



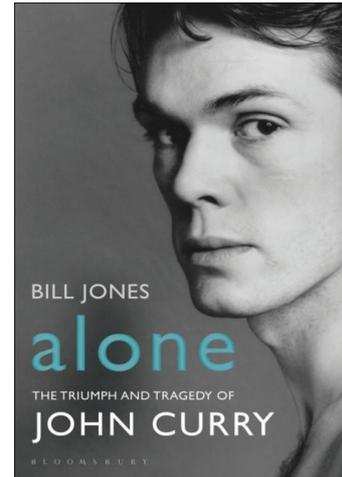
B L O O M S B U R Y

# ALONE

## The Triumph and Tragedy of John Curry By Bill Jones

**Published 31 July, 2014, £18.99, HB**

In the winter of 1976 more than 20 million Britons watched **JOHN CURRY** skate to Olympic gold. Almost uniquely for the times, within hours of his triumph, he announced to the world that he was gay. He became a media darling, rubbed shoulders with royalty and celebrities, and in the years that followed, transformed skating into a theatrical sensation worthy of Nureyev, feted on both sides of the Atlantic. But, beneath the glittering success story was a complex, obsessive man, who struggled to find his identity in a homophobic world. Curry died, aged 44, with few friends, and penniless. Now, 20 years on, a new biography sets out to uncover the real **JOHN CURRY**.



In **ALONE – The Triumph and Tragedy of John Curry**, author Bill Jones reveals the true story of Curry's life. It's a tale of ruthless ambition, epic struggles, and, at times, shocking revelations. Written with the cooperation of his family and friends, who gave access to previously unseen letters and photos, Jones writes about Curry's childhood in Birmingham; his difficult relationship with an alcoholic father, who refused him ballet lessons but agreed to skating as it was a sport; and how he coped with his father's suicide, aged 16.

Jones looks at the relationships that shaped Curry's life, including his close friendships with a well-known BBC war correspondent, and a leading British actor, and the wealthy benefactors who helped him pursue his dreams, in particular, Nancy Streeter, who never gave up on Curry, and whose New York apartment became his second home.

**ALONE** describes Curry's lifelong fight for acceptance, not only with regard to his sexuality, but in his attempts to turn skating into an art form. Post-Olympics, Curry strived to bring his vision for skating to life in a new type of ice show, which at its peak brought the Royal Albert Hall and the New York Met to its feet with its dazzling artistry. But, as Jones shows, Curry's tantrums and jealousies, and his naivety in business, meant that he seldom made money. Curry's taste for the darker side of life also led to problems.

When John Curry was diagnosed with AIDS, and he could no longer fend for himself, he returned to England to be cared for by his long-suffering mother. In a moving final chapter Jones records Curry's final months, how he bravely told the world of his illness, and of the friends who did stand by him to the bitter end.

**About the author:** Bill Jones was an award-winning documentary maker for Granada TV before embarking on a writing career. His first book, *The Ghost Runner*, won him The Times Best New Writer at the 2012 British Sports Book Awards. He lives in N. Yorks and is available for interview. **For further information contact Jane Beaton at [jane@kewpublicity.co.uk](mailto:jane@kewpublicity.co.uk) or call 07802 433471.**