worst of the festive season. Unfortunately for him, the nightmare had only just begun.

"You dinlo"

June Jones says

Another excellent book from Kimberley Chambers, cannot fault her work, work recommend

Ben Hurren says

A really good story. I've only read two of Kimberley Chambers' books so I'm not a massive follower but this was great. Bit heavy on the language at times but the story came together well and it was a good read.

Elaine says

5 Stars

Billie Jo is the adored only child of wealthy villain, Terry, and Michelle, the drunken wife he hates. Knowing how much Billie Jo dreads her parents' fights, Terry imagines that she'll understand when he tells her he is going to leave Michelle to marry his pregnant secretary.

But fate is about to deal a terrible hand and change everything in a way Terry has not planned at all, leaving Billie Jo's protected world in tatters.

Set in a world of villains and chancers, Kimberley Chamber's brilliant first novel is a rollercoaster read you will not want to put down.

My thoughts

What can I say about a Kimberley Chambers book except.....

Aileen says

All the usual characters, the drunken mum, idolising father, princess daughter, no-good boyfriend with the diamond best mate and the villains in the background, set in the Essex towns. This was actually a very good read. I could feel sympathy with the main character and really wanted things to work out for her in the end. I'm not sure if there is a follow-up, the story did end tidily, but there is scope for another one. I'll have to investigate.

mcdl says

Struggled to get past the first pages. This book is one of the worst I have come across. Full of clichés, terrible banal dialogues, poorly written, and pathetically predictable. I cannot understand how this rates so high.

Zoe says

If you're a fan of Martina Cole and Jessie Keane - this is for you. This features the usual cliché characters you find in all the "underworld" books and had a simple approach to the writing. Due to the writing style, I found it very easy to get through this despite it being predictable.

If you're sensitive to bad language and sexual violence, I'd avoid this but these sort of books are all about being shocking and brutal in the descriptions. The storyline wasn't overly riveting but I certainly enjoyed the read!

Joey Woolfardis says

Struggled to get past the second chapter. Full of clichés and the worst dialogue I think I've ever come across. Usually a quick read like this would be no problem and I'd get through it within a couple of hours, but this is just detritus of the highest order. For someone who can say "cunt" easily the main character really gets his middle-class boots on when he alone. "A poxy night" indeed.

Francesca says

Loved it! As soon as I got hooked it was a page turner. I will read more by this writer.

Lainy says

Time Taken To Read - 1.5 days

Blurb From Goodreads

Billie Jo is the adored only child of wealthy villain, Terry, and Michelle, the drunken wife he hates. Knowing how much Billie Jo dreads her parents' fights, Terry imagines that she'll understand when he tells her he is going to leave Michelle to marry his pregnant secretary.

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My Review

This is my first encounter with Kimberley Chambers. I love Mandasue Heller and Martina Cole and was told if I like them I will like this lady, well they weren't wrong. The writing is not the same as Martina (I still like her but in recent time have found things a little samey), but like the other authors mentioned she spins a gritty crime story that pulls you in pretty much from the get go.

Billie Jo is a young girl who dotes on her dad, her mum is a booze addled horrible woman who has little time for Billie Jo and filled with hate. After an untimely accident their lives are changed and Billie Jo falls for a man who seems to good to be true. What follows is a gritty tale of lies, deceit, sex, drugs and betrayal.

I really found it hard to put this book down, (seriously, I was to be up early for work and 2am was still reading, I was so engrossed) the writing isn't the best I have read but this was the authors first book and the story overshadows any small blips you might come up against. She has a talent that is evident from very early on in the book and the characters (whether you are rooting for them or wanting to deck them) are strong and well shaped. I have another book by this author (I, for once am going to follow the sequence of when they were wrote) and it won't be my last, 4/5 for me this time. P.s this cover isn't the same as the one I have (mine is listed as the kindle cover for some reason).

Bev Taylor says

her dad's a villain. she's his princess. their world is about to crash

billie jo adores her father terry. a wealthy villain with a heart of gold locked in a loveless marriage with an alcoholic.

her has a mistress jade, who becomes pregnant and he promises that once billie jo is 16 they will all live together

but fate intervenes and the planned future bleeds away. billie jo is lead on by an up and coming gangster danny, who is full of himself and treats her accordingly. she seems to attract the bad un's like a magnet and cannot appreciate the good ones

she too ends up pregnant and her mother throws her out. as things go from bad to worse what can she do and who should she turn to to help herself out of this mess?

great characterisation though a bit repetitive and drawn out at times

as the novel develops it is obvious what will happen and how it will end

just surprised that billie jo did not change her mobile phone. also ending was left up in the air

bev

John Roberts says

What a brilliant book. I can see why Kimberley is adored by crime fiction fans. The book was very emotive at times n even left on a knife edge with Danny plotting revenge. I highly recommend this book! What a great way to start the year off!

~ Cariad ~ says

These London gangland style audiobooks completely do it for me!
Kimberley Chambers - you are an awesome storyteller.

Without a doubt my favourite audio genre - any recommendations for more of them gratefully received! (But there can't be many left that I haven't listened to!)

Also have to say (again!!) having Annie Aldington narrate them for you... **PERFECTION!**

Helen Christmas says

This is first book I've read by this author and I loved it. The characters felt so real they almost leapt off the page and combined with an amusing East End dialect throughout, it was a pleasure to read. I would describe it not as a gangland thriller, but a deeply moving story in a gangland setting. The central character, Billie Jo is one I really came to care about, with scenes that stirred my emotions. This to me is the sign of a good writer, one whose stories evoke intense sadness and burning hate. Danny was such a scum bag, it left me feeling murderous but at the same time, gunning for Billie Jo, whose sweet innocence shines through. Gripping and moving at the same time, I couldn't put it down and enjoyed every page right up until the end. Parts of the story struck a nerve...

I will definitely be reading more books by this author and delighted to discover someone new.

Yvonne Simcox says

Really enjoyed this book .. shall be reading more of her books
