



Funny Girl

By Nick Hornby

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Funny Girl 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.

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Funny Girl By Nick Hornby Bibliography

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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 non-fiction including *Fever Pitch*, *Songbook* and *Ten Years In The Tub*. He has written screenplay adaptations of Lynn Barber’s *An Education*, nominated for an Academy Award, Cheryl Strayed’s *Wild* and Colm Tóibín’s *Brooklyn*. He lives in London.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arthur Furr:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open as well as read a book eligible *Funny Girl*? Maybe it is for

being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have additional opinion?

Robert Rooks:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try to and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both day to day life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not only a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is actually Funny Girl.

Mathew Munz:

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John Yates:

Reading a e-book make you to get more knowledge from that. You can take knowledge and information from a book. Book is published or printed or descriptive from each source which filled update of news. Within this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social just like newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, novel and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Ready to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just searching for the Funny Girl when you essential it?

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