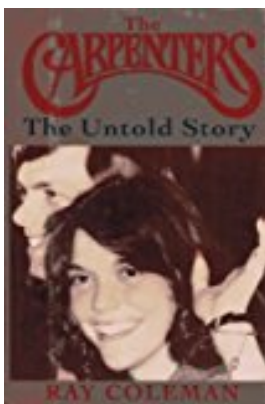


# [PDF] The Carpenters: The Untold Story : An Authorized Biography

Ray Coleman - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

Title: The Carpenters: The Untold St  
Author: Ray Coleman  
Released: 1994-04-01  
Language:  
Pages: 359  
ISBN: 0060183454  
ISBN13: 978-0060183455  
ASIN: 0060183454

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**Description:**

**From Publishers Weekly** Despite 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.

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**From** The 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 Tribby*

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