

# BILLY JONES

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## CHARACTER PROFILE

OCTOBER 2018

# BILLY JONES

## WILL



14-15 years old, introvert, with a low-key demeanor, Will tries to be invisible to his peers but is full of wonder and bravery. A son of a Mexican-American father and an Anglo-American mother, he is growing tired of being picked on and dismissed. Will discovers that Lisa, the girl of his dreams, is dying and he wishes he could help pay for her treatment. It is during this quest that he learns about the legend of Billy Jones and sets off to discover a treasure that could save Lisa.

The relationship with his father is strained because they are both still coping with the breakup of their family after Will's mother, Megan, left them. Because of his parents' divorce, Will was left scarred and with low self-esteem. He blames this on the fact that he is Hispanic and diminishes both his father and himself. The issue stems mainly from his early family dynamics and from being bullied at school because of his heritage. He constantly seeks his mother's approval, trying to fill the void she left in his heart when she abandoned them to start a new family. Megan prefers her new life, which only creates more insecurity in Will.

Will tries to be independent from his father. As two teenagers from different generations stuck together, they struggle to connect. Will always tries to do the right thing, but he often does not know how to handle the situations. He's slow to trust people and he is defensive because life has been tough but once he does, he is a very loyal and giving friend.

Over the years, Will has come to witness Lisa's kindness to others, and now that he has learned her imminent fate, he's devoted to help her. Even though she hangs with the 'popular' crowd, he admires that Lisa has a mind of her own.

Will was a BMX racing champion. Not only has he been practicing the sport most of his life, but he uses his bike to go everywhere in town. He shares his bicycling passion with his best and only friends, Noah and Michael.

Will, Michael and Noah have known each other since elementary school. Even though Will is not comfortable sharing his feelings, Michael and Noah are the two people he knows he can count on and know him best. When Will is with his friends, he blooms.

Will is selfless and a romantic. During his quest, he discovers that he is also brave and capable of extraordinary feats. He has a high capacity for empathy and, once he overcomes his low self-esteem, he can also be a leader.

Together with Lisa, Will finds the strength and confidence to defy the guys that bully him and confront the dangers that await them at the mountain. Through their journey Will and Lisa grow closer together and fall in love. From the lessons learned during his quest Will also realizes that his father has always been there for him and that his advice was right: You must be proud of who you are.

# BILLY JONES

## LISA



14-15 years old, smart, good natured and beautiful. She has a life-threatening disease that she keeps in secret since she does not want anyone to treat her differently. Despite being popular at school, Lisa has a gentle and caring character. She grows smitten with Will's courage and kind spirit, and joins him on his quest, unaware that his true motive is to help her.

Lisa is outgoing and sure of herself due in part to her natural charisma and beauty, but most importantly from the strong family bond her parents formed before her dad died. Besides having a solid relationship, Lisa's parents were also smart and educated and raised Lisa in a way that allowed her to cherish the important things in life. Everything fell apart when Lisa's father died five years ago from a congenital disease which Lisa has now fatefully developed.

The relationship Lisa had with her father was very special. He taught her to dream, to think for herself, to always question things and look beyond what is only at the surface. Her father's death was a huge blow to the family both emotionally and financially. Lisa still misses him terribly but has coped with her loss and always remembers him with a peaceful heart and mind. She accepts her illness, thanks to her father's teachings and her belief that in the afterlife she will reunite with him.

Lisa is social and friendly with anyone that is willing to approach her. She had many dreams and expectations for her future, but now, she sees the world in a completely different way. She now lives each day as it comes, with no expectations about the future, lives for the moment but always being kind to others. She is strong about her illness so that her mom won't suffer and so no one can pity her.

Lisa hangs out with the popular kids at school, something some may see as a character flaw, but she doesn't follow conventions. She has a mind of her own and is smart enough to know when it is time to oppose the wrong course of action even from her own friends. She knows people's limitations, but she doesn't judge and understands people have character flaws that are redeemable.

She is quick to help others and bonds with people who will join her in the effort. She has no prejudice and can see deep inside people who are noble, a quality she relishes. This is how she starts noticing Will and his special qualities. They become friends and little by little the romance sparks. The problem is that she had accepted her condition, and now she longs to live with the new feelings she is having but at the same time doesn't want her friends to treat her differently because of her illness. She is afraid of what lies ahead and will have to cling to the new hope that an innovative treatment is offering. She will have to fight for her health and rely on her family and friends for support.

# BILLY JONES

## BILLY JONES



16-17 years old, level headed and strong willed. In the year 1870, Billy gets involved in an impossible relationship with a Native-American girl. To defend her people, who work in inhumane conditions at the mine, Billy defies the foreman of the mine, his father, and risks his life hiding the gold to lure the prospectors out of the Native's territory. Billy inherited his empathy from his mother, who taught him her family's generations old craftsmanship as master clock-makers and the importance of learning.

Billy's mother died years back and she meant to him everything that is good. She often spoke about her family's struggle in Europe and how they were persecuted before arriving to America. He sees a parallel between her history and the Native Americans, and feels the injustice directed at them as if it was directed at his own mother.

One more burden Jones is carrying is that he somehow blames his father and Mr. Hubbs for his mother's death. When Billy's mother was diagnosed with consumption, the doctor recommended leaving the mountain and moving to a better climate, but Mr. Jones could not afford it and was facing pressure from his boss, Mr. Hubbs.

Billy was extremely shaken by his mother's death which hit him and his father with devastating force. His father perpetuates this injustice every day by mistreating the Native American workers of the mine and by being abusive and harsh towards Billy. He decides to take matters into his own hands and defies his father by helping the Native American workers. In doing so, he gets to know a Native girl, Nayee, and falls in love with her. The prospectors will not stop destroying the Kumeyaay lands so Billy and Nayee devise a plan to hide any gold the workers may find. When Mr. Hubbs finds out Billy has been hiding the gold, a series of terrible events unfold with dire consequences.

# BILLY JONES

## NAYEE



14-15 years old, Native American good-hearted orphan who longs to be free and for her people to be treated with respect. She bonds with Billy Jones after he defends her and teaches him the ways of her tribe and, in turn, Nayee learns from him that not all white colonists are their enemies. Nayee and Billy put their lives at risk by hiding the gold that the mine workers find from the prospectors.

Nayee's parents were the spiritual leaders of the tribe and she inherited their intelligence, knowledge, vision, strength and natural beauty, both internal and external. She lost her parents in the Indian Wars and she is now trying to survive alongside the remaining of her tribe who are being exploited in the gold mine.

Struggling to keep her heritage alive and quietly hoping a better future for her tribe, Nayee is curious about Billy and, over time, they develop a strong relationship. She realizes Billy Jones can help the Kumeyaay and teaches him about her people and about how the prospectors are destroying the lands where they once thrived. Together they plot to sabotage the mine, hoping the prospectors give up and leave.

Their relationship evolves into an impossible romance. They would give their lives for each other and upon the discovery of their plans to keep the gold from Mr. Hubbs, the situation quickly escalates to life or death choices.

# BILLY JONES

## HANK



16-17 years old. Intelligent, athletic, driven, and extroverted. Hank has been poisoned with hate. Hank is a victim of his father's emotional abuse, so he must hide all weaknesses and, when necessary, abuse others to establish himself as the Alpha.

Deep inside, he struggles between what he wants and what he believes he needs to do to survive.

There is an immense discrepancy between what Hank could be and what he is. His natural talents and qualities as a leader, if put to work in a positive way, could make him the real all-American icon: successful and using his success to help others achieve it as well. But Hank has been taught differently. He has been taught by his father that in this life you take advantage of others or they will take advantage of you. Furthermore, he has been taught that people of other ethnic backgrounds are inferior. He is constantly pressured by his father to be a winner, excel and always be in control. He puts him down regularly by telling him he is not good enough.

Deep inside, Hank has the sensibility to be the better self, but that side of him has not been nourished. Hank's father has a personal grudge against Will's father, after losing the girl he was dating in high school to him. The story repeats itself with Hank, Will and Lisa. When Hank notices Will likes Lisa, his disdain towards him grows.

The hatred escalates when he notices Lisa defends and befriends Will and he fears there is a possibility that they might end up together. In the end, Hank witnesses the spirit of community, camaraderie and team work that the other kids develop and begins longing to connect back with them.

# BILLY JONES

## GUILLERMO



50s, Latino, handsome, charming, charismatic, funny, Guillermo is Will's father and a bit of a mess. He struggles to be a good parent, but due to his busy schedule and juvenile nature, he doesn't always quite get there, but in the end is very caring towards Will. Their relationship has been strained because Will feels him being Latino is regarded as a second-class citizen, so he tends to favor his mother over him. Nevertheless, Guillermo is the one that has always been there for Will and his family.

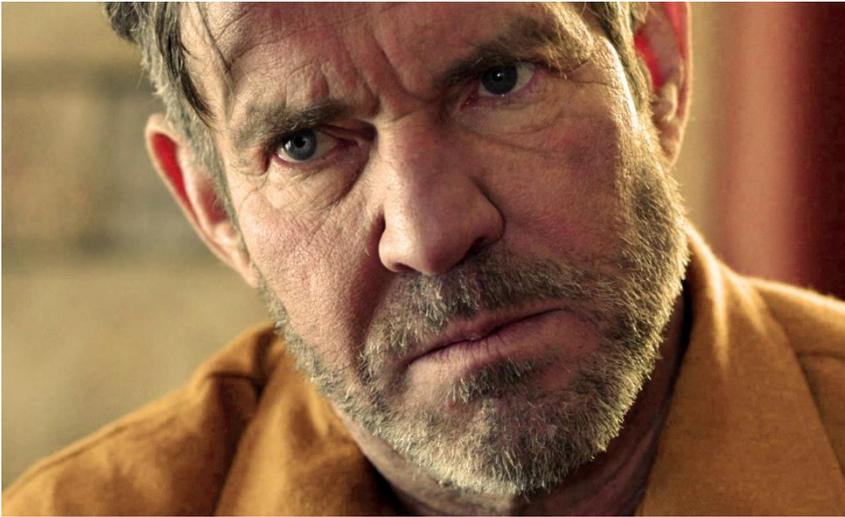
Guillermo is concerned and frustrated about Will's feelings towards him and is saddened for not being able to keep his family together. He met Will's mother, Megan, in pre-med school, when they both shared a dream of becoming successful doctors. But having a son, it became impossible for both to continue in school and Guillermo had to work as a nurse to support his family while Megan continued with her medicine studies. Suddenly, Guillermo was not good enough for her, she became involved with a doctor and left him and Will.

Scarred, and emotionally drained, Guillermo had to keep on going taking care of Will on his own. Guillermo still struggles to get over this breakup as he feels he tried his best, but it still wasn't enough. His breakup still casts doubts about his own worth and indirectly projects these feelings to his son. When Guillermo tells Will, he should always be proud of who he is, he is also reminding it to himself.

Guillermo finally finds pride through his son. He realizes Will is a good boy mainly because Guillermo is a decent man. He ultimately understands the value of what he did for his wife and son, and that failing in his relationship was not entirely his fault. He also learns that he and Will are a family even without Megan in their lives.

# BILLY JONES

## BENJAMIN JONES



60s, disciplined, harsh, bitter, ex-captain turned foreman, a determined man with a thin sense of honor and a broken heart. Mr. Jones came from a battered Ireland. Being a migrant child, he has had a hard life. As a boy he was mistreated by his father, who, when drunk, would punish him severely with the excuse to make a strong man out of him. Upon his father's death, Mr. Jones was fostered by a smart and caring woman, giving him a chance to be loved.

His foster mom would redeem him, so he would not be a lost soul into bitterness and hate. But fate struck again, and poverty tore his new family apart, so he had to endure surviving out in the streets of Dublin. At 16 years old he embarked on his own to America. In New York he had to struggle in a city crowded with immigrants and men trying to take advantage of them. Mr. Jones learned quickly to make a stand and fight back. He got a job at a weapons factory where he met, fell deeply in love and ended up marrying his boss's daughter, Ann. Mr. Jones' wife came from a family of master watchmakers. She reminded him of his loving foster mother, the only person in the world who had treated him with love and respect.

The war came, he enrolled and became a Captain on his own achievements while his wife gave birth to Billy and raised him on her own for three years. When the war was over, news of gold in California about prospectors getting rich overnight were blown out of proportions. His father in law's factory went bankrupt and, pushed by fear of becoming poor again, he promised himself he would never let his wife and son suffer hunger nor cold. He and his wife decided to elope and took to San Francisco to try their luck. Prospecting was hard and highly competitive and there were plenty of able hands. Months passed until Mr. Jones bumped into a former war adversary, Mr. Hubbs, who claimed had information about a gold motherlode in the mountains of Southern California and bet his fortune to find it. Following a Native American legend about a mountain made of gold, *Enyaa Matekun*, Mr. Jones became his foreman.

The Jones moved to the mountain when Billy was 13 years old, but Ann became ill with consumption. Despite the doctor's advice to take her to warmer and drier weather, Mr. Jones could not afford to leave his job. So, she and Billy went on to live in Nevada while he remained overseeing the mine in the mountain. One day in summer, Billy returned to him alone with the sad news that Ann had died. Mr. Jones buried himself in his work, became angry and bitter, and sometimes abusive to Billy and his Native workers. Billy resented him and blamed him for abandoning them for someone else's dream. Under constant pressure from his boss to find the motherlode, Mr. Jones kept overseeing the dig, pushing the workers to exhaustion. But for Mr. Jones, his ruthless mission is a distraction from the memories of his late wife. Mr. Jones kept going down this path of anger and bitterness until a fateful day when his son reminded him of the meaning of true love.

# BILLY JONES

## MR. HUBBS



70s, obsessive, cruel, selfish and obsessed with gold. Mr. Hubbs is the proprietor of a gold mine in a remote mountain. He will do anything to find the motherlode he is convinced is near. Years ago, he fought for the Confederate army and later he took part in the Indian Wars. Mr. Hubbs disregards the Native Americans as less than humans and when he realizes Billy has been hiding gold from him to protect the Native lands, he takes after him in a furious outburst that causes

his unfortunate fate.

Mr. Hubbs was the son of a prominent family in West Virginia who, despite being obsessed with their status quo, were never able to reach the top of the social scale. His father tried to keep up with the rich and influential through appearance. At a young age, Mr. Hubbs was sent to West Point where he graduated with honors. Thanks to his position as an officer and in spite of being declared as a war criminal, he was sent to the west to fight in the Indian Wars where he made his mark.

During the first California Gold Rush in 1849, he established a gold claim and opened a successful mining company, giving him the wealth and status that his family always wanted. He was prominent in San Francisco for a few years and had three boys with his wife, but his northern California mine ran dry and his company started running out of funds quickly. Desperate for options, Mr. Hubbs turned to a legend he had learned about during the Indian Wars, Enyaa Matekun (Sun Mountain). Mr. Hubbs gets a grant land from the government to turn a profit with a time limit and takes to Southern California with Mr. Jones, and a few of his remaining workers. Used to deal with Native Americans, Mr. Hubbs, took over the local tribe and in a short-lived conflict, turned them as slaved labor on his search for the gold motherlode. But the promised gold did not turn up easily and the more he digged, the more the funds to keep the mine operational washed; the more he became obsessed with the motherloode, the more he pressed upon Mr. Jones and the Native workers. When Mr. Hubbs finds out that Billy has been hiding the gold that the Natives find trying to slow him down, he becomes infuriated to a point of tragic consequences.

# BILLY JONES

## INESSA



30-40s. Selfish and determined, Inessa has become a con artist, posing as a member of the Native American Historical Society to get the permits to dig in federal land. Like her ancestor, Mr. Hubbs, she is obsessed with finding the gold motherlode that has eluded their family for generations. She will stop at nothing to get what she believes is rightfully hers, but Will and Lisa's arrival will test her lack of scruples.

Inessa is the youngest sibling of a large, struggling family. The Hubbs fortune is long gone in history, but the legend of riches and privileged class persists. Her immediate family will do anything to keep appearances, from lying, to getting into debt, and even devising sophisticated plots in becoming con artists, all to keep pretending they still are the legendary prominent Hubbs family from West Virginia. The entire family knows at least one version of the Hubbs' gold mine story of how he was so close to finding the legendary motherlode when an Indian lover named Billy Jones stole from them what was rightfully theirs.

Being the youngest in the family, Inessa was on one hand spoiled, used to always getting her way, and on the other, ignored and let run wild. When she grew up, tired of struggling, she became a master at lying and creating the perfect con, to obtain money from others. She was always smart and persistent so, she is the only one in this latest generation of the family who bothered to investigate about their ancestor Hubbs and his motherlode quest. She became convinced that she could finally find the gold that was meant to be theirs. So, she devised a plan, found people she could manipulate at her will and posed as a Historian pretending to be digging for Kumeyaay artifacts up in the mountain.

Inessa has found crucial information to close in on the motherlode. All she needs now, is a pendant that once belonged to Billy Jones and that remains in the care of an old Shaman, but when she gets to him, he has handed it to Will who will prove to be as much of an opponent to her as Billy Jones was to her ancestor, Mr. Hubbs.