

# EGMONT

## USA

### **My Life, the Theatre, and Other Tragedies** by Allen Zadoff

**Ages:** 12 up

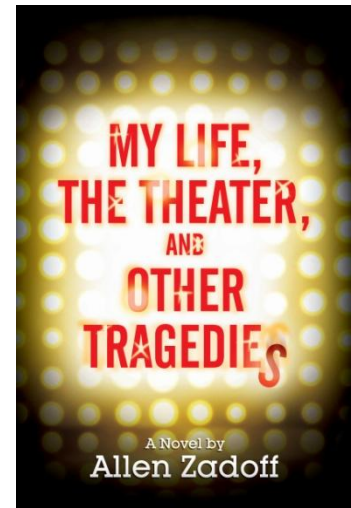
**Summary:**

High school sophomore Adam Zeigler, who lost his father to a sudden accident two years ago, thinks the best way to live life is behind the spotlight. As a member of the theater crew, he believes he's achieved it all when he wins the coveted job of spotlight operator. But that was before a young actress, Summer, appeared in his view. Instantly smitten, Adam is determined to win her over. But to do so, he'll have to defy his best friend and break the golden rule of his school: techies and actors don't mix.

Set against the backdrop of a high school production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Zadoff's latest is a bromance, a love story, and theater story in one. The politics of love and high school collide as Adam struggles to find the courage to step out of the shadows and into the light.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think the author chose *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the school's theatrical production? What parallels can you draw between what happens in the play and what happens in the story?
2. What is "The Code" and why do you think the actors and the techies choose to follow it?
3. If you went to Adam's school would you be an actor or a techie? Explain your choice.
4. On page 118, Adam thinks to himself, "Help Derek, and he helps you." Do you think Adam is correct in his thinking? Why or why not?
5. Adam has been in a self-imposed social hibernation for the last two years. Why do you think he begins to break out of that hibernation to help Grace fit in with the techies?
6. What has caused Mr. Apple to lose his inspiration? What do you think he means when he says he is "trying to try"? (pg. 128)
7. Why has Adam retreated to the catwalk? What is he hiding from up there?



## My Life, the Theatre, and Other Tragedies

---

8. Why do you think that Adam's brother hasn't returned his phone calls since he left for college? Why does Adam lie to his mother and tell her the brothers have been talking?
9. When Reach finds out about Adam's crush on Summer the two friends fight. Does Reach's anger come from more than just the fact that Adam has violated "The Code"? Explain your answer.
10. Where do you think Adam finds the courage to come down from the catwalk and save the show? Why is his reaction to the black out different this time?

### ***My Life, the Theatre, and Other Tragedies***

978-1-60684-036-8 \* \$16.99

e-Book: 978-1-60684-256-0 \* \$16.99



**About the Author:** Allen Zadoff is the award-winning author of *Food, Girls, and Other Things I Can't Have*. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and went on to live in upstate New York, Manhattan, Tokyo, and Lost Angeles. A former stage director, he is a graduate of Cornell University and the Harvard University Institute for Advanced Theater Training. He currently teaches writing in Los Angeles.

For more information visit:

[www.egmontusa.com](http://www.egmontusa.com)

[www.allenzadoff.com](http://www.allenzadoff.com)