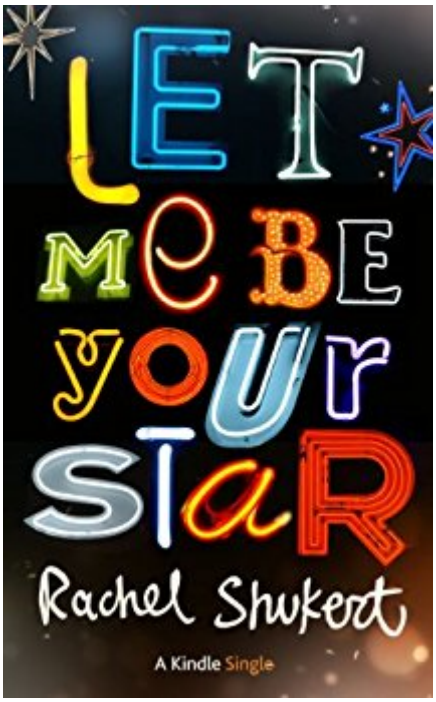
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Let Me Be Your Star (Kindle Single)



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Synopsis

Fade in on a girl, with a hunger for fame.....and with her uproariously funny, widely circulated, and often totally unhinged recaps of the television show SMASH, author, playwright, and perpetual non-speaking townsperson Rachel Shukert finally got a scrap of it to gnaw on. A once-aspiring actress who never quite got over her dreams of Broadway stardom, Shukert lovingly sunk her teeth into analyzing (and often, inventing) every detail of NBC’s embattled little-musical-that-couldn’t, and before long, found herself at the center of the backstage drama behind the backstage drama that captivated America (or at least, the part of it that spends a lot of time handing out their head shots in Times Square.)Childhood heroes became devoted fans. Rabid internet mobs called for her death. And through it all, Rachel kept recapping, risking her health, her sanity, and her sleep hygiene forever. And somehow, she made her Broadway dreams come true, although in a way she never could have imagined as a nine-year-old lip-synching her way through the original cast album of "Sunday in the Park With George" back in her living room in Omaha. An inventive blend of memoir, cultural criticism, and wildly absurdist fan fiction (and including never-before-published material, suitable for sing-alongs!), LET ME BE YOUR STAR is your recap of recaps from a master of the form, lifting the veil on fan culture, Broadway, and the woman behind the keyboard desperately trying to think of another mildly erotic joke about Elaine Stritch at 4:30 am on a Tuesday. Anyone who loves television, the Internet, or Into the Woods (and if you don’t fall into any of these categories, please prove to this computer that you are a human being) won’t want to miss this thoughtful, hilarious meditation on life, art, and the act of creation by one of our most inimitable comic voices.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

a fast-moving, very funny kind of personal essay, that describes an elbow-bend in the author’s life (one she likens, in an aside of Dorothy Parker-esque self deprecation, to being a fitfully idiosyncratic, more Broadway-infused personal Eat, Pray Love scenario). The unexpected way Shukert unspools her thoughts, and draws connections between her experiences, and simultaneously peppers it all with her huge knowledge of culture, make it a real pleasure to read. It’s like being in the presence of an extravagantly gifted conversationalist, or a fiendishly entertaining monologuist, or some other kind of theatrically adroit sleek-talker.Quoting it will show much better what I mean; the piece is full of these gems, and also has longer-form humorous/thematic effects that are a pleasure to encounter."It was a whole new world. I felt like the part of the movies where the newspapers start spinning and you see me, in clothing of increasing elegance, going from burlesque to vaudeville to the Ziegfeld Follies, and then at the end I’m famous and can finally live the ultimate show biz dream of drinking myself to death in a giant art deco penthouse high in the twirling sky of the Manhattan night.""When I awoke, often I would have no memory of what I had written at all, until a smattering of "oh gurl" tweets and perhaps a quote or two would start to trickle over the various feeds that let us know, Ed Koch-style, how we’re doing.""TV recapping is a peculiar discipline that has flourished in our disconnected, hyperconnected, insert-your-own-meaningless-Thomas-Friedman-byword-here age.""Katherine McPhee, a Japanese body pillow outfitted with its own AutoTune processor sang a lot of Rihanna songs...."And on it goes. Highly recommended.

(Note: I purchased this on impulse three years ago and only just now read it.)I loved Shukert’s recaps, and am pleased to see her working still (I saw her name appear on an episode of Supergirl recently [thus triggering me to finally read this] and was insanely delighted to know that she now has the power to give words to Jimmy). So I expected the prose to be fun.What I did not expect was the power of the through-line, and the connection to a deep-truth I’d always known but had never

properly articulated about being part of the "we" of the theatre community. I learned something about myself, and my world.It may not have been the New York Times, but I'll nonetheless follow their style guide to say: thank you, Ms. Shukert.

Although the author starts out with a pretty good storyline, this quickly devolves into an insiders ramble or rant. The witty run-on sentences page after page had me skipping ahead, even in this very short read, to see if there was a point to be made. Sadly, the point (if any) was often lost in the ramble. It is the first time I wished I could have returned the kindle short and got my $2.00 back- and I watched both seasons of Smash, and so I could follow references to the show, but clearly I don't know enough Broadway to get the jokes apparently embedded in this book. Not worth 2 bucks, and I love to read a wide range of articles and books.

Part of the reason I kept watching Smash till the bitter end was so that I could continue enjoying Rachel's recaps, so I had to buy this Kindle Single about it. It isn't as tears-of-laughter-inducing as the recaps, instead taking a more circumspect look at how she got the job and what it ended up meaning to her. Don't get me wrong, though, it's still very funny and endearing. Rachel isn't afraid to be honest about the experience, even when the truth may not be personally flattering, and it ends on an uplifting note. Her passion and sincerity shine through. If you're interested in the world of theater, television, or writing, I recommend this e-book.

I was along for the ride nearly from the beginning of the incredible journey that was the Smash recap saga. I got to know the deep (and sometimes frightening) recesses of Rachel Shukert's mind and felt like I was a part of something greater than myself.This single is absolutely worth the money if for no other reason than it contains a complete list of all the descriptive phrases used to describe Karen Cartwright, each more brilliant than the last.God bless you, Rachel Shukert.

For anyone who has been a theater geek or been close to one, you'll recognize the people and characters that pop up, and will appreciate the asides and recollections. Funnier and smarter than the show it recapped, you could just skip watching Smash - or you could read this first and then go watch Smash and see it through the loving, acerbic wit of Rachel Shukert.

What can I say? Months after watching all of Smash and reading all of Shukert's recaps in a bingey fever, I'm amazed and impressed to find it all coming back to me with crystal, campy clarity. Recap

recaps are clearly an important new genre, and Rachel Shukert has invented it. Well done, again.

That almost rhymes too. Rachel Shukert gives the back story on her experience recapping for NBC's Smash for Vulture. It's incredibly personal, poignant, not to mention funny. Buy it, support the arts.

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