



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.

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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:

Gracie Davis:

The publication untitled Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter is the guide that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to a person. The language that creator use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of investigation when write the book, therefore the information that they share to your account is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

Hazel Park:

Often the book Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research just before write this book. This book very easy to read you will get the point easily after scanning this book.

Ariane Gray:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter, it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Linda Gabriel:

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