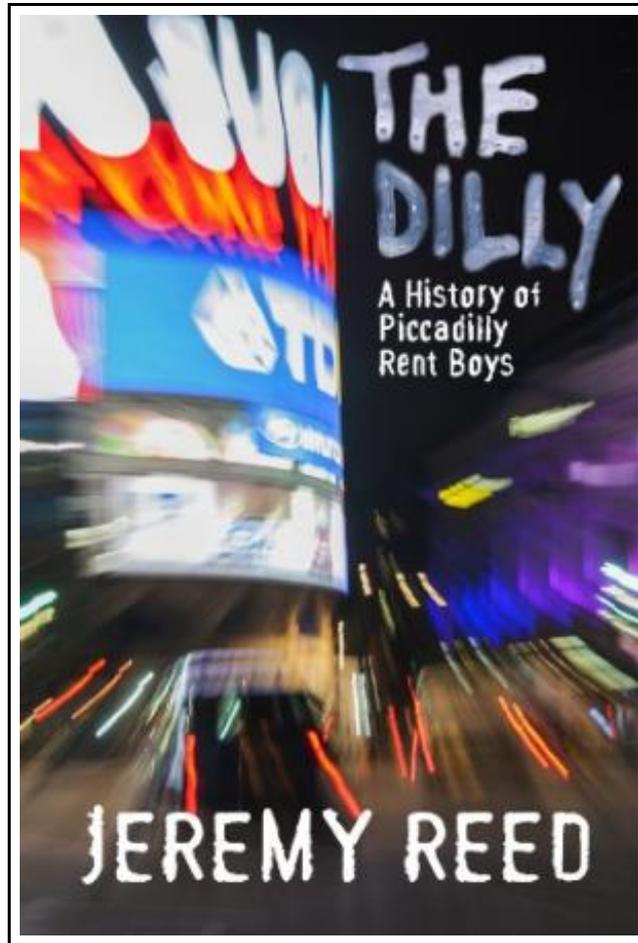


The Dilly: A Secret History of Piccadilly Rent Boys



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Reviews

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(Macey Cummerata)*

THE DILLY: A SECRET HISTORY OF PICCADILLY RENT BOYS



Peter Owen Publishers, United Kingdom, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 218 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A previously undocumented slice of London s underground sexual history, and its influence upon artists from Oscar Wilde to Francis Bacon and the Stones to MorrisseyPiccadilly Circus has long been London s principal location for selling sex and this is the first book to really explore the history of male prostitution at The Dilly. Dating from Oscar Wilde s notorious use of the location for pick-ups through to Francis Bacon s equal attraction to rough trade and right up to recent history, this is a pioneering piece of counterculture history. Employing a flair for acute visual imagery, the author maps out Soho s submerged gay clubs and drinking-rooms in the decades before de-criminalization. This is followed by the new masculinity advocated by the Mod look in the 1960s, the influence of the place on rock and pop stars such as the Stones, Marc Almond, and Morrissey (all of whom themed songs on the subject) and the book closes in the 1990s, when online male escorts replaced rent boys on the Piccadilly railing. An exhilaratingly colorful recreation of the illegal occupation of one of London s central commercial zones by lawless Dilly boys, this history is augmented by first-hand interviews with rent boys who worked the meat-rack in the 1970s as well as a chapter recording the author s personal friendship with the artist Francis Bacon.



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