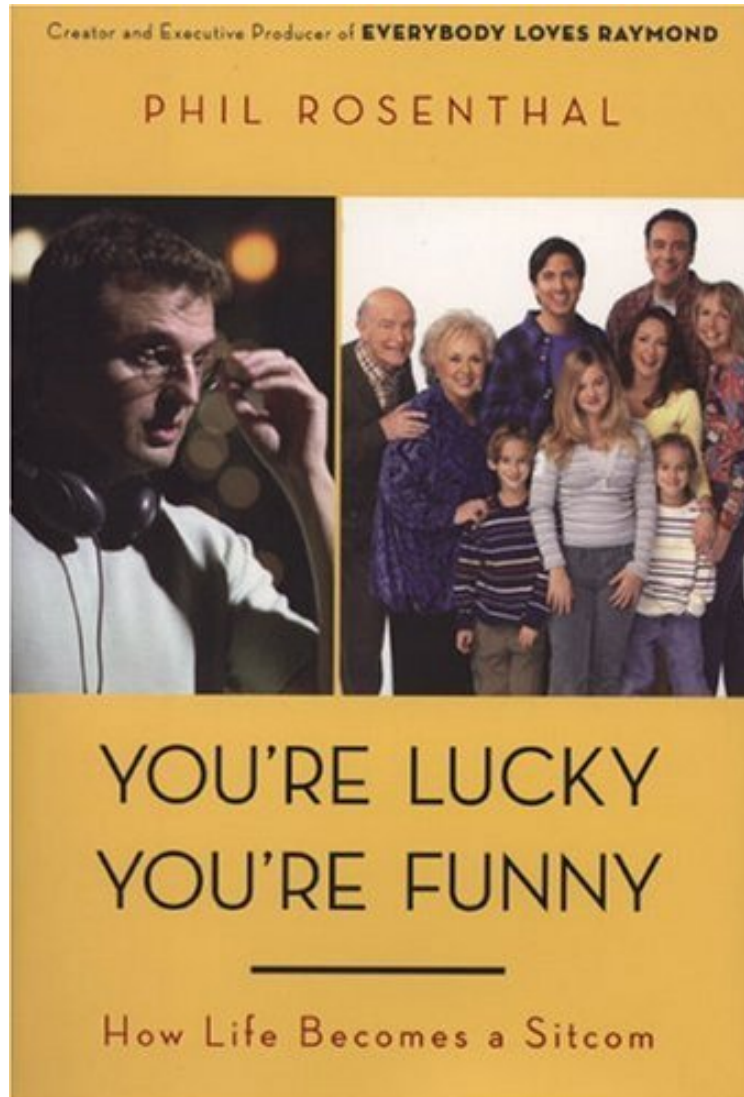


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You're Lucky You're Funny: How Life Becomes a Sitcom

Phil Rosenthal

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#762304 in Books Viking Adult 2006-10-19 2006-10-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.48 x .98 x 6.421, #File Name: 0670037990256 pages | File size: 62.Mb

Phil Rosenthal : You're Lucky You're Funny: How Life Becomes a Sitcom before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised You're Lucky You're Funny: How Life Becomes a Sitcom:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Really Enjoyable Read By Mariane Matera This behind the scenes look at what it takes to be a comedy writer is a page-turner. I enjoyed it all, even his pre-Hollywood stories. What you will not hear is anything about salary negotiations on the Raymond show, or even that at the end, Ray Romano was the highest paid actor on television. He doesn't say how he felt about that, or anything about his own negotiations or what he made. No gossip about problems with actors or co-stars, and when he references problems on other shows, he

doesn't say the actor or the show, so you can't tell. He is careful to hide the identities of any bad guys in this story. I guess he wants to work again one day. It is a good look at what goes on when you are a show-runner, which involves supervising and being with the writers throughout that process, the table reads, the blocking, and even the filming of each episode. He was the boss of all that. The writers used their own lives and marriages to create the stories, and the writing staff stayed fairly stable over the entire nine years. Maybe it was because I have the bargain paperback, but there were no photos in my book. I wish I had photos!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Infotainment at its best
By Polly Letofsky
As a writer who's fantasized about writing television sitcoms, and a fanatic of the genius that is ELR, Rosenthal's book is the perfect blend of memoir and learning the industry. I loved the back stories of my favorite episodes, and appreciate that he stood his ground when crazy people tried to interject ridiculous ideas on his show. Thank God he won those fights. It was almost a relief to realize that this show that seems so seamless had the struggles that loony people and network execs inflict on us all. Thanks for being so stubborn, Phil. Your stubbornness gave the world a gift.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative and funny
By W Richard Trimble
This book is both informative and funny. Informative if you are a fan of Everybody Loves Raymond, or sitcoms in general, or are a writer, or are just curious. He tells of the conflicts creators can get into with those who are jealous or who want his job or his creations. He tells of the problems others create, the roadblocks. And of the uncertainties of dealing with committees and people imbued with other purposes not compatible with yours. But he also tells of the joys of creating and running a hit show and of working with great actors, and the joys of working in The Room with a team of extremely talented writers who are creators in their own right. The book is Funny regardless of what your interests are. Laugh out loud funny. Many times while reading, I would burst out laughing with no one else around. Just because Rosenthal is a master at setting you up and then slipping in a punchline.

The creator and executive producer of Everybody Loves Raymond dissects the art of comedy and the making of a sitcom classic In television, where programs can premiere and disappear in the same week, Everybody Loves Raymond reigned as America's best-loved show for nine years with more than seventeen million viewers. As the number-one sitcom, it received more than seventy Emmy nominations, including two wins for best comedy. With You're Lucky You're Funny, Phil Rosenthal takes us onstage and inside the writer's room. Rosenthal's meteoric ascent was preceded by odd jobs, including a stint as a museum security guard, running a deli, and writing for a slew of forgettable shows-including one starring Robert Mitchum as a curmudgeonly homeless man taken in by two orphans. But when he met comedian Ray Romano, they discovered a shared lifetime of family dysfunction-and endless material for a sitcom. Not only a chronicle of one man's rise to the peak of his profession, Rosenthal's book is also an unprecedented look at the making of a hit series: how shows are written and character developed, how comedy is refined, how network executives are outsmarted, and most important, how egos are massaged. You're Lucky You're Funny is an inspiration to anyone involved in the creative process and a must read for the show's millions of devoted fans.

From Publishers Weekly
In 1996, TV scriptwriter Rosenthal created Everybody Loves Raymond by stirring the standup comedy of Ray Romano into his own family memories. With Rosenthal as executive producer and inexperienced actor Romano basically portraying himself, their successful sitcom found an audience of 17 million viewers and ran for nine seasons (1996-2005), receiving over 70 Emmy nominations. Rosenthal offers a comedic chronicle of his own life, weaving wit and humor into every page. After a Bronx boyhood as a "shrimpy little nothing," his high school obsession with TV led to college theater, odd jobs (museum guard, deli manager) and a New York acting career that bottomed out. Arriving in L.A., he discovered it was "suburbia without the urbia," and after five years of grinding out scripts for now-forgotten sitcoms, he lit the Romano rocket. Rosenthal details it all-character development, devising dialogue, casting, table reads, run-throughs, doing publicity and dealing with interfering studio executives. Aspiring TV comedy writers and producers will see this as a valuable textbook of insights from an insider, while fans now buying DVD sets will welcome the vast array of amusing anecdotes and background information. Rosenthal also pokes the dark underbelly of "phoney baloney Hollywood," so parts of this book are like listening to a very long and funny standup routine. (Oct. 23) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. At last a book that is not only highly entertaining, but spells out how to run a beloved television show. -- Carl Reiner
Somewhere between 'ever-so-rarely' and 'never' is there a book such as this; you will laugh hard and loud. -- James L. Brooks
From the Back Cover
Advanced Praise: "In the Prologue, Mr. Rosenthal says No one listens to me. Maybe the reader will... You should! He is the real deal, both as a human being and as an artist of comedy." Henry Winkler
"I read YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE FUNNY and loved it! If you had the Everybody Loves Raymond bug during its 9 year run, this is the love letter you've been waiting for. If you've missed the bug, read it at the risk of being bitten and smitten." Norman Lear