

BILLY BOY
The sheepdog years

By Terry Greenwell



Dedicated to the loving memory of

BILLYBOY

1999 – 2017

He was a very

“Good Boy”



Billy Boy
The Sheep Dog Years

“To do your very best
is the best you can be.....

And, anyway sheep dog stuff was never my thing!”

Billy Boy

Written and illustrated by Terry Greenwell

Down on the Farm

Billy Boy was one of three pups born on a sheep farm somewhere in England. It was a farm much like any other. Early mornings, hard graft, and always busy day in day out caring for the livestock.

Billy was not always known by that name; in fact, his birth name was “Rocky”. However, in respect for Billy’s gentle nature and the fact that he chose his new name for himself we shall refer to him as Billy Boy or Billy from now on.

There wasn’t much that was very rock-like about Billy anyway. You see, he was more of a lovely soft fruit jelly kind of dog - you know, the kind of jelly that melts in your mouth and explodes with glorious flavours. Billy melted hearts and filled rooms with laughter wherever he went, anywhere, anytime.

His two brothers were named Thor and Loki, and like their lofty namesakes, they would grow to embody the elemental qualities of fire and ice.

Early on before the brothers began to grow, they all looked very much alike, little bundles of joyous fur, wet noses, and puppy dog eyes. Mum was a Springer Spaniel and dad was an Irish Collie. Quite the ideal mix for Sheep Dog splendour. Well, two out of three times, it seems, in this particular case.



Thor and Loki grew and grew and then grew some more. They were both broad, lean, muscular, chisel jawed, and dashing. Each had a penetrating gaze, a quality much needed and admired amongst Sheep Dog folk, as it was the key to brilliant herding.



Billyboy wasn't like

his brothers

THOR & LOKI

Billy grew too, but not so much. He cut a more delicate figure, some less kind might even say “scrawny”. Billy himself considered his less threatening presence a plus point. After all the pigs, geese, ducks, and even the rats on the farm adored him and clamoured for his company and kind hearted convivial conversation. Unfortunately, the sheep who made up the greater part of the farm’s population chose to ignore him. That is something to be very concerned about for any budding Sheep Dog.

You see, Sheep Dogs have a unique ability (to do with that penetrating gaze mentioned earlier) that is known in the trade as “THE EYE”.

A good Sheep Dog can freeze any other animal to the spot just by locking eyes with it. This stare is almost magical, it is as if invisible daggers of ice are shooting through the air. Whole herds of sheep can be made to stop, move this way, move that way, reverse, go forward, or even spin on the spot if the dog desires it so. Imagine that, your remote-control toy car doing what you want it to using just your eyes!

Billy should have had THE EYE like his brothers but it was buried too deep within him and despite his very best efforts he was unable to bring it to the surface. Anyway, it has to be said, he found sheep a trifle dull and a tad stupid.

His brothers...dashing "glam" and handsome!!



His brothers
Billy boy's

had "pointy up ears"
ears hung down.

Billyboy was...cute
Sheep would freeze



The brothers had...
**THE
EYE**

Sheep just ignored Billyboy

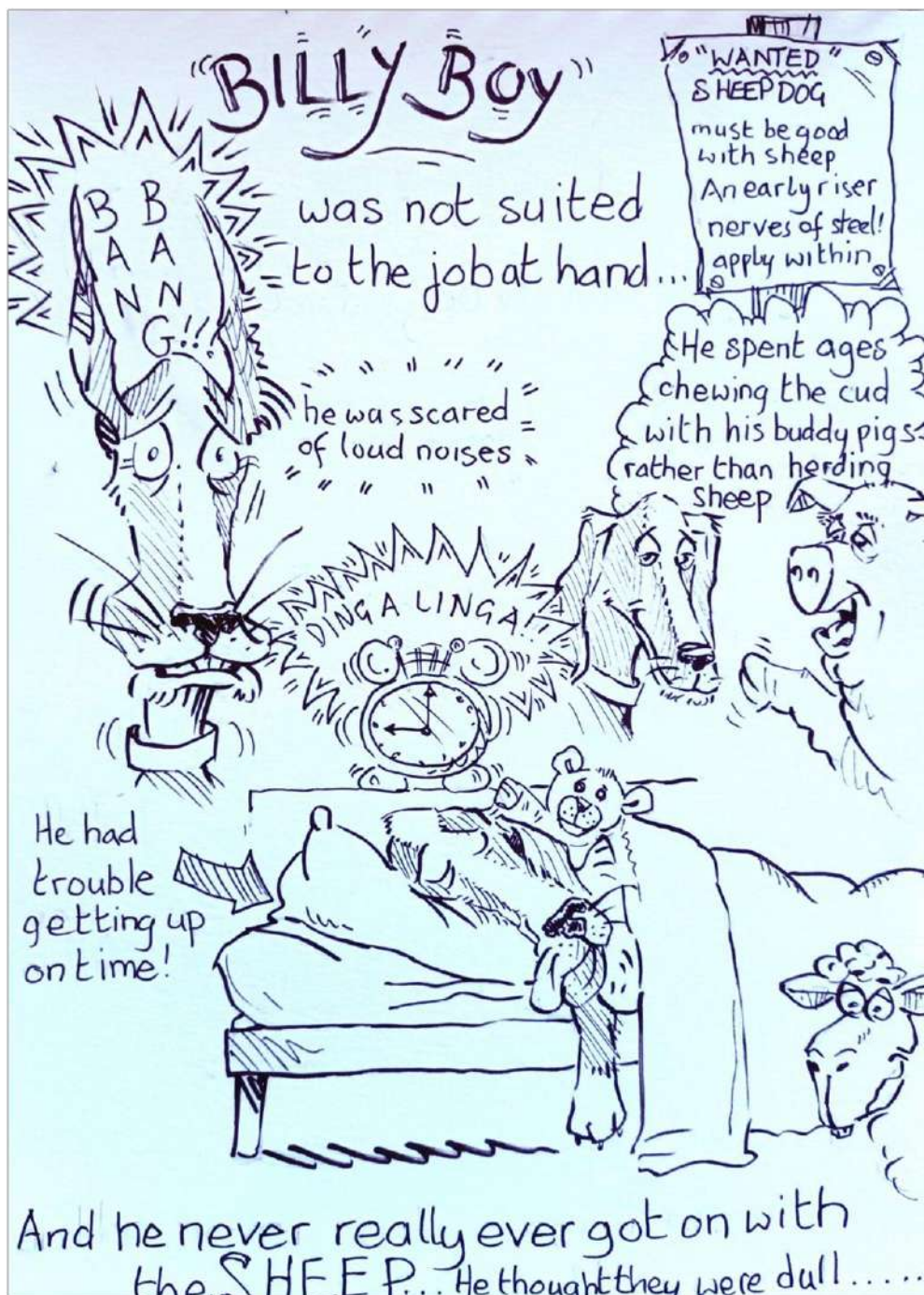


Billyboy had a ...
he was...

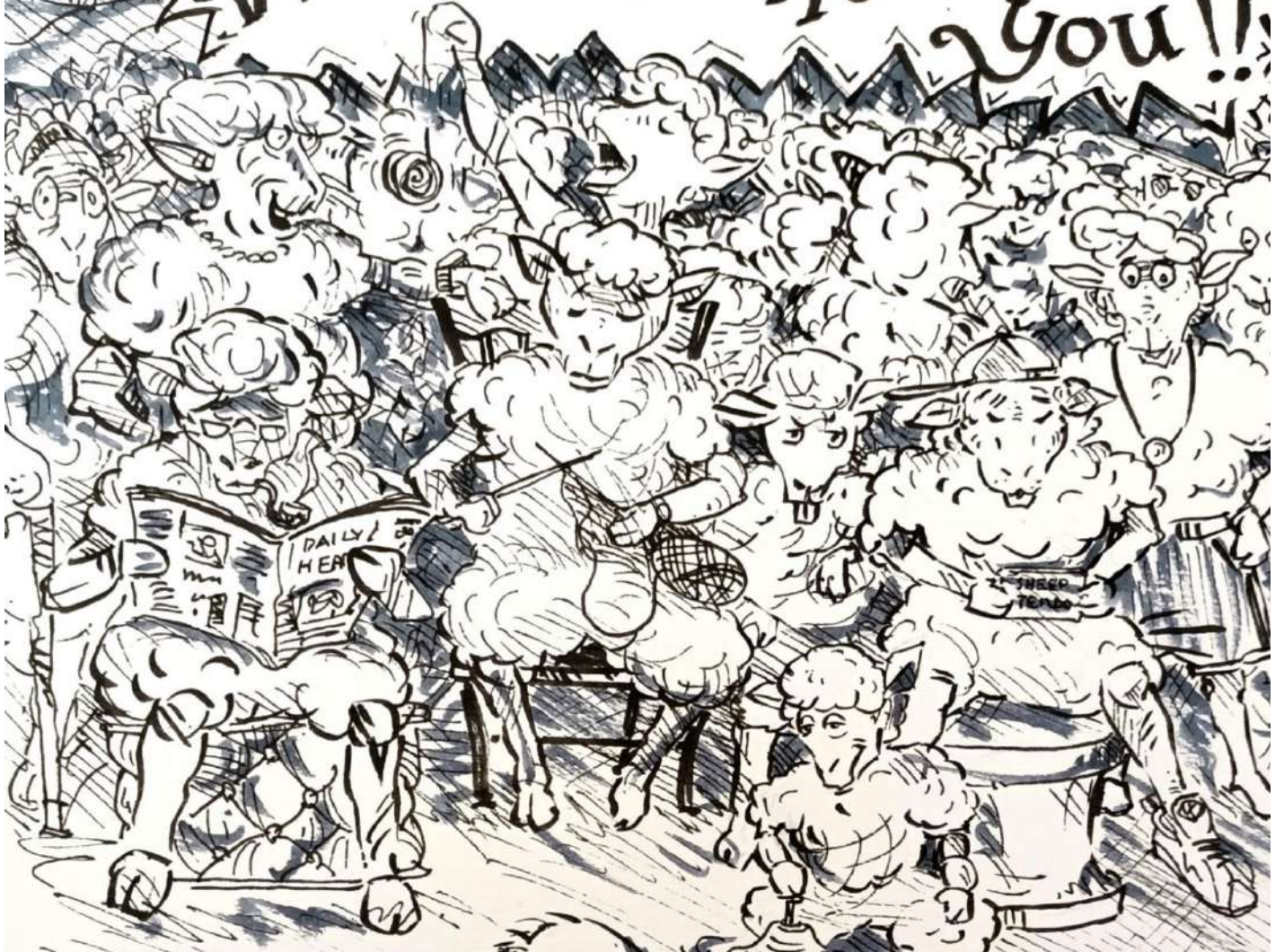
Kindly gaze,
just toonice.

The pigs on the other hand knew everything that was going on. The ducks had the best gossip, the ducks could quack on forever, and the rats were just plain funny.

Billy did try to be a good Sheep Dog but it just never worked out. Billy decided to stop trying anymore and to enjoy his time on the farm as much as he could in the company of his many friends, of which there were many.



We can't hear you!!



Sadly
Billyboy
didn't
have
The EYE



I think I
need to
re-think my
"SKILLS" set

.....a unique ability
of sheepdogs that
"FROZ" sheep with a stare!

And so, Billy framed his life in a way that suited him whilst he figured out a way to find his **Happy Place**.

Quite honestly, his brothers were pleased that Billy had stepped back from his Sheep Dog duties and the sheep barely noticed he was gone. He was after all a liability out on the pastures and things ran so much better in his absence.

Life wasn't so bad during those fallow times. Late mornings, a good old chin wag by the duck pond and time to work things out at his leisure.

Then Billy had his LIGHT BULB moment.

One sunny day he was sitting in the back of the farmers Land Rover parked up at the roadside, supposedly guarding the chicken feed whilst his master popped into his local village pub for a quick pint of ale.

Sitting on a nearby bench were two teenagers, a boy and a girl entertaining their pet dog with treats for tricks.

At that moment as he watched the pair playing with their adoring dog whose wagging tail looked like it might just wag itself right off, Billy knew for certain that draughty barns, early mornings and pursuing ignorant sheep were soon to be behind him. He too would be a "PET" with a snugly bed, a comfy spot on the sofa and *light day time duties* entertaining the kids.

“That’s the life for me,” he thought. Now to plan his daring escape.



Lots of things arrive at farms, lots of things leave farms, but dogs generally stay. Lorries, trucks and a variety of vehicles come and go on a daily basis. It was all about choosing his moment and the right person to make it happen. There was one particular Driver who always made a fuss of Billy, his name was Zane and he travelled up and down the country and seemed to know just about everyone.

Billy waited for Zane to arrive, let him do his stuff, then just as he was about to get into his truck Billy made his move.

A few neat tricks, some appropriate noises and head rubs later, Zane figured out Billy's intention and invited Billy into the cab.



Zane only agreed when he did his 2 BALI "one lea" trick - it got him every time!

“Keep your head down boy, let’s make our escape.”

The truck pulled out of the farm yard and was soon far, far away.

Billy settled down for the trip and popped his hairy head out of the cab window. The wind tussled his fur and blew away his worries and concerns. His future awaited him.

“I know just the place for you Billy Boy!” exclaimed Zane.





This is your stop
buddy, Own it!



The truck came to a halt, Billy stirred from his contented sleep as Zane jumped from the cab.

“We’re here Billy Boy, there’s someone I want you to meet,” said Zane.

Billy jumped down and stood at Zane’s side.

“That over there is the legendary Mrs. Barker, I think you two are going to get along just fine.” Zane was pointing towards a plump woman in workaday clothes; she was waving and smiling as she leant on her garden fence. All around her were dogs of all sizes and shapes. The dogs were sporting grins too, just like Mrs. Barker.

Zane led Billy to the garden gate, gave him a firm hug and made his way back to his truck and took off. Billy watched it disappearing over a hill and then it was gone.

Mrs. Barker opened the gate and welcomed Billy to his new home, for now.

It was just a small step but Billy knew it was an even bigger step towards a brighter future.

Next instalment to come!



Billy finds his forever home

Insects

Inspirational

Learning to Read

Maths

Money

Monsters

moral

Music

Nature

Non-Fiction

Nursery Rhymes

Puzzles

Rhyming

School Projects

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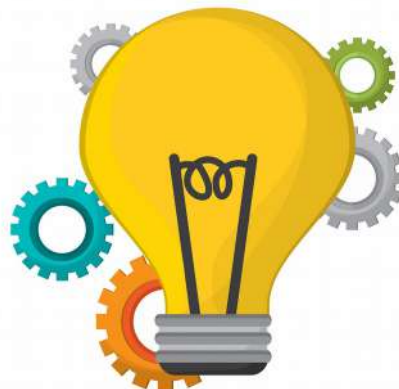
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