



The Blue House **A Novel by Sky Gilbert**

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At the start of Rupert Goldman's memoir, *The Blue House*, Rupert reveals that he is now dead. Then he speaks of his past, beginning with his life as a virtuoso cello prodigy at the tender age of 12. This spectacular early start is followed by an equally spectacular flirtation with the renowned concert pianist Vladimir Horowitz — and a full-fledged romance with composer/conductor, Leonard Bernstein. A fortuitous gift from Rupert's Aunt Mimi offers him time to compose, but when no one will play his symphonies, Rupert begins his slow decline.

What happens when you decide you must live only in your imagination? Rupert moves into his 'little blue house' — promising to immerse himself in his dreams, fantasies and secret longings. But after a traumatic incident involving the death of his cat, a deeply depressed Rupert Goldman attempts suicide for the first time. He is rescued by his sister, Mildred, who rehabilitates him by providing him with the perfect cello student — and a handsome young man who is obsessed with his string quartet. But when the young man betrays him, Rupert commits suicide. This time, it's for real. Or is Rupert finally truly alive?

The Author

Sky Gilbert is best known for his work in theatre; he was the founding artistic director of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. He has produced and directed over twenty plays, and he has written and had published a long list of plays including *The Emotionalists* (2000), *Playmurder* (1995) and *The Dressing Gown* (1984).

A frequent guest on *Jaw Breaker* (PrideVision TV) and a former columnist for *eye Magazine*, Sky is also known for his novels *An English Gentleman* (2003), which won the 2004 ReLit Award, *St. Stephen's* (1999), and *Guilty* (1998) as well as his two collections of poetry, *Digressions of a Naked Party Girl* (1998) and *Temptations of a Juvenile Delinquent* (2003). His memoir, *Ejaculations from the Charm Factory*, was published in 2000. Currently, Sky is an Assistant Professor in the School of English and Theatre Studies at the University of Guelph.



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