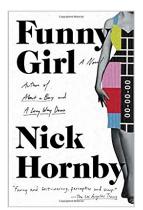
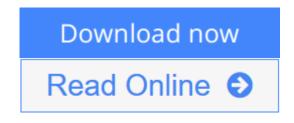
Funny Girl: A Novel



By Nick Hornby



Funny Girl: A Novel By Nick Hornby

A brilliant novel from the bestselling author of *High Fidelity*, *About a Boy*, and *A Long Way Down*.

Set in 1960's London, *Funny Girl* is a lively account of the adventures of the intrepid young Sophie Straw as she navigates her transformation from provincial ingénue to television starlet amid a constellation of delightful characters. Insightful and humorous, Nick Hornby's latest does what he does best: endears us to a cast of characters who are funny if flawed, and forces us to examine ourselves in the process.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month for February 2015: No, Nick Hornby's latest is not a retelling of the story made famous by the old Barbara Streisand movie called Funny Girl – but the allusion to pop culture of the 1960s in this delightful novel is not coincidental. On the surface, this Funny Girl is about a working class English girl who comes of age as a TV star in the days of Carnaby Street, the Beatles, and the musical Hair; what it's also about is the way the world turned over for everybody – but especially actors and writers -- in that explosive era. Sophie Straw is the gorgeous girl from Blackpool who, like Lucille Ball (to whom Hornby slyly introduces the starstruck Sophie in a late scene), is originally deemed too pretty to be funny; like Ball, she manages through wit, decency and pratfall to become her nation's sweetheart. She's a great character, and readers – like everyone in swinging London – will love her. But if Sophie is the star, the rest of the population here – the hilariously narcissistic lover/co-star, the director who pines for Sophie for years, and, my favorite, the writers who give her her vehicles – are exceptional supporting players. And Hornby, who was a bit of a pop culture wunderkind himself, is wise about the way artists' (especially writers') careers morph and change, and what it's like to define a cultural moment and then watch yourself live past it. -- *Sara Nelson*

Review

Praise for Funny Girl

"As befits a novel about a popular sitcom, this novel packs in lots of laughs, but it's also got more heft than Mr. Hornby's readers may expect." —*The New York Times*

"A smart comic novel that... induces binge-reading that's the literary equivalent of polishing off an entire television series in one weekend." —NPR

"Engaging...Hornby's fictionalized evocation of the era is spot-on." - Entertainment Weekly

"Funny and fast moving, perceptive and sharp." -Los Angeles Times

"At its best moments, Hornby's novel shows precisely the same quality [as the best television comedy]." – *The Boston Globe*

"Hornby's fluency in script-like breeziness and crisp banter makes *Funny Girl* a pleasurable read. So does page after page of perfectly timed and delivered humor, the subtle and understated kind, that starts with the first line." – *USA Today*

"[Hornby's] most ambitious novel to date... he makes the reader care for his characters as much as he does."—Starred Kirkus Review

"[A] light, fond, funny tale by the author of *About a Boy*...[a] fizzy delight about the likable oddballs who populate showbiz." —*People*

"Theera and the theme (surfing the crest of a revolution, then getting dumped in its wake) are pure *Mad Men*, but the pulpy warmth and sprightly dialogue are classic Hornby." —*Vulture*

"Beautifully captures the thrill of youthful success and of discovering your own talent." —Daily Telegraph

"*Funny Girl* may be read as Hornby's latest defence of popular entertainment against high-culture elitism. Funny Girl makes his case for him eloquently and entertainingly ... both hugely enjoyable and deceptively artful." —*Spectator*

"I loved this hymn to the 1960s, their infinite creative possibilities." - Scotsman

"Endearing, humorous and touching. Hugely enjoyable." -Sunday Mirror

"...As with any Hornby book, you'll close [Funny Girl] thinking it's his best." -- Metro

"Hornby has transplanted us into an era where funny was also controversial. He allows us to see beyond the actors, but to the creation as a whole—the lives on screen as well as those off." *—Books & Whatnot*

"A sweet sojourn to 1960s London... [Hornby] has a knack for crackling dialogue and well-defined characters." —*The Associated Press*

"[*Funny Girl*] fits squarely in Hornby's tradition of offering quality entertainment that respects readers' intelligence without making novels feel like homework. Consider it comfort food, prepared by a master." *—Christian Science Monitor*

"Fast, funny, and real." -Lev Grossman for TIME

"[FUNNY GIRL] skips effortlessly like a stone skimmed across the water... it's hard to put down." –*Newsweek*

About the Author

Nick Hornby is the author of seven internationally bestselling novels (*Funny Girl, High Fidelity, About a Boy, How to be Good, A Long Way Down, Slam* and *Juliet, Naked*) and several works of nonfiction including *Fever Pitch, Songbook* and *Ten Years In The Tub.* He has written screenplay adaptions of Lynn Barber's An Education, nominated for an Academy Award, Cheryl Strayed's *Wild* and Colm Tóibín's *Brooklyn.* He lives in London.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patricia Kirby:

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