

(Mobile book) The Carpenters: The Untold Story : An Authorized Biography

The Carpenters: The Untold Story : An Authorized Biography

Ray Coleman

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#179654 in Books HarperCollins 1994-04Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF #1 9.50 x 6.50 x 1.25l, #File Name: 0060183454359 pagesshow biz bio of singing duo The Carpenters | File size: 32.Mb

Ray Coleman : The Carpenters: The Untold Story : An Authorized Biography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Carpenters: The Untold Story : An Authorized Biography:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Nice Book! BUT.....By CarpentersfanFinally an autobiography about the Carpenters! That's what I said back in the mid-90's when I first saw this book hit the shelves at Border's Books. The book is recommended for it's historical facts as far as "when, where, what, etc" but, unfortunately Ray Coleman hands were tied when it came to many personal details of the duo. Several times the author was told he couldn't write about certain topics or had to "airbrush" them to put it mildly. Coleman says so himself several years later in interviews. I still recommend this book since Coleman is a superb author of several other books on famous people. If you want a great book on the Carpenters, especially Karen Carpenter, then buy "Little Girl Blue, The Life Of Karen Carpenter" by superfan Randy Schmidt. Another great book is "The Carpenters Online Interviews" by superfan Rick Henry1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great biography.By K.C. Jr.I loved this biography. This has the sobering facts, the humorous stories, and everything in between! Song inspirations were noted, as well as some details on their big hits. I enjoyed Karen's handwritten autobiography of herself at age thirteen as well as Herb Alpert's note congratulating the Carpenters on "Close To You". There were several pages of photos that proved (if not humorous)fascinating! I really wanted to know more about the Carpenters' life and career, so this was a

big help. I cannot, like other reviewers, see that anything vital was left out. The way I see it, just because you are famous does not mean that every detail of your life, good or bad, needs to be documented. Even celebrities need a little privacy! This is a great retelling of the Carpenters' life. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. SadBy Laura S. SchmuckAs a recovering anorexic and a person who loves music, I really connected to Karen Carpenter in how she thought and acted. This biography made me cry so much because such a beautiful person wasted her life in bondage to self. This is a reminder to me to keep pressing on and not let the eating disorder control my life or I will end up just like Karen.

The author of Lennon journeys beyond the limelight to explore the public and private lives of Karen and Richard Carpenter, their rise to international fame, and Karen's struggle with anorexia and her tragic death. 100,000 first printing. \$75,000 ad/promo.

From Publishers WeeklyDespite a clean-cut image that put them distinctly at odds with the glam-rock and disco styles of other '70's bands, the Carpenters, renowned for such mellifluous hits as "Close to You" and "We've Only Just Begun," were one of the most successful pop acts of the time. But like many of their more flamboyant colleagues, they had problems: Richard Carpenter suffered through a bout of severe chemical dependency (from which he eventually recovered) while his sister Karen battled anorexia nervosa, resulting in her death in 1983. Although rock journalist Ray Coleman's (Lennon) authorized biography is ostensibly a history of the Carpenters' career as pop icons, it also doubles as a case study of an anorexic, beginning and ending with accounts of Karen's final days and recording in meticulous, and at times almost intrusive, detail her struggles with her weight and her self-image. Coleman avoids pathologizing Karen or offering pat explanations for her condition. Instead, he impartially weaves together commentary, ranging from the affectionate to the critical, about Karen and Richard's lives and careers from the various viewpoints of family members, friends and associates, including Richard Carpenter himself. Well-researched, well-written and less gossipy than most celebrity bios, this offers insights into the workings of the music industry. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistThe Carpenters' music was assailed in its time as "treacle, drippy easy listening, or even schlock music." Its critics proceeded, however, from a false premise--that it was rock music. In the 1970s--the Carpenters' career zenith--rock was Rock, self-important and serious. But the Carpenters were creating pop, light and melodic. As the 1970s recede into history, the Carpenters' gentle music has begun to be appreciated on its own merits. It belongs to a lineage that includes Georgia Gibbs and, at its most powerful, Judy Garland, rather than that of the Carpenters' contemporaries Led Zeppelin and David Bowie. Coleman's authorized biography treats Karen and Richard Carpenter sympathetically, recounting her struggles with anorexia nervosa and evaluating her vocal abilities and his arranging talents as elements of a pop rather than a rock style. Their music may not have taken any risks, Coleman concludes, but it was well crafted and well executed. (The selected discography that follows the main text reminds us how extensive it was, too.) Regardless of how one feels about the Carpenters' music, Coleman's account of the brother-sister act is compelling, especially in its portrait of Karen as a talented, famous young woman in the grips of an overpowering disease then little known or understood. Mike TribbyFrom Kirkus sThe emphasis here leans more to Karen than to Richard, the acknowledged brains behind their arrangements. Their story is classic Americana, in both success and failure: two clean-cut kids from the suburbs who just love to make music together hit it big, and when Richard develops a pill addiction and Karen hits a low of 78 pounds, Coleman lays the blame on their overbearing and undemonstrative parents. To this day their mother insists that there was no psychological reason behind her daughter's starvation, believing instead that "Karen was simply gripped by an iron determination to get very thin and stay that way." Coleman also traces Karen's problems back to early negative media comments about their "square" appearance amid the wild atmosphere in the music industry of the late-60's. While he keeps insisting that the group was never bland, Coleman's anecdotes reinforce the plain-toast image: their reproducing, note for note, the arrangements from their records when performing live; changing lyrics--e.g., "sleep with you" became "be with you"--so as not to sully Karen's good-girl image; and proudly appearing at the Nixon White House in 1972. It is true that at the time of Karen's death relatively little was known about anorexia nervosa, but the eating disorder has since become familiar, and Coleman's glancing treatment of it reveals little that is new. A dual-celebrity bio that retells well-worn stories. -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.