

BILLY CHEN

by

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ADAPTED FROM HIS BOOK

BILLY CHEN AND THE HOLY WARS

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RUN MAIN TITLES

EXT – TREE LINED AVENUE – LIVERPOOL – 2006 – DAY

(VO)
Sounds of passing traffic.

POV scans along a long tree lined avenue where CHILDREN are leaving their houses for school.

POV settles on a detached house.

BILLY CHEN a ten year old, half Chinese boy in school uniform appears from a terraced house.

After checking his school bags, his Chinese mother WENDY CHEN, thirty years old, waves him goodbye.

BILLY makes his way along the avenue towards a large school playing field.

Before he reaches the school playing field TWO GIRLS appear from a house and join him.

(VO)
Sounds of passing traffic fade out.

(VO)Music Fade in.
Such as “Keep in Running” The Spencer Davis Group

The three walk on towards the school playing field.

EXT – SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD – LATER – DAY

As BILLY and the TWO GIRLS begin to cross the playing field en-route to his school, a DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS chase after them.

BILLY frightened by the DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS screaming at him, breaks into a run.

The TWO GIRLS leave BILLY and move out of the way of the chasing DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS.

BOY 1
(Screaming)

(OS)
Yuh big sissy – Let’s ‘ave ‘im!

GIRL 1
(Screaming)

(OS)
Yeah Chinko, yeah let’s ‘ave ‘im.

BOY 2
(Shouting)

(OS)
Cum’on, let’s get the slit eyed pansy.

As the DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS close in on BILLY they begin to chant.

(OS)
Chinky...chinky... chinky.

BILLY runs faster, to the school gates not far ahead.

The DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS scream louder as some close in on him.

SIX OF THE THEM have lagged behind laughing at BILLY running hard towards the school.

Some of BILLY'S books drop.

BILLY stops to pick them up, the DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS stomp on them.

BILLY runs away towards the school.

EXT – BILLY'S SCHOOL – SCHOOL GATES – LATER – DAY

BILLY enters the school gates where he passes MR GERALD a grey haired man in his fifties.

(VO) Music fade out

BILLY

(panting - Scouser accent)

Morning Sir.

MR GERALD

(well spoken)

You OK Billy?

As the DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS also pass through the school gates, they slow down and each one smiles and wave at MR GERALD.

DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS

(OS)

Morning sir...Morning.....Morning Mr Gerald.

TITLES FINISH

(VO) Tile music fades out

INT – BILLY'S SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – LATER – DAY

BILLY makes his way to his desk at the front of the class.

Another TEN BOYS AND GIRLS are already in the classroom, running around out of control.

The DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS who chased him, crash into the room shouting and shoving each other, throwing BILLY'S muddied torn books at him.

BOY 1 approaches BILLY'S desk and pushes more of BILLY'S SCHOOL BOOKS on the floor.

As BILLY bends down to pick up his books BOY 2 shoves him, BILLY falls on his face.

BOY 1

Next time..... I'll get yuh... next time.... do'ya 'ear

BOY 2

'ear that, eh noodle head?

MR GERALD stands at the door behind the surprised pupils.

BILLY collects his books and stands by his desk.

MR GERALD

Problem Billy?

BILLY

Nothing sir, I'm good.
THE CLASS slowly make their way to their seats, still noisy, some giggling staring towards BILLY.

MR GERALD

You finished? Your desks, please. Billy, please take the register. Now silence!

Laughter and mumbling starts from THE CLASS as BILLY stands behind MR GERALD'S desk ready to take the register.

MR GERALD

I SAID SILENCE!

THE CLASS gradually settle down. MR GERALD stares at his class.

Eventually THE CLASS fall silent as BILLY glares at THE CLASS ready to start calling the register.

BILLY

(Looking around the classroom)

Jenny Denton, Mary Thomas, John Jeffers, Davy Terry, Peggy Bumperbumperson...

The class erupts into fits of laughter as BILLY stutters mispronouncing Peggy's name.

Mr GERALD

Silence! OK Billy I'll take it.

EXT – BILLY'S SCHOOL – SCHOOL GATES – LATER – DAY

As the SCHOOL CHILDREN leave school for the day, THE DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS are waiting just outside the school gate for BILLY.

MR GERALD AND ANOTHER FEMALE TEACHER are standing by the gate watching the children leave for the day.

BILLY appears from the school building, stalling as he spies THE DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS waiting for him to continue their taunting.

MR GERALD notices the standoff and moves toward BILLY.

BOY 2

(OS)
Come on yuh chinky book worm, real scousers kick footballs...

BOY 1

(OS)
Maybe we should kick 'im.

(OS)
THE DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS laugh and scream muddled insults at BILLY.

MR GERALD eases BILLY back into the school.

MR GERALD

Billy, stay for a while and finish your homework. Then maybe...yes.....I'll call your mother.

BILLY

No sir, don't do that, I can deal with 'em.

INT – BILLY'S SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – LATER – DAY

BILLY returns to his classroom.

BILLY looks at a pile of history books on MR GERALD'S desk.

(OS)

Mixed taunts can be heard towards BILLY from THE DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS.

Stones are thrown at the classroom windows.

BILLY slumps at his desk, his head in his hands.

ASTRID

(Soft motherly voice)

(OS)

Ah Billy...it's OK, you're safe here. Look around son, history's the place for you, forget those thugs.

BILLY stares around the room seeking out the soft motherly voice.

ASTRID

(cont'd)

(OS)

Getting warmer Billy.

Eventually BILLY is attracted to MR GERALD'S desk and the HISTORY BOOKS he'd promised BILLY.

At the bottom of the pile of HISTORY BOOKS is a SCRUFFY LEATHER TOME which BILLY removes to his desk.

On the front of the SCRUFFY LEATHER TOME is written "HOLY WARS".

BILLY leafs through the SCRUFFY LEATHER TOME eventually stopping half way through.

As BILLY starts to read the TWO PAGES, they illuminate into a mellow cream colour.

Across the top of the TWO PAGES it reads "TIME TRAVEL".

BILLY eases away as the pages change colour, brightening to a lighter cream.

At the same time the SCRUFFY LEATHER TOME rises from BILLY'S desk, hovering, slightly tilted in front of BILLY.

BILLY now scared of the SCRUFFY LEATHER TOME, starts to move away towards the door.

ASTRID

(OS)

Don't be frightened Billy.. it's me Astrid the crumbling old history book.

BILLY stops, turning back to look at the SCRUFFY LEATHER TOME, still hovering.

ASTRID

(cont'd)

(OS)

Don't go Billy, your Mr Gerald knows. I've been waiting for many years for the right person to join our special clan. Billy, look, read what it says here...Time Travel. You're a lucky boy Billy, you're the chosen one.

BILLY stands transfixed staring at the glowing SCRUFFY LEATHER TOME as MR GERALD enters the room.

MR GERALD

Ah, you found our friend Astrid. Somehow I knew she was going to choose you Billy.

ASTRID

(OS)
Oh come on Gerald, he was your choice as well.

BILLY

Choice for what?

MR GERALD

She not told you?

ASTRID

(OS)
Billy, you're the right boy and with Gerald you can help me do great things.

BILLY moves closer to the SCRUFFY LEATHER TOME, he now knows as ASTRID.

ASTRID

(cont'd)

(OS)
Come Billy, close to me. You on the right side and Gerald, you on my left. Now just watch and do as I say.

ASTRID'S pages start to vibrate and TWO IMAGES OF OVAL EMBLEMS glow and slowly detach themselves from the pages, floating above the tome.

Gradually, BOTH OVAL EMBLEMS change into TWO SOLID EGG SHAPES covered in hieroglyphics, hovering above the pages.

The right hand EGG SHAPE moves towards BILLY, sticking to his right hand.

The left hand EGG SHAPE moves towards GERALD, sticking to his left hand.

ASTRID

(cont'd)

(OS)
And now my friends let me explain. Gerald, we've already agreed you'll travel back to 1182 AD, to the kingdom of Palogonia. But when you arrive Gerald there's no return. You understand?

GERALD

I know. When do I leave?

ASTRID

(OS)
It'll be ten years before Billy gets involved.

GERALD

I know.

ASTRID

(OS)
Billy, you've been chosen but it'll be ten years before you spring into action. By then my lad you'll be twenty, a man, ready for my first big task.

BILLY

OK...I mean I don't know what I mean.

ASTRID

(OS)
But understand I have very strict rules. As I said, Gerald, when you arrive there's no coming back. But Billy you can move back and forth through time, but never past your current time. Don't worry Billy it'll soon become clear.

BILLY sits down at his desk totally overcome.

ASTRID
(cont'd)

(OS)

Billy you're a time traveller in waiting my boy. You'll know when I'm ready.

ASTRID again vibrates her pages, which attracts the TWO EGGS which settle back on the TWO PAGES, morphing back as two one dimensional images.

(OS)

Muffled voices can be heard coming towards the classroom along the corridor.

BILLY moves to the door checking who is approaching.

BILLY

No problem, they've gone.....

BILLY turns where ASTRID hovered and GERALD stood. All that remains is a THINNING WHITE CLOUD.

BILLY moves to his desk but there is nothing.

The classroom door bursts open.

(VO) Music "Keep on running" Fade down.

CARETAKER

(gruff Scouser accent)

What yuh doin"ere kid? Clear off yuh little runt for I tell's the 'ead. Go on, scarper!

(VO) Music "Keep on running" FADE out.

BILLY moves to the classroom window, staring out towards the school gates, where the DOZEN BOYS AND GIRLS are walking away into the playing field.