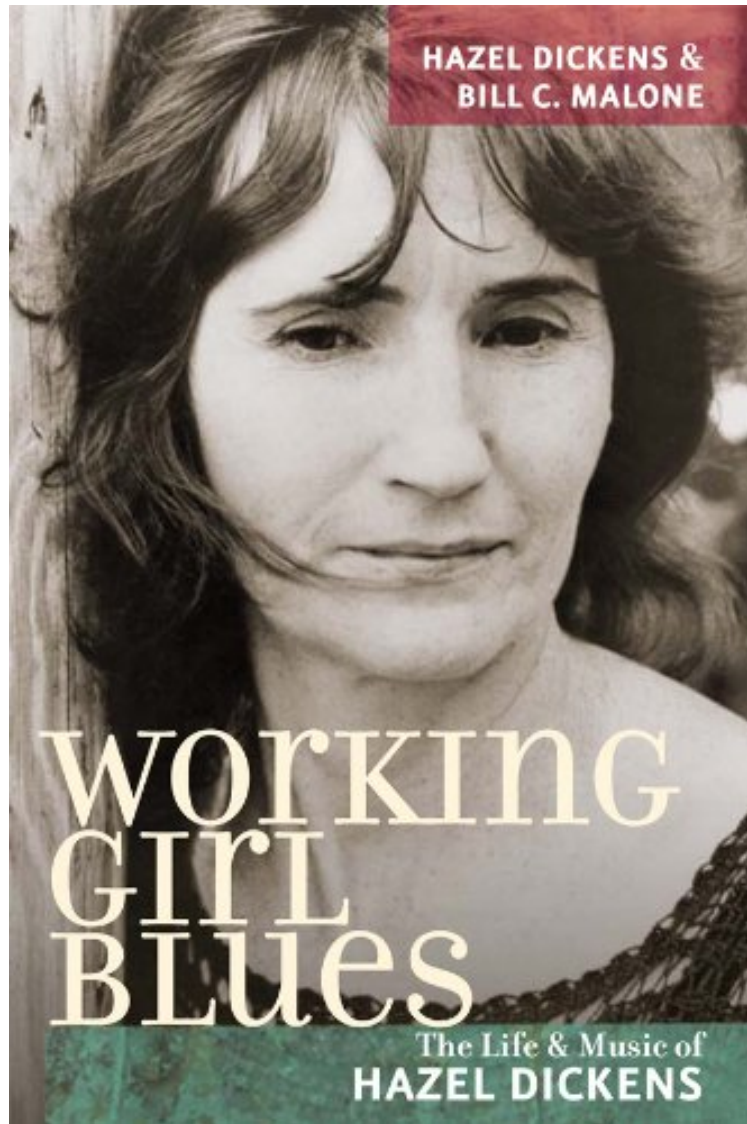


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Hazel Dickens, Bill C. Malone

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Hazel Dickens, Bill C. Malone : Working Girl Blues: The Life and Music of Hazel Dickens (Music in American Life) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Working Girl Blues: The Life and Music of Hazel Dickens (Music in American Life):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Understanding Hazel's Life and MusicBy LynnThis is an easy-to-read book about Hazel Dickens' life and songs. It was great getting her perspective on the different songs she wrote....what the story was behind a song, what inspired her, etc.The only bad part about this book is that because it

was written as a biography and Hazel was so modest, it doesn't go into more detail on the depth of what she did to help the coal miners, how hard she had to work to succeed as a woman in the music industry, how much of a role model she's been for other women artists, what an inspiration she was for the creation of the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival in San Francisco (the largest festival of its kind; even the mayor of SF dedicated a day to her and personally came on stage to give her a certificate of recognition), etc. We still miss her dearly, but it's comforting to know her songs are timeless and we'll never forget her! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Short Bio By Stephen Addison The biography in this book was less than 25% of the book's length. It was really just a long article. Lots of photographs. The bulk of the book was given over to Dickens' descriptions of the origins of her songs. A good book - but not the biography that I was expecting to read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Elizabeth A. Racehorse Shipped promptly, no issues. Clean with some markings, but this was described and there was no issue.

Hazel Dickens is an Appalachian singer and songwriter known for her superb musicianship, feminist country songs, union anthems, and blue-collar laments. Growing up in a West Virginia coal mining community, she drew on the mountain music and repertoire of her family and neighbors when establishing her own vibrant and powerful vocal style that is a trademark in old-time, bluegrass, and traditional country circles. *Working Girl Blues* presents forty original songs that Hazel Dickens wrote about coal mining, labor issues, personal relationships, and her life and family in Appalachia. Conveying sensitivity, determination, and feistiness, Dickens comments on each of her songs, explaining how she came to write them and what they meant and continue to mean to her. Bill C. Malone's introduction traces Dickens's life, musical career, and development as a songwriter, and the book features forty-one illustrations and a detailed discography of her commercial recordings.

From Publishers Weekly Still churning out songs "that challenge the easy complacency and corporate arrogance of our time," influential Appalachian singer-songwriter Hazel Dickens has devoted her life to writing music not just about "the predictable themes of bluegrass-mama, the old home place, the distant but cherished past," but "questions of estrangement, survival, human dignity, and social and economic justice that concern us all." This slim biography, which includes many black and white photographs, lyrics and personal notes from Dickens, as well as a complete discography, chronicles her personal and professional life. Malone, an author and Tulane University history professor, illuminates the life of a "sensitive and discerning child of the poor" who overcame "a society that discouraged women from expressing themselves," and, over the decades, ended up speaking out for many. Dickens's stories, accompanying her song lyrics, provide additional insight into her heritage ("Coal Miner's Grave," "West Virginia My Home"), personal experience and eccentric voice: "Scraps from Your Table," she says, is "one of those nasty smart-alecky songs that I like to write." This tribute to Dickens's life and work will interest bluegrass fans and activists. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist *Hard on the heels of Foster Hirsch's Otto Preminger: The Man Who Would Be King* (2007) comes this somewhat complementary book. Fujiwara skims over Preminger's early years directing for the Vienna stage and his later acting in movies (most memorably, *Stalag 17*) to emphasize his film direction, noting such stylistic markers as his fluid camera movements and long takes and drawing thematic connections between his early films and those shot three decades later. Fujiwara requisitely praises Laura and Preminger's other lauded 1940s noirs, and the censor-defying *The Moon Is Blue* and *The Man with the Golden Arm*, but proceeds to be the contrarian about the large-scale early-1960s films, such as *Exodus* and *Advise and Consent*, that are commonly dismissed as bloated and inert. Fujiwara considers them radical and original, integral to Preminger's self-definition as a filmmaker. A recent upswing in Preminger's critical reputation justifies Hirsch's and Fujiwara's efforts, and libraries with strong film collections should consider both. Others will choose Hirsch for his emphasis on Preminger's colorful life or Fujiwara for his informed and astute critique. --Gordon Flagg "Dickens comments generously on each song, revealing her strong personality. . . . A fine profile of a roots musician who has been a pioneering woman in bluegrass as well as the foremost American protest singer of the later twentieth century." --Booklist