

# ELLA FITZGERALD

*A Biography  
of the  
First Lady  
of Jazz*

**STUART  
NICHOLSON**



# Download Ella Fitzgerald: A Biography Of The First Lady Of Jazz

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**Ella Fitzgerald**-STUART NICHOLSON 2014-07-22 Stuart Nicholson's biography of Ella Fitzgerald is considered a classic in jazz literature. Drawing on original documents, interviews, and new information, Nicholson draws a complete picture of Fitzgerald's professional and personal life. Fitzgerald rose from being a pop singer with chart-novelty hits in the late '30s to become a bandleader and then one of the greatest interpreters of American popular song. Along with Billie Holiday, she virtually defined the female voice in jazz, and countless others followed in her wake and acknowledged her enormous influence. Also includes two 8-page inserts.

**Ella Fitzgerald**-Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara 2018-03-01 Meet Ella Fitzgerald, one of the most influential jazz singers of all time! Part of the beloved Little People, BIG DREAMS series, this inspiring and informative little biography follows the inspirational life of the First Lady of Song, from her early singing days on the streets of Harlem to her success as a jazz legend, with the message: "It's not where you come from, but where you're going that counts." Ella Fitzgerald grew up near Harlem, in New York, where she was surrounded by music and dance. After winning first prize in a talent competition at the Apollo Theater, she went on to tour the world with her pioneering voice. This moving book features stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, including a biographical timeline with historical photos and a detailed profile of the singer's life. Little People, BIG DREAMS is a best-selling series of books and educational games that explore the lives of outstanding people, from designers and artists to scientists and activists. All of them achieved incredible things, yet each began life as a child with a dream. This empowering series offers inspiring messages to children of all ages, in a range of formats. The board books are told in simple sentences, perfect for reading aloud to babies and toddlers. The hardcover versions present expanded stories for beginning readers. Boxed gift sets allow you to collect a selection of the books by theme. Paper dolls, learning cards, matching games, and other fun learning tools provide even more ways to make the lives of these role models accessible to children. Inspire the next generation of outstanding people who will change the world with Little People, BIG DREAMS!

**Ella Fitzgerald**-Katherine E. Krohn 2001-01-01 A biography of the celebrated jazz singer, known especially for her scat singing and "songbook" recordings of the works of many major American composers.

**Ella Fitzgerald**-Tanya Lee Stone 2008 Presents the life and accomplishments of the world-revered jazz singer who won thirteen Grammys, toured for more than fifty years, and became known as the First Lady of Song.

**First Lady of Song**-Geoffrey Mark Fidelman 1994 Chronicles the personal life and singing career of the well-known jazz artist and discusses her impact on contemporary music.

**Skit-scat Raggedy Cat**-Roxane Orgill 2010 Follows the beloved American jazz singer's rise to fame, describing the difficult historical and cultural factors that she overcame.

**Ella Fitzgerald**-Andrea Davis Pinkney 2009-01-23 "Scat Cat Monroe" narrates a celebration of the life and career of the first lady of song, noting her distinctive style and far-ranging impact upon contemporary music.

**Ella Queen of Jazz**-Helen Hancocks 2018-10-04 Ella Fitzgerald sang the blues and she sang them good. Ella and her fellas were on the way up! It seemed like nothing could stop her, until the biggest club in town refused to let her play... and all because of her colour. But when all hope seemed lost,

little did Ella imagine that a Hollywood star would step in to help. This is the incredible true story of how a remarkable friendship between Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe was born - and how they worked together to overcome prejudice and adversity. An inspiring story, strikingly illustrated, about the unlikely friendship between two celebrated female icons of America's golden age.

**Ella**-Geoffrey Mark 2018-12-15 Illustrated with 280 photos of Ella, and artifacts from her life and internationally acclaimed career. Developed with material from the archives of her estate, ELLA reveals the unknown side of the famous vocalist. This tome not only covers her entire career with many never-before seen photos, interviews, and anecdotes, but delivers for the first time the true, untold story of Ella - the woman. This trade paperback edition includes an exclusive 2-CD set of 39 studio and live tracks. These tracks were carefully selected by Ella expert/author Mark from all four of her major recording labels (Decca, Verve, Capitol & Pablo), gathering for the first time ever in one collection the best of her work from 1938 through 1989, and programmed as she would have sung them in live performance. This collection is exclusive to the book and cannot be purchased elsewhere. Ella Jane Fitzgerald became an internationally celebrated cultural force who has been called the greatest female singer in history. ELLA chronicles the ultimate rags-to-riches embodiment of the American dream, whose personal life was one of the best-kept secrets in show business. In her lifetime, the "The First Lady of Song" sold over 40 million albums, wrote hit songs, devoted herself to philanthropy, and amassed countless awards and commendations, including 14 Grammys, honorary doctorates from Dartmouth, Princeton, Harvard, and Yale, the National Medal of Arts, France's Commander of Arts and Letters, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Miss Fitzgerald is known in every part of the world as "Queen of Jazz," "First Lady of Song," "Mama Jazz," and "The Memorex Lady." Her bittersweet life juxtaposes the tragedy of a homeless orphan who faced poverty, racial prejudice, sexual and physical abuse, with a talent and a burning ambition that led to an astonishing musical career spanning seven decades. She was an African American woman who fought racism and sexism in an industry completely dominated by white males. Despite her challenges, Ella Fitzgerald topped them all, enjoying a career and a musical legacy rivaling or surpassing those of Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, and Michael Jackson.

**Making Their Voices Heard**-Vivian Kirkfield 2020-01-14 Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe. On the outside, you couldn't find two girls who looked more different. But on the inside, they were alike--full of hopes and dreams and plans of what might be. Ella Fitzgerald's velvety tones and shube-doobie-does captivated audiences. Jazz greats like Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington couldn't wait to share the stage with her, but still, Ella could not book a performance at one of the biggest clubs in town--one she knew would give her career its biggest break yet. Marilyn Monroe dazzled on the silver screen with her baby blue eyes and breathy boo-boo-be-does. But when she asked for better scripts, a choice in who she worked with, and a higher salary, studio bosses refused. Two women whose voices weren't being heard. Two women chasing after their dreams and each helping the other to achieve them. This is the inspiring, true story of two incredibly talented women who came together to help each other shine like the stars that they are.

**Ella Fitzgerald**-Carolyn Wyman 1993-08-01 Chronicles the personal life and singing career of the well-known jazz artist and discusses her impact on contemporary music.

**Ella Fitzgerald**-Megan Schoeneberger 2005 Provides an introduction to the life and biography of the African American jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald, who recorded more than 200 albums and performed at Carnegie Hall 26 times.

**Ella-Sid Colin** 1986 Traces the life of Ella Fitzgerald and examines her rise to success as a jazz singer

**Ella Fitzgerald**-Kana Riley 1999-08-11

**Ella Fitzgerald**-J. Wilfred Johnson 2010-08-05 Ella Fitzgerald was one of America's greatest jazz singers. This volume is as complete a discography of her recorded songs as currently seems possible to compile. This volume also contains a complete discography (1927-1939) for drummer and bandleader Chick Webb, with whom Ella began her recording career in 1935. Part One includes a chronological listing of all known recorded performances of both Chick Webb and Ella. Part Two gives the complete contents of Ella's LPs and CDs, including track listings, titles (with lyricists and composers) and timings. Part Three is an annotated alphabetical listing of all songs contained on all of Fitzgerald's records, with detailed information on each song's composer, lyricist, and history. Reviews of the movies in which Ella appeared and surveys of her career with the Decca, Verve and Pablo music companies are included. The book also has an index of album and CD recordings, and composers, lyricists and musicians.

**Queen of Bebop**-Elaine M. Hayes 2017-07-04 Queen of Bebop brilliantly chronicles the life of jazz singer Sarah Vaughan, one of the most influential and innovative musicians of the twentieth century and a pioneer of women's and civil rights Sarah Vaughan, a pivotal figure in the formation of bebop, influenced a broad array of singers who followed in her wake, yet the breadth and depth of her impact—not just as an artist, but also as an African-American woman—remain overlooked. Drawing from a wealth of sources as well as on exclusive interviews with Vaughan's friends and former colleagues, Queen of Bebop unravels the many myths and misunderstandings that have surrounded Vaughan while offering insights into this notoriously private woman, her creative process, and, ultimately, her genius. Hayes deftly traces the influence that Vaughan's singing had on the perception and appreciation of vocalists—not to mention women—in jazz. She reveals how, in the late 1940s and early 1950s, Vaughan helped desegregate American airwaves, opening doors for future African-American artists seeking mainstream success, while also setting the stage for the civil rights activism of the 1960s and 1970s. She follows Vaughan from her hometown of Newark, New Jersey, and her first performances at the Apollo, to the Waldorf Astoria and on to the world stage, breathing life into a thrilling time in American music nearly lost to us today. Equal parts biography, criticism, and good old-fashioned American success story, Queen of Bebop is the definitive biography of a hugely influential artist. This absorbing and sensitive treatment of a singular personality updates and corrects the historical record on Vaughan and elevates her status as a jazz great.

**Ella Fitzgerald in Australia**-Ian D. Clark 2014-06-05 Jazz icon Ella Fitzgerald visited Australia four times in her long career that spanned six decades. This work presents a history of Ella Fitzgerald's Australian tours, and analyses how her concert appearances were received and reviewed in Australian and international media. She first toured in July 1954 as part of Lee Gordon's inaugural 'The Big Show'. Her second tour in December 1960 included Verve stable mate Mel Tormé, who was her supporting act. This tour was arranged by Melbourne night club owner Jim Noall and extended to the capital cities of the eastern seaboard and Adelaide. After completing her Australian commitments in early December 1960, Fitzgerald flew to New Zealand for her first tour there - this leg of the tour was promoted by Harry M. Miller. Her next visit came in November 1970, according to an article in The TV Times, but very little has been discovered about this tour. Her final visit to Australia came in November - December 1978 when she performed in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Adelaide, and in Perth for the first and only time in her career. In 1978 all the epithets used in the Australian print media to refer to Ella acclaimed her musicianship - gone was the earlier fixation on her colour and weight. Now she was 'Jazz Queen', 'Ella the great', 'First lady of song', 'world's greatest popular/jazz singer', 'grand lady of jazz', 'majestic', and 'singing legend'. Ella Fitzgerald's 1978 Australian tour was a no-holds-barred celebration of her music and of her life. Australian audiences adulated Ella Fitzgerald. In the major biographies of Ella Fitzgerald, Australia does not feature prominently - in fact it barely rates a mention. The 1954 tour was overshadowed by the racist event that occurred in Honolulu, Hawaii, en route to Australia from California that saw her 'bumped' from her first class airline seat. The 1960 Australian tour received scant attention in Fitzgerald biographies, and only one mentioned it in the context of her appearance at the inaugural gala for president-elect John F. Kennedy. The 1970 and 1978 visits do not receive any mention in leading biographies. The work contains rare photographs, many of which have never been published before.

**Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe**-Tamra B. Orr 2019-09 She was the rising star of the jazz world, with a voice that could knock down any doors, save for those still locked behind the remains of Jim Crow laws. But help can come from the most unlikely places, including one of Ella Fitzgerald's greatest fans, film legend Marilyn Monroe, who talked many theater owners to give the singer a chance. Thanks to the talent of Ella Fitzgerald, and with the help of Marilyn Monroe, we all can now witness their talents, as well as the power of friendship and what it can accomplish.

**Billie Holiday**-Stuart Nicholson 1995 A biography of the jazz vocalist, Billie Holiday, who died from a drug overdose in 1959. As well as a discussion of her music, this text covers her drug addiction, masochistic promiscuity and alcoholism, and examines the racial prejudice and legal harassment she suffered all her life.

**Adele**-Chas Newkey-Burden 2015-12-29 After years of rumors, Adele's long-awaited third album 25 was finally announced in late 2015, and with it came claims that she was to single-handedly "save the music industry." Such is the influence of Adele—a young mother from north London with the most powerful voice in the world. Adele's breathtaking songs have seen her top the charts in over 30 countries, collect millions of admirers, and win dozens of top awards. But who is she? Her commendable desire to protect her family and friends from the harsh glare of the media's spotlight has meant that she has become one of the most private superstars on the planet. Adele: The Biography traces her story from a humble childhood in London through to the phenomenal success of her first two albums, 19 and 21, and the making of her most recent work, 25. Along the way, this unique book uncovers how her troubled private life influenced her heartbreaking tracks and how she overcame a string of obstacles that threatened to derail her career. You will discover the fascinating truth behind all the highs and the lows experienced by this fun, formidable woman, whose songs have become national anthems for the heartbroken. In this fully updated edition of his internationally-bestselling biography, Chas Newkey-Burden reveals the woman behind the music.

**Ella Fitzgerald**-Ella Fitzgerald 2006

**A-ticket, A-tasket**-Ella Fitzgerald 2003-01-01 A boy in New York City drops his green and yellow basket and later sees a little girl carrying it around.

**History Maker Biographies**-Grace Hansen 2017-01-01 History Maker Biographies takes a look into the lives of past and present distinguished people who have gone down in history for contributing to sports, society, science, entertainment, and more. Each title features relevant and/or historical photographs, photo captions, and a timeline. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards.

**Jazz, the Modern Resurgence**-Stuart Nicholson 1990

**Deep in a Dream**-James Gavin 2011-07 From his emergence in the 1950s as an uncannily beautiful young Oklahoman who became the prince of "cool" jazz seemingly overnight to his violent, drug-related death in Amsterdam in 1988, Chet Baker lived a life that has become an American myth. Drawing on hundreds of interviews and previously untapped sources, this first major biography of one of the most romanticized icons in jazz gives a thrilling account of the trumpeter's dark journey. Author James Gavin delves deeply into Baker's tormented childhood, the origins of his melancholic trumpet playing, and even reveals the long-unsolved riddle of Baker's demise. Baker's otherworldly personal aura struck a note of menace and mystery that catapulted him to fame in the staid 1950s but as time wore on, his romance with drugs became highly publicized. Gavin narrates the harrowing spiral of dependency down which Baker tumbled and illustrates how those who dared to get close were dragged down with him. This is the portrait of a musician whose singular artistry and mystique has never lost the power to enchant and seduce.

**Jazz Singing**-Will Friedwald 1996-08-22

**The Cambridge Companion to Gershwin**-Anna Harwell Celenza 2019-07-31 Explores how Gershwin's iconic music was shaped by American political, intellectual, cultural and business interests as well as technological advances.

**Ella Fitzgerald - Original Keys for Singers (Songbook)**-Ella Fitzgerald 2004-09-01 (Vocal Piano). Arguably the best female jazz singer ever, no one could out-swing or out-scat "The First Lady of Song." This fine book features authentic transcriptions in the original keys of 25 Fitzgerald classics in voice with piano accompaniment format: A-tisket, A-tasket \* But Not for Me \* Easy to Love \* Embraceable You \* The Lady Is a Tramp \* Misty \* Oh, Lady Be Good! \* Satin Doll \* Stompin' at the Savoy \* Take the "A" Train \* and more. Includes a biography and discography. A must for every jazz singer's library!

**My Life As A Spy**-Leslie Woodhead 2012-12-13 An award-winning and highly distinguished documentary film-maker, Leslie Woodhead has written a funny, sad and highly atmospheric memoir of what it was like to be hurled into maturity amidst the peculiar circumstances of the Cold War. In the spring of 1956, like two million other men of his generation, the eighteen-year old Leslie Woodhead received a summons to serve Her Majesty. Charting his progress from the austerity of post-war Halifax, via comically bleak RAF training camps and the grim, isolated Joint Services School for Linguistics, My Life As A Spy takes us finally to Berlin and the front line of the Cold War. In the ruins of a city gripped by espionage and paranoia, Leslie Woodhead discovered adulthood and his vocation as an observer and documenter of people. A slice of Cold War history and a poignant tale of how our lives can be formed by events and experiences we barely comprehend at the time. '[a] delightfully irreverent memoir. . . Woodhead's memories exude a wonderful sense of nostalgia for a world of lost innocence that to anyone over 60 is instantly recognisable' Sunday Times

**The Last Sultan**-Robert Greenfield 2011-11-08 The Last Sultan is the definitive biography of a man who changed popular culture throughout the world. As the founder and head of Atlantic Records, Ahmet Ertegun signed and/or recorded many of the greatest musical artists of all time, among them Ruth Brown; Big Joe Turner; Ray Charles; Bobby Darin; Sonny and Cher; Eric Clapton; Buffalo Springfield; Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young; Led Zeppelin; the Rolling Stones; Bette Midler; and Kid Rock. Working alongside his older brother, Nesuhi, one of the preeminent jazz producers of all time, and the legendary Jerry Wexler, who produced great soul artists like Wilson Pickett, Solomon Burke, and Aretha Franklin, Ertegun transformed Atlantic Records from a small independent record label into a hugely profitable multinational corporation. In successive generations, he also served as a mentor to record-business tyros like Phil Spector, David Geffen, and Lyor Cohen. Brilliant, cultured, and irreverent, Ertegun was as renowned for his incredible sense of personal style and nonstop A-list social life as his work in the studio. Born into great privilege as the son of a high-ranking Turkish diplomat during the last days of the Ottoman Empire, Ertegun spent his life bringing the black-roots music he loved to the world. A larger-than-life figure, always hip, Ertegun lived in the grand manner but was never happier than when he found himself in some down-and-out joint listening to music late at night. Blessed with impeccable taste and brilliant business acumen, he brought rock 'n' roll into the mainstream while creating the music that became the sound track for the lives of multiple generations. With supporting characters like Steve Ross, Henry Kissinger, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Jann Wenner, and a host of others, The Last Sultan is the fascinating story of a man who always lived by his own rules.

**Ella Fitzgerald**-Ron Fritts 2003 The Jazz Itineraries series, a new format based on Ken Vail's successful Jazz Diaries, charts the careers of famous jazz musicians, listing club and concert appearances with details of recording sessions and movie appearances. Copiously illustrated with contemporary photographs, newspaper extracts, record and performance reviews, ads and posters, the series provides a fascinating insight into the lives of the greatest jazz musicians of our times. No.2 in the series, co-authored by Ron Fritts, Ella Fitzgerald: The Chick Webb Years & Beyond 1935?1948, chronicles Ella's life from her discovery and development by Chick Webb, the shock of Webb's early death, her years as a bandleader, her success as a solo singer, marriage to Ray Brown and her first tour of England.

**Jazz-Rock**-Stuart Nicholson 2000-12 The quintessential crossover form, jazz-rock encompasses the most popular hybrid styles, from 1970s fusion to the latest in acid jazz. Jazz-Rock: A History provides a clear overview of the many trends and musical genres that comprise this popular music.

**A Tribute To-- Ella Fitzgerald**-Ella Fitzgerald 1999

**September in the Rain**-Peter J. Levinson 2005 The first-ever biography of the highly respected arranger in the history of American popular music. Base on more than 200 interviews with his closest friends, family, and colleagues.

**The Ella Fitzgerald Companion**-Tad Hershorn 2004 The Ella Fitzgerald Companion is a celebration of the woman who is arguably musical history's greatest singer of popular. An international superstar of jazz and popular music, Fitzgerald boasted astounding versatility and sophistication that covered the entire musical spectrum, and her combination of incredible vocal flexibility, precise diction and articulation, accurate improvising skills, and a huge repertoire remains unmatched. This guide to her sixty-year career-including her recordings, her important influences, and her collaborators-offers an overview of the evolution of American popular singing in the twentieth century through the lens of its greatest interpreter. Accessible to musicians and non-musicians alike, the volume concludes with a comprehensive discography of all the important Fitzgerald albums that have been re-issued to date on compact disc, offering the reader a practical way to become acquainted with one of the twentieth century's true musical pioneers.

**Black Resonance**-Emily J. Lordi 2013-11-08 Ever since Bessie Smith's powerful voice conspired with the "race records" industry to make her a star in the 1920s, African American writers have memorialized the sounds and theorized the politics of black women's singing. In Black Resonance, Emily J. Lordi analyzes writings by Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Gayl Jones, and Nikki Giovanni that engage such iconic singers as Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Mahalia Jackson, and Aretha Franklin. Focusing on two generations of artists from the 1920s to the 1970s, Black Resonance reveals a musical-literary tradition in which singers and writers, faced with similar challenges and harboring similar aims, developed comparable expressive techniques. Drawing together such seemingly disparate works as Bessie Smith's blues and Richard Wright's neglected film of Native Son, Mahalia Jackson's gospel music and Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man, each chapter pairs one writer with one singer to crystallize the artistic practice they share: lyricism, sincerity, understatement, haunting, and the creation of a signature voice. In the process, Lordi demonstrates that popular female singers are not passive muses with raw, natural, or ineffable talent. Rather, they are experimental artists who innovate black expressive possibilities right alongside their literary peers. The first study of black music and literature to centralize the music of black women, Black Resonance offers new ways of reading and hearing some of the twentieth century's most beloved and challenging voices.

**Norman Granz**-Tad Hershorn 2011-10-17 "Any book on my life would start with my basic philosophy of fighting racial prejudice. I loved jazz, and jazz was my way of doing that," Norman Granz told Tad Hershorn during the final interviews given for this book. Granz, who died in 2001, was iconoclastic, independent, immensely influential, often thoroughly unpleasant—and one of jazz's true giants. Granz played an essential part in bringing jazz to audiences around the world, defying racial and social prejudice as he did so, and demanding that African-American performers be treated equally everywhere they toured. In this definitive biography, Hershorn recounts Granz's story: creator of the legendary jam session concerts known as Jazz at the Philharmonic; founder of the Verve record label; pioneer of live recordings and worldwide jazz concert tours; manager and recording producer for numerous stars, including Ella Fitzgerald and Oscar Peterson.

**Greta Thunberg**-Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara 2020-05-05 In this book from the critically acclaimed, multimillion-copy best-selling Little People, BIG DREAMS series, discover the inspiring true story of Greta Thunberg, the environmental activist. When young Greta learned of the climate crisis, she stopped talking. She couldn't understand why people in power were not doing anything to save our Earth. One day she started protesting outside the Swedish Parliament, creating the "School Strike for Climate." Soon, lots more young people joined her in a global movement that shook adults and politicians alike. She had found her voice and uses it to inspire humans to action with her powerful message: "No one is too small to make a difference." This inspiring book features stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, including a biographical timeline with historical photos and a detailed profile of the climate activist's life. Little People, BIG DREAMS is a best-selling series of books and educational games that explore the lives of outstanding people, from designers and artists to scientists and activists. All of them achieved incredible things, yet each began life as a child with a dream. This empowering series offers inspiring messages to children of all ages, in a range of formats. The board books are told in simple sentences, perfect for reading aloud to babies and toddlers.

The hardcover versions present expanded stories for beginning readers. Boxed gift sets allow you to collect a selection of the books by theme. Paper dolls, learning cards, matching games, and other fun learning tools provide even more ways to make the lives of these role models accessible to children. Inspire the next generation of outstanding people who will change the world with Little People, BIG DREAMS!

**How High The Moon**-Karyn Parsons 2019-03-07 Boston was nothing like South Carolina. Up there, colored folks could go anywhere they wanted. Folks didn't wait for church to dress in their fancy clothes. Fancy was just life. Mama was a city girl . . . and now I was going to be one too. It's 1944, and in a small Southern town, eleven-year-old Ella spends her summers running wild with her cousins and friends. But life isn't always so sunny. The deep racial tension that simmers beneath their town's peaceful facade never quite goes away, and Ella misses her mama - a beautiful jazz singer, who lives in Boston. So when an invitation arrives to come to Boston for a visit Ella is ecstatic - and the trip proves life-changing in more ways than one. For the first time, Ella sees what life outside of segregation is like, and begins to dream of a very different future. But her happiness is shattered when she returns home to the news that her classmate has been arrested for the murder of two white girls - and nothing will ever be the same again. A beautifully written and deeply moving story about finding and fighting for your place in the world.

**Stormy Weather**-James Gavin 2009-06-23 At long last, the first serious

biography of entertainment legend Lena Horne -- the celebrated star of film, stage, and music who became one of the first African-American icons. At the 2001 Academy Awards, Halle Berry thanked Lena Horne for paving the way for her to become the first black recipient of a Best Actress Oscar. Though limited, mostly to guest singing appearances in splashy Hollywood musicals, "the beautiful Lena Horne," as she was often called, became a pioneering star for African Americans in the 1940s and fifties. Now James Gavin, author of *Deep in a Dream: The Long Night of Chet Baker*, draws on a wealth of unmined material and hundreds of interviews -- one of them with Horne herself -- to give us the defining portrait of an American icon. Gavin has gotten closer than any other writer to the celebrity who has lived in seclusion since 1998. Incorporating insights from the likes of Ruby Dee, Tony Bennett, Diahann Carroll, Arthur Laurents, and several of Horne's fellow chorines from Harlem's Cotton Club, *Stormy Weather* offers a fascinating portrait of a complex, even tragic Horne -- a stunning talent who inspired such giants of showbiz as Barbra Streisand, Eartha Kitt, and Aretha Franklin, but whose frustrations with racism, and with tumultuous, root-less childhood, left wounds too deep to heal. The woman who emerged was as angry as she was luminous. From the Cotton Club's glory days and the back lots of Hollywood's biggest studios to the glitzy but bigoted hotels of Las Vegas's heyday, this behind-the-scenes look at an American icon is as much a story of the limits of the American dream as it is a masterful, ground-breaking biography.