

# The Life and Times of the Musical Chicago: A Journey Through the Roaring Twenties to Broadway and Beyond

## The Jazz Age Beginnings





## All That Jazz: The Life and Times of the Musical

**Chicago** by Ethan Mordden

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

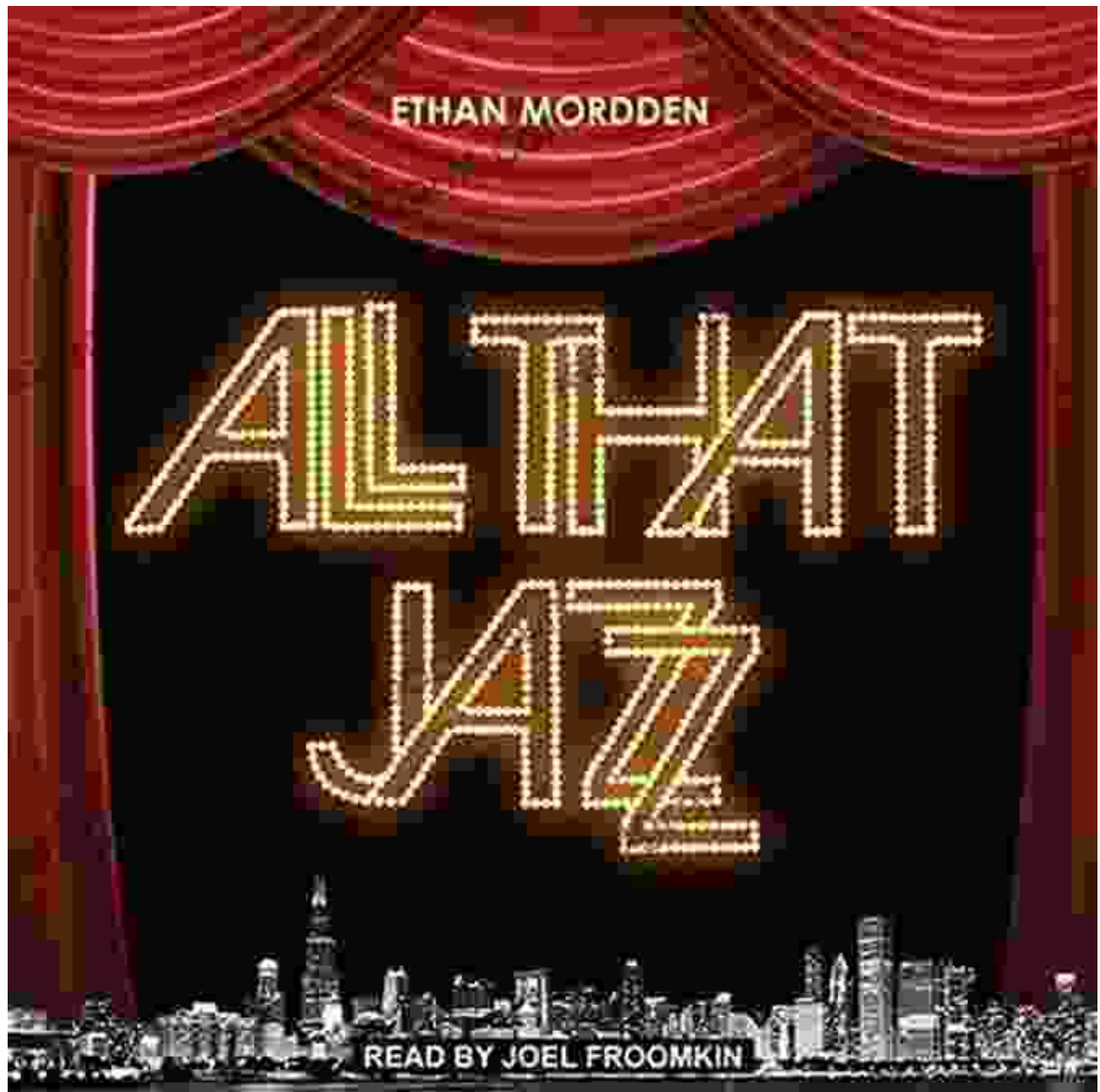
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The story of Chicago begins in the vibrant era of the Roaring Twenties, a time of economic prosperity and cultural upheaval. The city of Chicago was a hub of jazz and vaudeville, and it was here that the musical's inspiration was born.

In 1924, a newspaper reporter named Maurine Watkins covered a murder trial that would become the basis for her play, "Chicago." The play, which premiered in 1926, was a satirical look at the criminal justice system and the media circus that surrounded it.

### **From Play to Musical**



In 1975, the play was adapted into a musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb, the songwriting duo behind "Cabaret" and "Kiss of the Spider Woman." The musical, which opened on Broadway in 1975, was a critical and commercial success.

### **A Jazz-Infused Masterpiece**

**All That Jazz**  
(Intermediate-Advanced Level)

John Kander

Trumpet in B $\flat$

5

10

15

20

25

30

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The music of Chicago is a blend of jazz, vaudeville, and Broadway show tunes. The songs are catchy, energetic, and full of wit. The score includes iconic numbers such as "All That Jazz," "Cell Block Tango," and "Roxie."

## The Characters of Chicago



Chicago features a cast of memorable characters, including Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly, two women who are accused of murdering their lovers. Roxie is a naive and ambitious showgirl, while Velma is a hardened and cynical vaudeville star.

### **A Cultural Phenomenon**



Chicago has become a cultural phenomenon, with multiple revivals, a film adaptation, and a television series. The musical has won numerous awards, including six Tony Awards and two Grammy Awards.

From its humble beginnings in the Roaring Twenties to its triumph on Broadway and beyond, Chicago has captured the hearts and minds of audiences for decades. The musical's unforgettable characters, catchy music, and satirical wit have made it one of the most enduring and beloved musicals of all time.



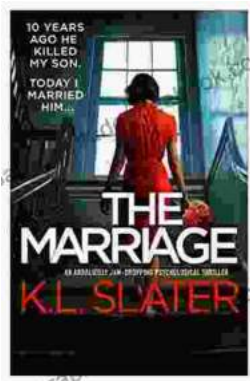
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