

B L A C K S T ★ R

TELEVISION SERIES

Written and created by Maureen Medved

BLACK STAR is the love child of *All About Eve* and *Notes on a Scandal*. It's *Wall Street* for academia.

BLACK STAR is a dark comedy with a strong focus on character. This is a risk-taking, bold and high concept work similar to *Fleabag*, *The Comeback* and *Enlightened*, with the pacing of a thriller.

BLACK STAR is a world where children cross into adulthood and academics become predator or prey while politicians and industrialists vie for power.

BLACK STAR is a darkly funny, character-driven show with a dystopic-comic tone, that David Lynch would enjoy. It would also appeal to audiences that love *Breaking Bad*, *the Sopranos*, and *The Wire* intersected with a female-driven cast and writing that is sharp, caustic, and edgy.

As with the HBO hit, *The Wire*, each season examines another aspect of the seedy underbelly of academia.

THE STORY: Del Hanks is on the verge of academic tenure, but at forty she's also perched on the precipice of either the beginning or the end of the rest of her life. *Black Star* is a dark comedy, both biting, funny and transgressive, an unflinching and unsentimental exploration of the female experience, academia, and the idea of power that burns in the mind as white as acid. Medved's story is a searing critique of a world we all know too well – one of sexual exploitation, manipulation, and the subtle machinations of power that *Black Star* filters through the lens of academia. It is at once poetic, tragic, disturbing and funny.

PRAISE FOR BLACK STAR, the novel:

"Hilariously and blackly satiric until it's not... Medved is merciless and uproarious even as the situation she's portraying tips toward oblivion." *THE TORONTO STAR*

"Medved uses a blade sharp as a box-cutter to open a Pandora's package of human duplicity." *ABC BOOKWORLD*

"The interrogation of sexual power dynamics in the realm of academia could not be more relevant to the current cultural moment and Medved is merciless in

dissecting the extent to which past wounds redound on Del in the present." *HAMILTON REVIEW OF BOOKS*

"Encountering the barbed and dazzling shards that make up the word world of *Black Star*, a reader might feel on uneven ground. And for good reason. This is a novel that jolts, jars, teases, tickles, tweaks, yes, but also does something much darker: it thickens into something viscous, difficult, and adhesive, something hard to engage with — or to escape from." *BC BOOKLOOK*

"*Black Star* is one of two Canadian campus novels published this year, the other being Sarah Henstra's *The Red Word*, to comment on sexual assault at university. Stylistically innovative, both come at this topic from radically different angles, yet both leave the reader with a sense of schools being silently complicit in sexual violence." *THE GLOBE AND MAIL*

PRAISE FOR THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS, the film (script by Medved, based on her novel):

"A tough watch, but a rewarding one..." *THE TORONTO STAR*

"Powerful...fierce, enigmatic and affecting." *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

PRAISE FOR THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS, the book:

"Medved's debut novel provides an eerie glimpse of a raging adolescent psyche...skillfully blends Tracey's frenzied facts and fictions into a cohesive portrait of a teenager on the verge of imploding... a taut, harrowing narrative." *PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY*

"A high-octane jaunt through the remnants of a mind shattered by trauma." *THE GLOBE AND MAIL*

"Tracey's voice is acerbic, funny and totally convincing. Anyone who has been or has known a bitter and confused teenager will know where she's coming from." *TORONTO STAR*

"Medved brilliantly conveys the rage and frustration of a self-conscious young girl...The effect is like digging through a box full of broken stained glass and finding an exquisite shard every time." *VANCOUVER MAGAZINE*