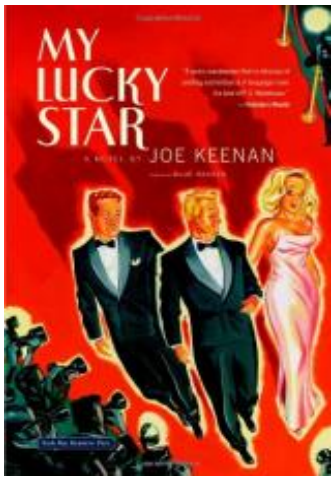
My Lucky Star

by Joe Keenan



About the Book

A hilarious, laser-sharp Hollywood comedy?P.G. Wodehouse meets Christopher Buckley at the Oscars?from Joe Keenan, the Emmy-winning writer and producer of Frasier and author of the classic farce Blue Heaven.

The luckless writing team of Philip Cavanaugh and Claire Simmons is lured to Hollywood by their shifty pal Gilbert's offer of an improbably high-profile screenwriting gig. The job proves even more ill-gotten than they'd feared, but just as Claire packs her bags, enter sexy megastar Stephen Donato, the monarch of Philip's fantasies and a man with a Problem.

Stephen, secretly gay, has gotten wind of a memoir to be penned by his aunt Lily, a washed-up actress with more than enough TNT to blow the hinges off his closet. Philip, smitten, proposes a bargain: if they can write Stephen's next picture, Philip will do double duty as Lily's ghostwriter, providing Stephen a spy and an agent of influence in the enemy camp. What could go wrong?

Well, for starters there's the arrival of Moira Finch, the trio's old nemesis and as cunning a wolf as ever donned a sheep suit. Thanks to Moira's machinations, Philip soon finds himself center stage in a rapidly escalating fiasco involving call boys, blackmail, enraged publicists, vengeful DAs, and the single most ill-judged sex act a married megastar has ever committed. Written with the manic brilliance and nonstop hilarity Keenan brought to both his previous two Philip and Gilbert books and the dizzy farces he scripted for Frasier, **My Lucky Star** sends up Hollywood pretense higher than it's ever been sent before.

Discussion Guide

1. Who is your favorite character in **My Lucky Star**? Do you find yourself drawn to the more conventional characters or the more outlandish ones? Are there any characters in whom you see qualities of your own, however exaggerated?

2. What roles do Philip, Claire, and Gilbert play in their friendship? What does each one add to the trio? Does the way they interact remind you of any of your own friendships?

3. My Lucky Star is great fun to read, but it's also a biting social satire. What vices/people/habits is the author commenting on? Which situations or characters did you find the most successful in this respect?

4. When Philip volunteers to write Lily's memoirs, he infiltrates her scheme through the use of his own. When else does this sort of backstabbing happen in the book? What do these situations say about each of the characters involved? Is one motive better or more moral than the other?

5. As the novel's heroes make their way through the maze that is Hollywood, Gilbert manages to get them into one sticky situation after another. Why are Claire and Philip always unable to put their foot down, no matter how hard they may try? Do you have a friend like this, who always creates trouble and yet whom you can't resist having around?

6. From a faded film star to a backstabbing ex-wife, My Lucky Star's Hollywood is filled with characters out for blood. But how else is one to act in such a dog-eat-dog city? Are there any characters you sympathize with, despite their seemingly evil intentions? Discuss the motives behind each of the key players.

7. Have you been to Hollywood? Do you think Keenan's depiction of the city is accurate?

8. Do you like Keenan's swift and witty voice? What do you think comic novels offer us as readers, besides enjoyment? Do you find comedy to be even more telling than drama, or less?

Author Bio

Joe Keenan is an author, producer, playwright, and lyricist. He is a five-time Emmy-winner for his work on the hit comedy series Frasier and he is also the author of two novels, **Blue Heaven** and **Putting on the Ritz**. He lives in Studio City, California.

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