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Daddy's Cap Is on Backwards

Bil Keane
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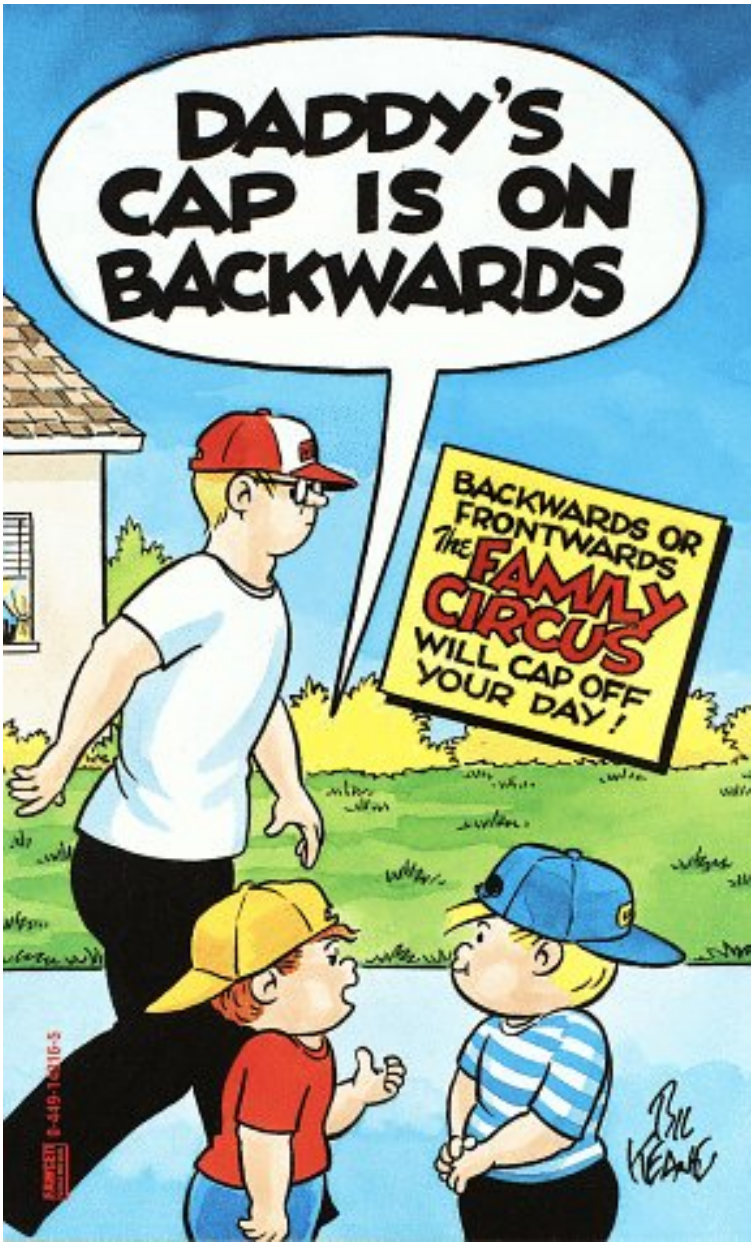

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Bil Keane : Daddy's Cap Is on Backwards before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Daddy's Cap Is on Backwards:

114 of 117 people found the following review helpful. Existential Angst in SuburbiaBy Kevin KaosIn his modern classic "Daddy's Cap is on Backwards", Keane finally answers the question that has plagued his cartoon family for

decades. At last we see his vision of what shall become of the post 50s nuclear family when at last it is proven that God has forsaken man to a cold and lonely eternity. And what a horrifying and terrible vision it truly is.Now a few years past his heart-crushing Nietzscheian trip into the void of his soul, Billy returns to discover his family radically changed. Like broken marionettes, his parents walk about in a grey-faced fog, searching for meaning in their empty lives. In a poignant scene, Billy finds little PJ gazing into a 2am television screen, his eyes filled with tears, crying "please, please come back and talk to me, I'm no one when you're not here!"But the vacuous ghosts of his progenitors and younger sibling are dwarfed by the rage of Billy's elder sister, Dolly. Filled with hate and loathing for a modern world without meaning and beyond her control, she has embraced a rabid, radical form of socio-religious fascism. With a terrifying cold fury and savage ruthlessness, Dolly's National Fourth Grade Christian Front rises to dominate the nameless suburban wasteland that Keane's cartoon family inhabit. As literature, teachers, neighbors and even Barky the dog are all cast into the bonfires in nightly Gestapo raids, their deaths blamed on the mythical villains "Not Me" and "Ida Know".In a painful moment that lays bare her Electra complex in a scene of macabre and bitter truth, Dolly commands her father, now reduced to a hollow man, to throw her very mother into the arms of a rampaging angry mob. Over the sound of her dying screams, Dolly reassures her father that the murder of her mother shall free him from his destiny as a captive consumer and wage slave in a prison of his own making. Her lies convince neither of them, but they underline the reversal of their parent/child roles and make father Bill's tears all the more stark as the last remnant of his soul dies with his wife in the madness of the crowd.Ultimately, alone in a world inhabited only by fear, shame, terror and the vacant-eyed armies of his sister, Billy is forced to choose between embracing Dolly's genocidal Armageddon-like vision and flinging himself into the flames of an all-too-common neighborhood bonfire. And as the flames and banners rise higher and higher, there are few that can disagree with his choice.Yes Mr. Keane, Daddy's Cap is indeed on Backwards.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Typing this through tears of joy...By Sam LeberThe description "Great American Novel" has been bandied about for years. Tom Wolfe's 'A Man In Full' aspired to it roughly a decade ago. Papa Fitz's 'The Great Gatsby' may be as close as anyone had ever come.Until now.Bil Keane's seminal work 'Daddy's Cap is on Backwards' makes 'Gatsby' look like a collection of 'Heathcliff' comic panels.Undeniably great. Distinctively American. And yet, to call it a novel would be to place it in the proverbial box. Keane doesn't just defy conventional labels, he obliterates them.Achingly poetic, reminiscent of (while greatly surpassing) early Bukowski, 'Cap' takes the dreams, fears, supressed memories, fleeting moments of triumph...I could go on for hours. As I re-read each transcendent page, fresh tears fall on my keyboard like the slow-motion revelation of Jeffy falling off his skateboard.Suffice to say, Keane's masterpiece will continue to impact the lives of every American. I can honestly say without hyperbole, this book will change the way the political process works...while wiping out our national debt, improving our standing in the new global culture, and restoring each of us back to physical, emotional, and mental excellence.Thank you, Bil Keane. This daddy's cap is now also, forever, on backwards.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Exactly what this world needsBy J. OliverSuch a wonderful surprise seeing this back in print!! Brimming with the always poignant, rarely stagnant ripostes of the Circus family, "Daddy's Cap Is on Backwards" offers stanza after stanza of Twitteresque humor (and has been doing it long before there even was a Twitter, I tell you!)I find this to be one of Master Keane's best titles, and was heartbroken when Fawcett Publishing let the edition lapse into misprint. Fortunately, when I was in Kingston-Upon-Thames for the Millennial, I was able to spot the UK version ("Father's Trilby Is in Arrears"), which indeed helped me through the rather difficult times of twenty-aught-one to aught-nine. Which brings me to the point of this essay. Daddy's Cap is precisely the kind of exquisitely fluffy, soul-hoisting epistle mankind requires today -- it is nothing short of a guide manual for human decency in this post-bin-laden world.Daddy's Cap IS on backwards, I say...and may it never be right-faced!

BIL KEANE doesn't have to look any further than his own drawing board for inspiration. Here two of his eight grandchildren--Matilda, a California girl, and her cousin Oliver from Tucson, Arizona--visit Granddad to imprint their personal approval on his cartoon work. Readers of 1,500 newspapers have also been approving of FAMILY CIRCUS since 1960."Retire?" says Bil. "Don't be foolish. Why quit a job that is so much fun, especially when I have such lovable assistants!"

From the Inside FlapBIL KEANE doesn't have to look any further than his own drawing board for inspiration. Here two of his eight grandchildren--Matilda, a California girl, and her cousin Oliver from Tucson, Arizona--visit Granddad to imprint their personal approval on his cartoon work. Readers of 1,500 newspapers have also been approving of FAMILY CIRCUS since 1960."Retire?" says Bil. "Don't be foolish. Why quit a job that is so much fun, especially when I have such lovable assistants!"