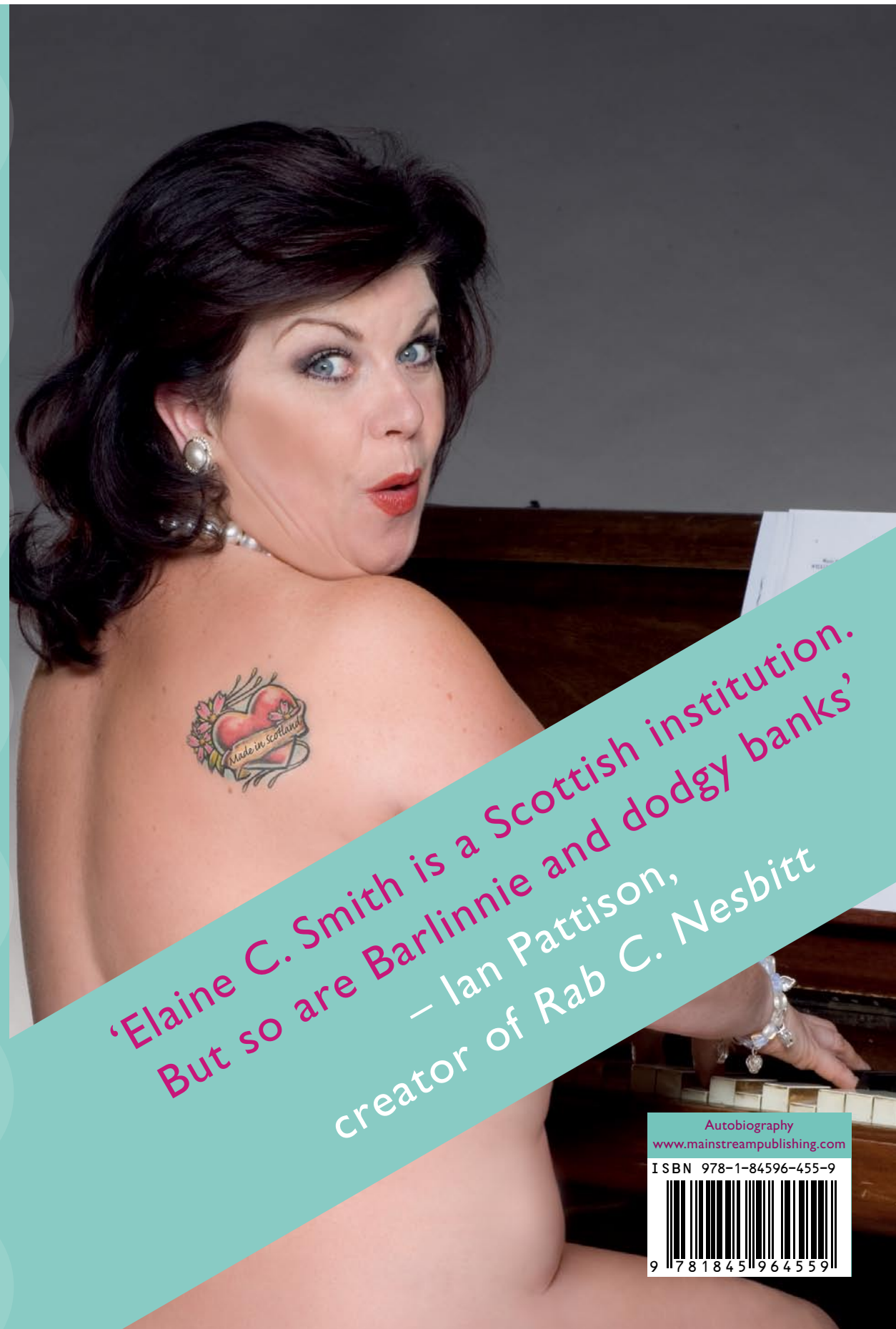


Elaine C. Smith is one of Scotland's best-loved entertainers, an actress, comedienne, writer and columnist. Her numerous television performances include roles in *Naked Video*, *City Lights* and *Two Thousand Acres of Sky*. She is perhaps best known for her acclaimed portrayal of 'Mary Doll' in the award-winning BBC comedy *Rab C. Nesbitt*. In 2008 and 2009, Elaine toured with the hit play *Calendar Girls*, ending in a sell-out run in the West End.

Elaine was appointed to the Scottish Broadcasting Commission in 2007 and is chair of the Scottish Independence Convention. She holds honorary doctorates from Dundee and Glasgow universities. She lives in the East End of Glasgow with her husband and two daughters.



**'Elaine C. Smith is a Scottish institution.  
But so are Barlinnie and dodgy banks'**  
— Ian Pattison,  
creator of *Rab C. Nesbitt*



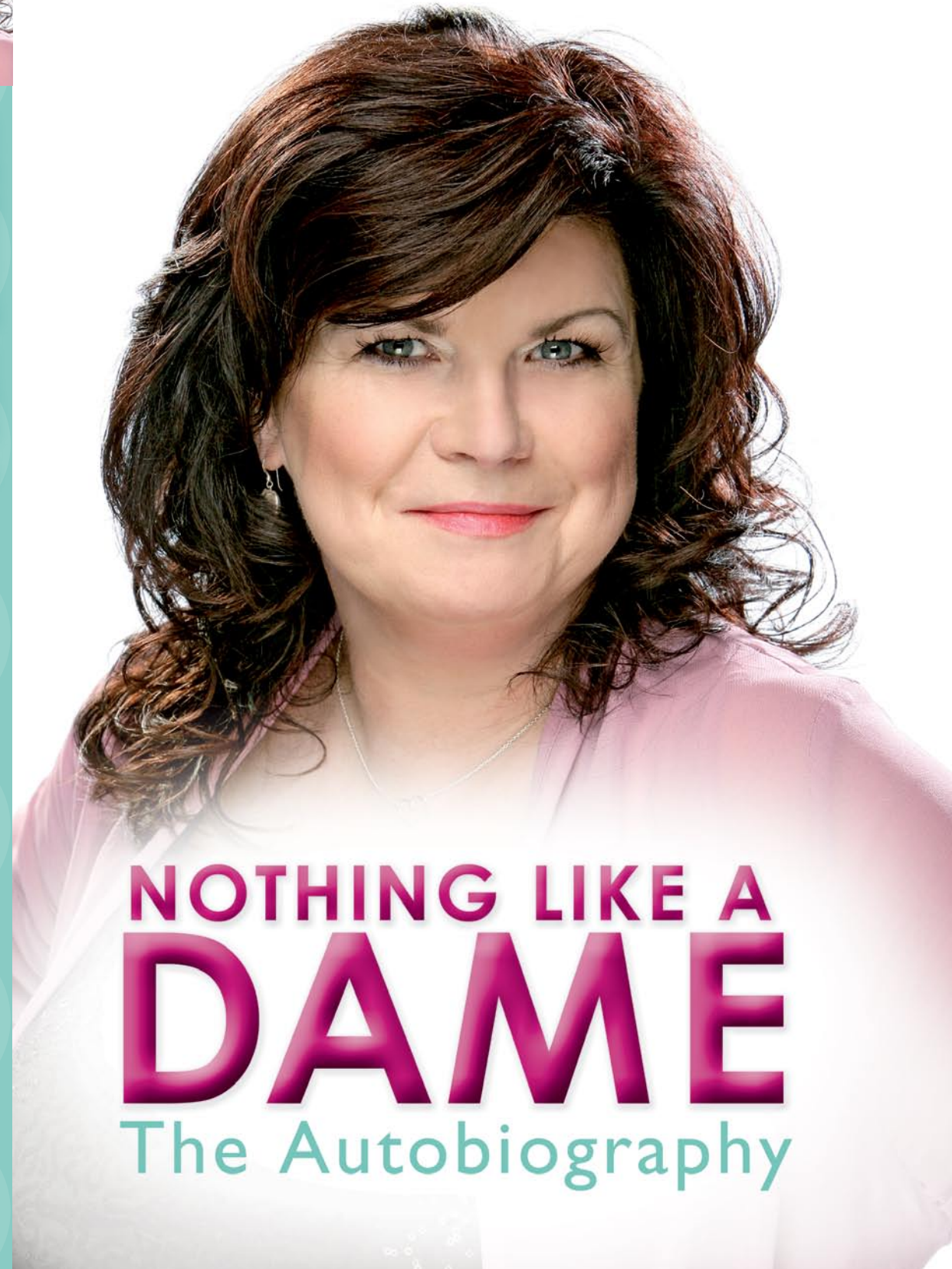
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NOTHING LIKE A  
**DAME**  
ELAINE C. SMITH



# ELAINE C. SMITH



# NOTHING LIKE A **DAME** The Autobiography

# NOTHING LIKE A **DAME**

The Autobiography

## ELAINE C. SMITH

'How did I end up here?' A question Elaine C. Smith asked herself when sitting in the dressing-room of a top theatre in London's West End, about to go on stage with one of the UK's most successful plays – *Calendar Girls*.

In *Nothing Like a Dame*, Elaine reflects on a fifty-year journey that took her from being a lippy wee lassie brought up in a mining village in the heart of darkest Lanarkshire to a celebrated performer at the peak of the entertainment world.

She recounts her long struggle to make it in a male-dominated, working-class Scotland at a time when women were supposed to just shut up and stay thin, especially in the male-chauvinist world of theatre and television, where she was told, 'Look, women just aren't funny.'

Despite many highs and lows, she has proceeded to forge a stellar career in show business, hosting her own TV series and becoming the first woman to consistently headline pantomimes in Scotland. She is a household name thanks to her comic portrayal of 'Mary Doll' Nesbitt, the long-suffering wife in the award-winning BBC comedy *Rab C. Nesbitt*.

*Nothing Like a Dame* is a heart-warming memoir, candid, hilarious and at times deeply sad – exactly what you would expect from the outspoken, opinionated and wonderful Elaine C. Smith. This is her story.

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