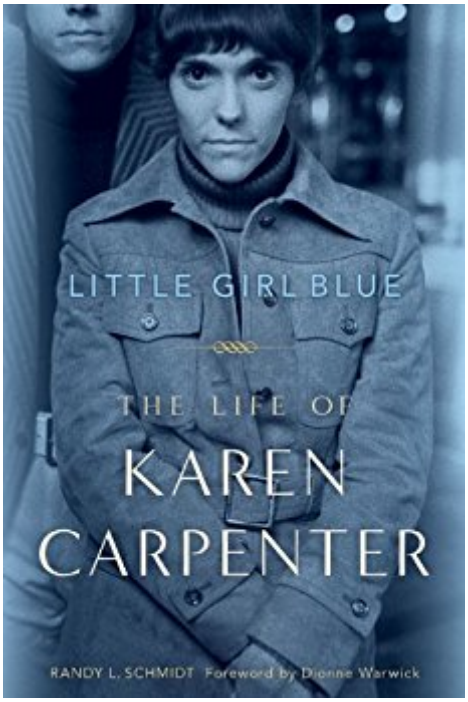
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Little Girl Blue: The Life Of Karen Carpenter



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Synopsis

An intimate profile of one of the most popular American singers of the 20th century, this first full-length biography of Karen Carpenter details every aspect of her life, from her modest Connecticut upbringing and her rise to stardom in southern California to the real story of her tragic, untimely death. This illuminating depiction of a 1970s icon covers her time as lead singer of the Carpenters—the top-selling American musical act of the decade—and provides insight into their string of 16 consecutive top-20 hits, including "Close to You,"Ã Â "We’ve Only Just Begun," "Top of the World,"Ã Â and "Superstar," as well as a critical review of her aborted solo career. A behind-the-scenes look into the life of a superstar, from the prolific recordings and the relentless touring to the awards, fame, and fortune, this history also chronicles her struggle with anorexia nervosa and gives important new details from her autopsy that shed new light on her death at age 32. Groups such as Sonic Youth and the Corrs and artists including k. d. lang and Madonna have cited Karen Carpenter among their major influences, and this definitive biography, based on exclusive interviews with nearly 100 ofÃ Â her friends and associates, is a testament to her brief yet remarkable life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I grew up listening to Karen Carpenter’s captivating voice. While I, too, was not deeply entertained by their orchestral interpretations of pop, her voice and reading of lyrics often left me with goosebumps. While I knew she’d died from heart problems resulting from her anorexia, I had no idea of the depth of the stresses she suffered from her family, business issues, and never even knew she’d married before her death. This book gave me a vivid, if sometimes terribly depressing, view of Karen’s life. I came away with an ear that heard a whole new depth to her music. The 4 stars was a result of feeling that there were still so many things left untold, although I do understand the difficulty Schmidt faced in even getting the information provided here.Well written, kept my interest, and full of detail. If you have any interest at all in Karen Carpenter’s life, a must read.

Such a tragic story of a truly gifted and talented person. I know not a lot was known about anorexia back then but as a parent with a sick child, I would have had her in the hospital. It seems like everyone just left her on her own to do the right thing, but this is an illness. Just a sad ending to a promising life.I rounded up to 4 stars, but I did think there was a lot about the music and records which did get a bit boring. Toward the end, there was more about Karen and her illness and how everyone handled it.

Hands down the most heartbreaking, sad book I have ever read.Informative, well written and even though I knew the ending already could not put it down!Karen was a people pleaser, raised to be a "good" girl and be quiet, sensitive and who had extraordinary circumstances placed on her shoulders before she was mature enough to handle them. Demands and expectations that ultimately destroyed her....a perfect storm of a lack of understanding and life’s difficulties took her out.If only Karen had really known "Karen"....Just make sure you take a walk after each chapter!

Reading this book definitely offered more insight and perspective on Karen Carpenter. There were subtle hints of her family devotion, Richard’s attitude about the direction of their music and her overall unhappiness that can be witnessed in vintage films and photography. This book allowed for those who lived it - beside Karen - to allow the truth to come out, without being twisted for political correctness.What a shame to lose her - and that her mother and brother seemed to be the ones that pushed her to the final edge.

I’m a Carpenter’s fan from way, way back. ."Close to You" played on the AM radio as I learned to drive. I learned to sing all of her hits, and performed some of them at my friends’ weddings. Although she passed away before I was married, I sang one of her songs at my own wedding..the hauntingly beautiful "Now" from Voice of the Heart: her first posthumusly released album from 1983. I thought I knew a lot about the family and Karen’s death, but there was a good amount of inside story here to keep me reading. Some of the machinations behind The Carpenter’s most successful recordings were news to me, and I like hearing comments from people like songwriter/actor Paul Williams that gave you a feeling for the times in which the duo had their greatest success. Family friends and celebrity insiders may not have been as open and honest now as they might have been in 1983 at the time of Karen Carpenter’s death, but even memories muted by time are still fascinating to hear. There aren’t any scathing revelations for those of us who remember those days, except the specific cause of Karen’s death (no spoilers here) but it’s still a good read for anyone who loves or loved the duo’s brilliant sound. A good deal of the book is about Richard and his brilliant collaboration with lyricyst John Bettis. There are several inside stories that will bring to light discoveries that will make any fan say, "Wow, I never realized that ".One example: when 45’s went the way of the wind, and CDs replaced vinyl, I replenished my library of Carpenters music with the new discs. When I listened to ""Merry Christmas Darling," I thought something was off. It wasn’t the same recording I purchased in the early 70’s. Well, it turns out that Karen didn’t like the original version and she rerecorded it in the late 70’s and all new pressings of the Christmas album had the newer version. As a purist, I longed for that original version, which spoke to me of that world-weary time in my life. Once I discovered the story behind it, I was able to search for and find an original version, which I now happily own.Thirty years have passed since we lost Karen Carpenter. This was a trip down memory lane for me, without the angst and finger pointing and blame game. Well worth the read...go and enjoy!

A very informational story about HC but a little too drawn-out for my taste. Definitely much blame can be blamed on Karen’s mother and a do-nothing father and a brother who was more interesting in the pair’s popularity. but in fairness to Richard, remember it’s quite difficult to play "second banana" and lastly her look-the-other-way musical team and that is entirely my view. Take it for what it’s worth. Yea, I’d encourage you to read the book but only if you truly loved them and their music will you get something out of it. Enjoy! Finally, I am 100% sure that Karen whould have made a terrific mother and what a true BUM her greedy husband turned out to be.... but Karen was warned

about that dud!!!!!!! PT Lovejoy

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