



Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter

By Randy L. Schmidt

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Little Girl Blue is an intimate profile of Karen Carpenter, a girl from a modest Connecticut upbringing who became a Southern California superstar.

Karen was the instantly recognizable lead singer of the Carpenters. The top-selling American musical act of the 1970s, they delivered the love songs that defined a generation. Karen's velvety voice on a string of 16 consecutive Top 20 hits from 1970 to 1976—including "Close to You," "We've Only Just Begun," "Rainy Days and Mondays," "Superstar," and "Hurting Each Other"—propelled the duo to worldwide stardom and record sales of more than 100 million. During their short musical career, the Carpenters released ten studio albums, toured more than 200 days a year, taped five television specials, and won three Grammys and an American Music Award.

But that's only a part of Karen's story. *Little Girl Blue* reveals Karen's heartbreaking struggles with her mother, brother, and husband; the intimate disclosures she made to her closest friends; her love for playing drums and her frustrated quest for solo stardom; and the ups and downs of her treatment for anorexia nervosa. After her shocking death at 32 years of age in 1983, she became the proverbial poster child for that disorder; but the other causes of her decline are laid bare for the first time in this moving account.

Little Girl Blue is Karen Carpenter's definitive biography, based on exclusive interviews with her innermost circle of girlfriends and nearly 100 others, including professional associates, childhood friends, and lovers. It tells a story as touching, warm, and involving as any of Karen's greatest songs.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

From the beginning, Richard, not Karen, was the talented musician whose parents moved across the country for a better career. Karen dabbled in music and tagged along on gigs, but it would be years before her show-stopping voice commanded the spotlight. And that shift, when the forgotten little sister became star of the act, Schmidt argues, marked the beginning of Karen's deadly, lifelong struggle with weight. Schmidt tracks the anxieties that seem to have driven her eating disorder, including a controlling mother and the lack of a stable love life. After the failure of her first solo effort, Karen made a bid for happiness with the dashing Tom Burris that would prove short-lived; he was only interested in her money. This was one setback too many for the gifted singer, and by 1983 she was dead, at 32. The self-destructive pressures of celebrity make for a familiar narrative, but Schmidt treats Karen's death not as an inevitability, but a tragedy that built slowly. His sympathies for the star border on fawning, but the copious research and quick-moving narration make this a volume that die-hard Carpenters fans and casual listeners alike will find interesting. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

"[A] heart-rending biography . . . The author relates Karen's story in writing as fluid and affectless as her singing . . . As Schmidt details Karen's unstoppable fall, *Little Girl Blue* becomes one of the saddest tales in pop . . . This compassionate book gives a tortured waif the third dimension she deserved." —*New York Times Book Review*

"Heartbreaking. . . . Schmidt succeeds in bringing a gifted, troubled musician to vivid life." —*People*

"Told with compassion and understanding, this poignant and richly fascinating story of Karen Carpenter reads more like a novel you can't put down than the extensively and impeccably researched biography it actually is." —**David Kaufman**
, author of *Doris Day: The Untold Story of the Girl Next Door*

"A fascinating, and at times harrowing, read. . . . Schmidt adds vital new information to our understanding of this contradictory and conflicted artist. . . . We know how her story ends, but Schmidt has made it as absorbing as it is deeply humane." —*Blurt*

"[Schmidt's] fresh perspective reanimates the rise and fall of an American recording icon. . . . [A] dense, fact-filled treatment, which carefully skirts sensationalism while exposing new truths in this haunting tragedy." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Very comprehensive . . . heartbreaking." —*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"The copious research and quick-moving narration make this a volume that die-hard Carpenters fans and

casual listeners alike will find interesting." —*Publishers Weekly*

“Like most of Karen Carpenter’s songs, this book pulls you in and triggers more emotion than you bargained for. Finally, the story of this angelic voice is told.” —**Stephen Cox**, author of *The Munsters: A Trip Down Mockingbird Lane*

About the Author

Randy L. Schmidt compiled and edited *Yesterday Once More* and served as creative consultant for several television documentaries on the Carpenters, including the *E! True Hollywood Story*, A&E’s *Biography*, and VH1’s *Behind the Music*.

Dionne Warwick

is a popular American singer, an actress, and activist; a United Nations Global Ambassador for the Food and Agriculture Organization; and the former United States Ambassador of Health.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Glen Thomas:

Now a day people who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each info they get. How people have to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Reading a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information specifically this Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter book because book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Joseph Ortiz:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book can be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the e-book untitled Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter can be excellent book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Dwight Ambrose:

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dialect styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some investigation when he makes this book. Here is why this book suitable all of you.

Henry Vance:

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