

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming larger, more interconnected clusters than others.

# Stay Up with Hugo Best

Written by Erin Somers

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Published by sanmarco-sf

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# Stay Up with Hugo Best

By Erin Somers

## Stay Up With Hugo Best

An incredibly timely, terrifically witty and moving debut about a young writer's assistant on a late night comedy show and what transpires when she accepts an invitation from its enigmatic host to spend a long weekend at his mansion in Connecticut.

## Stay Up With Me

June Bloom is a broke, cynical twenty-nine-year-old writer's assistant on the late-night comedy show, Stay Up with Hugo Best. Hugo Best is in his sixties, a beloved icon of TV and humor, and a notorious womanizer. After he unexpectedly retires and a party is held for his now unemployed staff, June ends up at a dive bar for an open-mic night and prepares for the sad return to the anonymous comedian lifestyle. What she's not prepared for is a run-in with Hugo at that dive bar. Nor for the invitation that swiftly follows: Hugo asks June to come to his mansion in Greenwich for the long Memorial Day weekend. "No funny business," he insists.

## Stay Up With Hugo Best Review

June, in need of a job and money, confident she can handle herself, but secretly harboring the remains of a childhood crush on the charming older comedian and former role model, accepts. The exact terms of the visit are never spelled out, but June is realistic and clear-eyed enough to guess. Even so, as the weekend unfolds and the enigmatic Hugo gradually reveals himself, their dynamic proves to be much more complicated and less predictable than she expected.

## Stay Up With Me Don't Fall Asleep

At once hilarious and poignant, brilliantly incisive and terrifically propulsive, *Stay Up with Hugo Best* is an incredibly timely exploration of sexual politics in the #MeToo age, and the unforgettable story of one young woman's poignant stumbling into adulthood.

June Bloom, 29 years old, was a writing assistant for "Stay Up with Hugo Best", a late night comedy show. June lived with a roommate in a Brooklyn neighborhood both "charmless and in flux". She had slowly worked her way up from audience page to writers assistant for her childhood crush, Hugo Best. This "beloved" TV comedian and womanizer unexpectedly announced his last show and upcoming retirement.

June is now unemployed. It will be back to open mics in shady environs, playing to mostly empty chairs or customers ignoring her presence on stage. "The Birds and the Bees" is one such establishment. Hugo Best happens upon June Bloom at this club. Surprisingly, Hugo realizes that she has worked on his show and invites her to spend Memorial Day Weekend at his Connecticut mansion. He promises "no funny business". What are June's expectations for this special weekend with an iconic comedian?

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June was trying to discover her niche. Approaching 30 years of age, she hadn't found her true direction in life. "Being in a chauffeured car all of a sudden was a shock to the system akin to jet lag. I felt transported across time zones". This must be the good life!

Hugo Best, seemingly magnetic and charismatic, had planned a Memorial Day/Retirement Party to be attended by his friends including comedy people, actresses, models and neighbors. Who will be in attendance?

"Stay Up with Hugo Best" by Erin Somers is the story of two individuals striving for self worth. June feels she "should have arrived". Stand up comedy is arguably lonely and unsettling. Hugo is unsettled as well. Life as he knew it has changed.

Thank you Scribner and Net Galley for the opportunity to read and review "Stay Up with Hugo Best".  
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## Stay Up With Hugo Best Goodreads

Thanks to NetGalley and Simon & Schuster for the opportunity to read this ARC in return for an honest review. After reading a number of dark murder mysteries, I wanted to take a break and read something lighthearted and comical. This was definitely not lighthearted, and reviews calling it hilarious had me fearing I was devoid of any sense of humour. To me, it was the opposite of hilarious, being depressing, poignant and full of melancholy, and with uncertain motivations on the part of the I

Thanks to NetGalley and Simon & Schuster for the opportunity to read this ARC in return for an honest review. After reading a number of dark murder mysteries, I wanted to take a break and read something lighthearted and comical. This was definitely not lighthearted, and reviews calling it hilarious had me fearing I was devoid of any sense of humour. To me, it was the opposite of hilarious, being depressing, poignant and full of melancholy, and with uncertain motivations on the part of the leading characters. It was well written, with much to be said about modern sexual politics, but am unsure of the book's aim, or what conclusion I was supposed to draw.

June Bloom is a 29-year-old who comes across younger in many ways. Her goal in life is to be a comedian along with the fame it could bring. She was performing stand-up comedy at a dive bar. I got the impression that her goal in comedy is probably futile. I can take vulgar stand-up comedy if it is funny, but the snippets of her routine were just plain vulgar. She seems unfocused, yearns to be a celebrity, but sometimes feels unworthy. At other times she angrily states that she deserves the fame. It is unclear whether she has the talent to achieve her ambitions. She is broke, and not taking productive steps to reach her goal or to find another field of employment. She is merely floating through life.

After the open mic show, where many seats were empty and the few in the audience ignoring her routine, she encounters famed celebrity, Hugo Boss. June worked as a writer's assistant for his late night TV show and had a childhood crush on him. She still idolizes him and is in awe of him. Hugo's show has been cancelled, putting them both out of work. Hugo claims to be 65 but is actually a few years older. He seems sad and unexpectedly invites June to his home in Connecticut for the Memorial Day holiday. She accepts, standing up a date with her current boyfriend.

There is a lot of sarcasm and complaining in their dialogue, but they gradually seem to build a tentative bond during her time at his luxurious home. June is able to boost his shattered ego caused by his fate as a celebrity has-been. June is impressed by his mansion, his fleet of cars, his staff, and the luxuries she sees that fame can bring.

I wasn't able to connect with the flawed characters or the situation. It was not what I expected, but others may enjoy this character-driven story. ...more

A wry and meditative novel about fame and the proximity to it. June is an aspiring comedian at the very bottom of the totem pole at a late night talk show hosted by famed comedian Hugo Best. After Hugo's run on the show ends, meaning they're both out of a job, the sixty-something Hugo invites 29-year-old

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Stay Up with Hugo Best

June to his Connecticut mansion for the weekend even though they've barely spoken before. What follows isn't quite what you expect, but it's also not all that far off, as June tags along on a couple of days in Hugo's life. A wry and meditative novel about fame and the proximity to it. June is an aspiring comedian at the very bottom of the totem pole at a late night talk show hosted by famed comedian Hugo Best. After Hugo's run on the show ends, meaning they're both out of a job, the sixty-something Hugo invites 29-year-old June to his Connecticut mansion for the weekend even though they've barely spoken before. What follows isn't quite what you expect, but it's also not all that far off, as June tags along on a couple of days in Hugo's life.

What Somers has to say about comedy, fame, and the sad lot of the many low-level strivers is interesting enough but June herself doesn't quite come into focus. By being 29 and not 19, we know she is smart enough to know what she is getting into when she accepts Hugo's invitation. It's probably not surprising how at a remove from it all June is, but June is one of those protagonists that's becoming more and more common, especially in these Young New Yorker novels. She has a goal, she knows what she wants to be, and yet she doesn't seem all that invested in it. She continues to float along, making you wonder why she cares about comedy at all. We know she likes it when people find her funny, but there's little of her investment in herself. This is a common theme these days, and Somers does more with it here than most do. June's role as fame-adjacent but without any actual responsibilities or artistic investment is a prime spot to analyze millennial ennui. But I hoped for more from June.

This isn't a laugh-out-loud funny kind of book, more observational and quiet. But I raced through it in two sittings so it's an easy one to get through. ...more

## Stay Up With Hugo

I wasn't completely sure what to expect when I started this one but I could not stop thinking about it during the few days that I read it. The book takes place over the four days of memorial day weekend after Hugo Best, a late night talk show host, has wrapped up filming his last show. On a whim, he invites June Bloom, a writers assistant on his show, to his house in Connecticut. June, now jobless and having a crush on Hugo since childhood, accepts his invitation despite the fact that he is 30+ I wasn't completely sure what to expect when I started this one but I could not stop thinking about it during the few days that I read it. The book takes place over the four days of memorial day weekend after Hugo Best, a late night talk show host, has wrapped up filming his last show. On a whim, he invites June Bloom, a writers assistant on his show, to his house in Connecticut. June, now jobless and having a crush on Hugo since childhood, accepts his invitation despite the fact that he is 30+ years her senior and has quite a reputation.

What follows is a quietly hilarious and, at times, sad character study of these two. June laments the difficulty of being a not quite successful twenty-something and Hugo struggles with saying goodbye to his show and growing older. They both grapple with what fame means to them - how much they want it, how it protects, how it isolates. Somers' writing is keenly observant and she does dialogue in a way that made me feel like the characters were real people I was listening to.

This one reminded me of a more real-life version of 30 rock, so I highly recommend for those who love comedy but also a real-life look at what it means to be famous, seek fame, and sometimes feel disappointed by it all. ...more

Though set in NY and Connecticut, this tale could easily have happened in Los Angeles. High-powered aging celebrity invites an attractive underling to his mansion. We all know how the story goes. Quite timely with what's happening with all these #metoo movement. Instead of a one-dimensional take, this debut really digs deep. I was completely invested in the story. Every quip and observation feels real. This was probably as close as I can get to being at a celeb mansion observing what all those r Though set in NY and Connecticut, this tale could easily have happened in Los Angeles. High-powered aging celebrity invites an attractive underling to his mansion. We all know how the story goes. Quite timely with what's happening with all these #metoo movement. Instead of a one-dimensional take, this debut really digs deep. I was completely invested in the story. Every quip and observation feels real. This was probably as close as I can get to being at a celeb mansion observing what all those rich and powerful men can do or get away with minus the ick factor. Well-played debut.

Thanks to the publisher for access to advance copy. ...more

## Stay Up With Me Tom Barbash

June Bloom grew up idolizing Hugo Best's comedic talent, despite his reputation as a womanizer. But landing her dream job as a writer's assistant on his late night show has been more than anticlimactic. Unexpectedly invited to Hugo's house for the Memorial Day weekend, June feels she knows what's she getting herself into. The four days that follow are funny, sad, glamorous and not at all what June expects.

This novel is moving and felt so true. And funny! I kept it within reaching distance for days and read whenever I had a moment. I haven't done that in a long time. I loved it.

## Stay Up With Hugo Best Kirkus

Review to come

I really enjoyed spending time with this book! Every page has something on it that sparkles, whether that's a line of dialogue, an arresting description, or a character's random musings. Somers has a really good grasp on a certain kind of New York aspiring artist, people who often aren't locals to the city and come with expectations that seem almost perversely difficult to achieve; who have a knowing, ambivalent relationship with fame but still yearn for it; who make compromises for outsized opportunities that never quite deliver what they hope. I've been that person, and still sometimes am, so it was both nostalgic and a little painful to follow along with June as she blunders her way through this long weekend with her hero/ambiguous crush object. Make time for this one when it's out next spring. ...more

## Stay Up With Hugo Best A Novel

I thought I would love this book about an aging late night talk show host and a young writer who works on his show. Although "funny" at times, I wanted it to be more lighthearted and less serious. No doubt it was well written, and if you are a fan of old comedy acts, you may very well enjoy it more than I did. But for me it was sad and a little depressing.

While I enjoyed reading this debut by Erin Somers, it left me somewhat cold and not understanding what the overall thesis of the novel was. June was a bit of a one-dimensional character to me, and while not unlikeable, I just couldn't really connect with her. I liked all of the pop culture and comedy references a lot, but the book as a whole was a disappointment.

## Stay Up Without Caffeine

Yuck.

Sometimes you read a book that you know you wouldn't recommend to everyone, and this is one of those books. I personally enjoyed it quite a bit, because it wasn't the fun, fluffy, ridiculous book I expected it to be. Instead, it was an intense character study of a man coming to terms with his life now that the relevance and power he once had in large quantities is quickly dwindling and of a woman who never achieved the relevance and power she thought she would in her youth. These very honest explorations within the story are framed with the opulence of extreme fame and some very uncomfortable power dynamics.

FULL REVIEW HERE: <http://meganprokott.com/stay-up-with-...> ...more