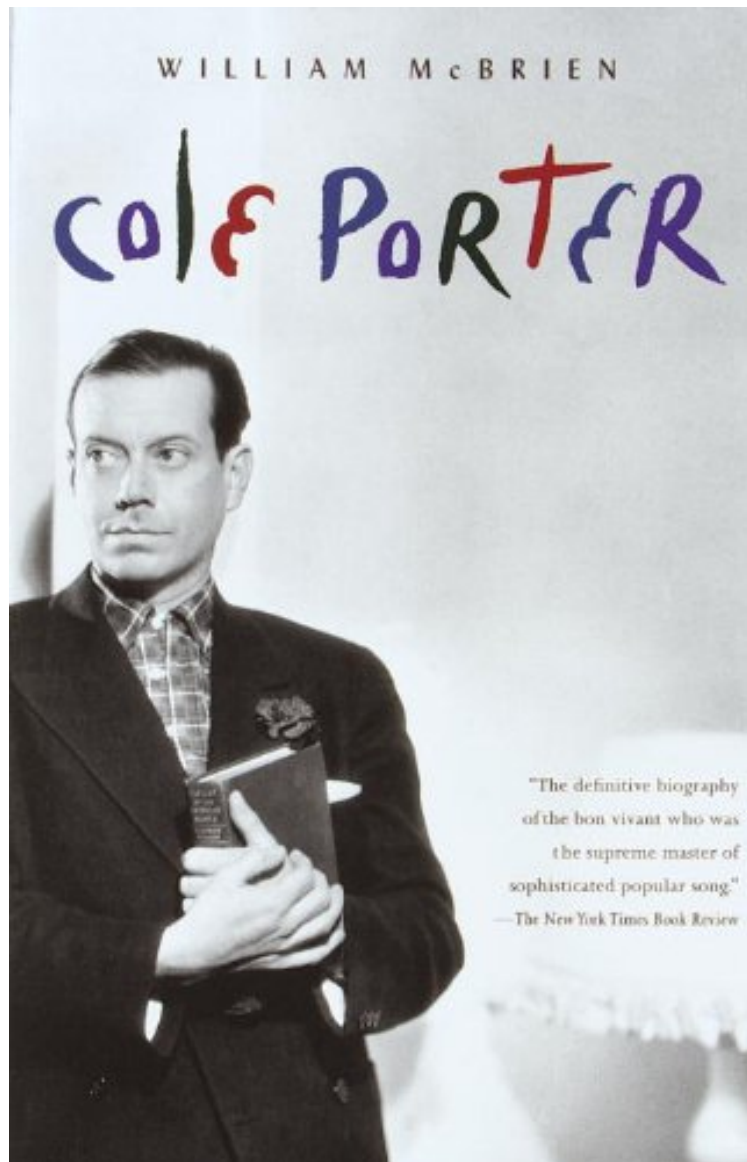


(Ebook pdf) Cole Porter

Cole Porter

Von William McBrien
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Von William McBrien : Cole Porter before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cole Porter:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Top biographyVon Eric Leventhall'd managed to drag myself through about a quarter of "Last Train to Memphis" when Peter Guralnick dropped yet another superfluous detail about a Memphis DJ (Pete, you already told us twice that Bob Neal did the noon "hillbilly" show) and I just couldn't take it no more. Away went the King and out came the

incomparable Cole. Where Guralnick's bio is dense and chewy, William McBrien's treatment on the serious work of being Cole Porter is a melt-in-your-mouth delight. And not without sustenance. McBrien's business is to give analysis of Porter's lyrics through insights into the man's background, actions and relationships. And then comes a cornucopia of society gossip and backstage anecdotes. The juicy stories are not overdone, in fact I would have liked a few more as well as more pictures. A nonchalant reference to a love letter to another man is McBrien's introduction of Cole Porter's homosexuality. I thought I missed an earlier more formal reference. From there it is treated no more nor less seriously than his marriage, wealth or manners--a major factor in his life that molded his work. Porter's crippling riding accident is handled in the same fashion--a clear report uncluttered by romance or irony. "Cole Porter" shows that it is possible to write a critical biography that weighs less than a toddler and is a real pleasure to read. 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An interesting biography of Cole Porter Von Ingles After finally realizing that many of my favorite songs through the years were written by one man, namely Cole Porter, I searched for a biography and found this one. I had recently finished a biography of Gershwin and thoroughly enjoyed it. Comparing the two men was inevitable. They both composed a tremendous amount of music and were very disciplined when it came to their craft. There the similarity ended. Gershwin was always pushing his limits and developing as a composer. Cole Porter pretty much settled for being a tunesmith-- a very clever and witty one, though. Gershwin was always working and learning. Porter was always partying - booze, drugs, and sex. It is amazing that he was able to stand up, nevermind sit down for several hours at the piano everyday to compose, no matter what his activities of the night before. While Gershwin's life reveals a composer striving for ever increasing greatness, Porter's life is pretty superficial and shallow - consisting of one party after another with the "beautiful people". It was a bit of a shock to see that his life was as shallow and mindless as it was and wouldn't add up to much of anything if it were not for his incredible talent. Wealthy beyond most of our dreams, he seems to have been oblivious and/or indifferent to the Depression and the great World War - my guess is that he probably saw them as little more than pesty distractions from his round of parties. With Gershwin, you admire his talent, his discipline, his striving, his willingness to take musical risks after he had become wealthy. With Cole Porter - well, there is always his talent. 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. We learn when he wrote "Anything Goes," he meant it. Von Christopher Menkin I very much agree with the reviewer from Sicily, but there is much more to this book. There is much F. Scott Fitzgerald, an era long about a time and place many of us have not experienced...It is society, alcohol, party, good friends, drugs, and sex--- this time homosexual. It is all fun and games, good times, and famous people. Sometimes, however, it is best not to know the personal life as it may spoil the song, the movie, the performance...but if you rise above this, as I did, here is a very skillfully written book with much information, perhaps too much information, but fascinating nevertheless. I am sorry I never got to see him sing and play in person as he was a very talented man and helpful to many of his friends.

Kurzbeschreibung In his life and in his music, Cole Porter was the top the pinnacle of wit and sophistication. From the 1910s through the 50s, from Yale pep rallies through the Broadway triumphs of *Anything Goes* and *Kiss Me, Kate*, he delighted audiences with a glittering torrent of song: *I Get a Kick Out of You*, *Night and Day*, *Love for Sale*, and *Just One of Those Things*. The bright surface of these gemstheir catchy melodies and ingenious lyrics made them instant pop hits. Their more subtle qualities and their musical and emotional depth have made them lasting standards, among the greatest glories of the American songbook. In *Cole Porter*, William McBrien has thoroughly captured the creator of these songs, whose life was one not only of wealth and privilege but also of tragedy, secrecy, and courage. A prodigal young man, Porter found his aesthetic and emotional anchor in a long, loving, if sexless marriage, while continuing to maintain many discreet affairs with men. In 1937, at the height of his success, he suffered a near-fatal riding accident; his last eighteen years were marked by pain, drugs, and repeated operations on his legs, years of physical agony but unstinting artistic achievement. Here is the book that Porters fans have long hoped for a life that informs the great music and lyrics though illuminating glimpses of the hidden, complicated, private man..deIt's not quite as witty as a Porter song (who could equal the incomparable Cole?), but this thorough biography honors the Broadway musical's worldliest, most intelligent composer by taking him seriously. Voluminous research buttresses William McBrien's portrait of a charmed life scarred by tragedy. Born in 1891, Porter left his wealthy family in Indiana to thoroughly enjoy himself at Yale University in Connecticut, where his sassy songs gave the Midwestern outsider social clout. Although exclusively homosexual, Porter was nonetheless devoted to the wealthy widow he married in 1919, and McBrien's narrative of their 1920s travels through Europe captures the glamorous sheen of their life together. Porter had some early success with shows like *Fifty Million Frenchmen*, but his sustained run of hits began in 1932 with *Gay Divorce*, continuing through the '50s and *Kiss Me Kate*. The author liberally quotes from Porter's deliciously naughty lyrics, reminding us how corny most show tunes seem when compared to "Love for Sale" or "Anything Goes." McBrien's painful account of the ghastly aftermath of a 1937 riding accident, which left Porter in pain that ended only with his death in 1964, reveals a quiet, uncomplaining stoic whose substance matched his dazzling style. --Wendy Smith.com It's not quite as witty as a Porter song (who could equal the incomparable Cole?),

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