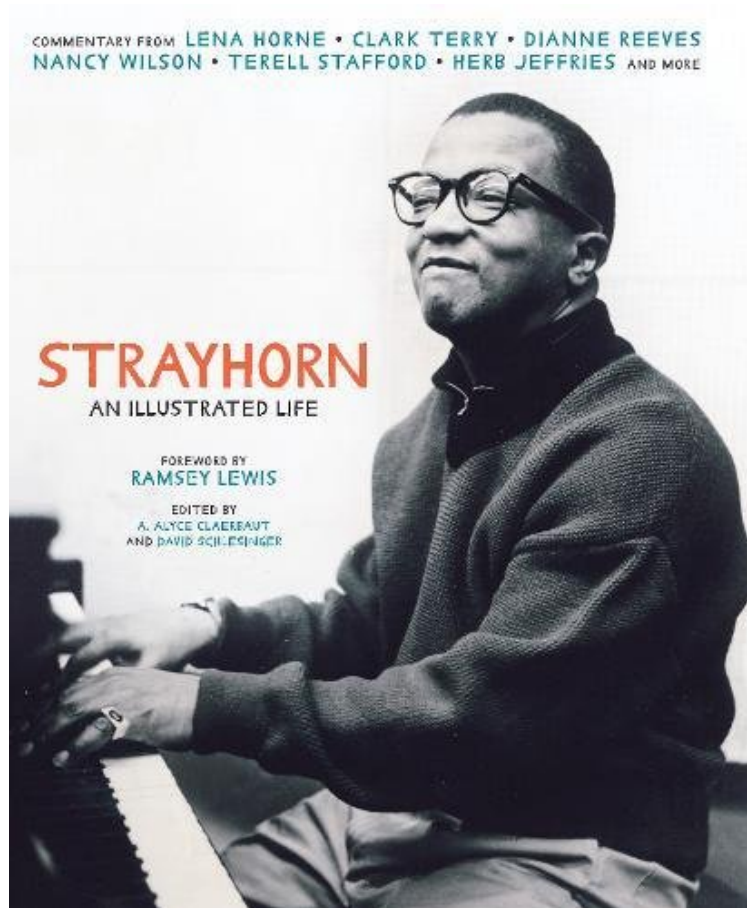


(Free) Strayhorn: An Illustrated Life

Strayhorn: An Illustrated Life

From Agate Bolden

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From Agate Bolden : Strayhorn: An Illustrated Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strayhorn: An Illustrated Life:

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This lush paean to the composer explores the challenges he faced of being both black and gay, and his commitment to his own four freedoms. The New York TimesStrayhorn: An Illustrated Life is a stunning collection of essays, photographs, and ephemera celebrating Billy Strayhorn, one of the most significant yet under-appreciated contributors to 20th century American music. Released in commemoration of Strayhorn's centennial, this luxurious coffee-table

book offers intimate details of the composer's life from musicians, scholars, and Strayhorn's closest relatives. Perhaps best known for his 28-year collaborative role as Duke Ellington's "writing and arranging companion," Strayhorn has emerged in recent years as an even more meritorious force in shaping the jazz canon. Strayhorn begins by describing Billy's abusive upbringing and early success, and goes on to cover his music, family, intellectual pursuits, involvement with civil rights, and open homosexuality. Strayhorn features contributions from Strayhorn's biographer David Hajdu, film director Rob Levi, music scholar Walter van de Leur, as well as commentary from jazz greats like Lena Horne, Clark Terry, Dianne Reeves, Nancy Wilson, Terrell Stafford, Herb Jeffries, and more. With lush photography and rare memorabilia like handwritten scores, this is a book to be treasured by jazz aficionados and music lovers everywhere. Enthralling and visually captivating, *Strayhorn: An Illustrated Life* lauds a beloved jazz legend and captures a prodigious legacy that will influence generations to come.

Praise for *Strayhorn: An Illustrated Life*, edited by A. Alyce Claerbaut and David Schlesinger: "This lush paean to the composer explores the challenges he faced of being both black and gay, and his commitment, as Ellington described it, to his own four freedoms: 'Freedom from hate, unconditionally; freedom from self-pity (even through all the pain and bad news); freedom from fear of possibly doing something that might possibly help another more than it might himself; and freedom from the kind of pride that might make a man think that he was better than his brother or his neighbor.'" *The New York Times* "A posthumous corrective, belatedly giving Strayhorn his due as master composer and pioneer of equal rights." Howard Reich, *Chicago Tribune* "This book will be an enjoyable read for knowledgeable jazz fans and neophytes alike." *Downbeat* magazine "This brimming tribute gives immensely talented yet too-little-recognized Strayhorn his due, gracing us with his mantra, 'Ever up and onward.'" *Booklist*, starred review "A gorgeous coffee-table book dedicated to the life and work of Billy Strayhorn, the wonderful jazz composer best known for his collaborations with Duke Ellington. Packed with photographs, sheet music and recollections from Strayhorn's many friends, this book will make you want to listen to the great man's music." June Thomas, *The Book Reader*, *NY 1 Time Warner Cable News* "A luxuriously illustrated new book is dedicated to the story of one of jazz's most influential, yet overlooked, artists." Michael Ruscoe, *BookTrib* "Readers with even the slightest interest in jazz will be delighted with the endlessly fascinating array of visual treats and star-studded reminiscences that tenderly pay tribute to an often overlooked yet extremely important figure in jazz history. Erin O. Romanyshyn, *Library Journal*, starred review "A stunning collection of essays, photographs and ephemera celebrating the legend. Not to be missed!" Alan W. Petrucelli, *Examiner.com* Praise for Billy Strayhorn: "Billy Strayhorn was always the most unselfish, the most patient, and the most imperturbable, no matter how dark the day. I am indebted to him for so much of my courage since 1939. He was my listener, my most dependable appraiser, and as a critic he would be the most clinical, but his background--both classical and modern--was an accessory to his own good taste and understanding." Duke Ellington "It made us all think a little differently about what we were doing." Benny Carter "Strayhorn is like Beethoven--every note he wrote seems inevitable." Cliff Colnot, principal conductor, Civic Orchestra of Chicago "To me [Billy Strayhorn] is the boss of the arrangers." Quincy Jones "Billy was the source of my consciousness raising.... I had to learn to accept myself first, and that's what Billy helped me do." Lena Horne "That's all I did - that's all I ever did - try to do what Billy Strayhorn did." Gil Evans "All those seventhsman, I never heard anything like those things until him." Dizzy Gillespie "When Strayhorn came on the scene, he just blew us away." Gerry Mulligan "Strayhorn had created a personal musical style in which he sought and found refuge. His music at the same time reflected beauty and conflict, and allowed for multiple readings." Walter van de Leur, author of *Something to Live For*