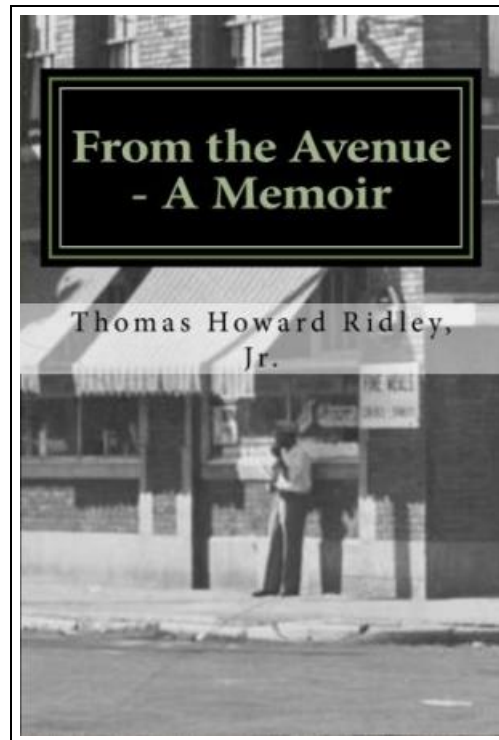


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FROM THE AVENUE - A MEMOIR LIFE EXPERIENCES AND INDIANA AVENUE HISTORY TOLD FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ONE WHO WAS THERE



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Paperback. Condition: New. 70 pages. Thomas Howard Ridley, Jr. grew up in the 1920s and 1930s in Indianapolis, Indiana, just off of the famed Indiana Avenue. The area was renowned for its rich history of jazz and jazz artists; Wes Montgomery, Larry Ridley, Freddie Hubbard, J. J. Johnson, Dr. David Baker, and Jimmy Coe, to name only a few, are all from Indianapolis, and could be found performing at the many jazz clubs on the Avenue. Tom Ridley grew up in the middle of it all, a happy, resourceful young African American with a love of life and family. In this memoir, Mr. Ridley - now 90 years old, and a riveting storyteller - talks about the adventures of his childhood and young adulthood. Through his simple yet wonderfully interesting narrative, the reader is placed into the pre-World War II life of a boy-turned-young man who joyously explores his neighborhood and drinks in all it has to offer. Mr. Ridley tells of a simpler time, when boys made their own bicycles and rode them everywhere, and young men spent hours dressing up to go stand on the corner by the famous Madame Walker Theatre, hoping to catch the attention of the lovely young ladies strolling by. Later they would crowd into packed music venues and cafes, and listen and dance to the music of home-grown jazz musicians who would later find national acclaim. Mr. Ridley went to school, played hard, and spent evenings and summers grabbing whatever job opportunities came his way. The black population of this section of the city was segregated from white people, and happily so. Tom Ridley suffered no ill effects of living and working solely around his people, and knew very little adversity from prejudice until he joined the Army and was sent to Georgia...

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