



Composition in Black and White: The Life of Philippa Schuyler

By Kathryn Talalay

Oxford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 360 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.2in. x 1.0in. George Schuyler, a renowned and controversial black journalist of the Harlem Renaissance, and Josephine Cogdell, a blond, blue-eyed Texas heiress and granddaughter of slave owners, believed that intermarriage would invigorate the races, thereby producing extraordinary offspring. Their daughter, Philippa Duke Schuyler, became the embodiment of this theory, and they hoped she would prove that interracial children represented the final solution to America's race problems. Able to read and write at the age of two and a half, a pianist at four, and a composer by five, Philippa was often compared to Mozart. During the 1930s and 40s she graced the pages of Time and Look magazines, the New York Herald Tribune, and The New Yorker. Philippa grew up under the adoring and inquisitive eyes of an entire nation and soon became the role model and inspiration for a generation of African-American children. But as an adult she mysteriously dropped out of sight, leaving America to wonder what had happened to the little Harlem genius. Suffering the double sting of racism and gender bias, Philippa had been rejected by the elite classical music milieu in the...



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