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Dykes To Watch Out For



Synopsis

Grin, giggle, and guffaw your way through this celebrated cartoonist's graphic commentary of contemporary lesbian life.

Book Information

Series: Dykes to Watch Out for

Paperback: 78 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I first found Ms. Bechdel's work in, of all places, a science fiction bookstore. I was in the mood for cartoon books, picked up hers, and noticed that her characters had four fingers to go with their thumbs, were mostly female, had women of all races and shapes, and they were drawn in a reasonably anatomically correct manner. Although I am not a lesbian (but am a friend of the family), I was drawn to the richness and humanity of Bechdel's characters. When I saw the drawing of one woman cowering under the bedcovers and her partner going after a stray bat (animal) with a tennis racket, I roared with laughter and took the book to the checkout line. If you are straight and want a gentle and humorous look into lesbian life or are lesbian and just want a warm "me too" kind of chuckle, this is the book for you.

Reading Alison Bechdel's first collection of DTWOF was a surprise, but a pleasant one. I just assumed that the on-going storylines and regular characters that made up later volumes would have an explicit beginning in this one. Wrong. Although some of the later characters and themes might be here in utero (especially Mo), none of them have been quite born yet. Instead, what Ms.

Bechdel offers is a number of witty, sometimes hilarious, and usually insightful independent vignettes. One thing that comes through clearly in this early collection is how much of an iconoclast Bechdel was and will become in her later work. There are no sacred cows. She pokes fun at lesbians who romanticize the virtues of relationship over singledom, and ironically comments on first dates, the trajectory of romances, and political zealotry. But she always does so in a compassionate way that suggests she speaks from the sort of personal experience that encourages kindness as well as a bit of wariness. Probably the very best strip in the collection is an allegory called "Politi-cola; or, the Birth of an Activist," in which a fantasized political rivalry between Pepsi-cola and Coca-cola symbolizes the utter lack of distinctiveness between democratic and republican presidential rivals in the 1988 election. It's really a brilliant (and, alas, far-seeing) piece of political satire. Less effective (but not displeasing) is the lesbian alphabet series that punctuates the collection. I suspect it was drawn especially for this volume as filler. All in all, a fine start of what has become the career of one of our very best social and cultural commentators.

This is the first book by Alison Bechdel I read, and it captivated me. I was rolling on the floor with laughter at times. Clearly one of her earlier works, it lacks the storyline of her later efforts. Still, the humor is excellent and subtly educational

This book, the pre-quel to Unnatural DTWOF, is hysterical. Mo and her friends go on with life (78-126) and there are several characters who have disappeared in later books, notably Mo's therapist. Highly recommended

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