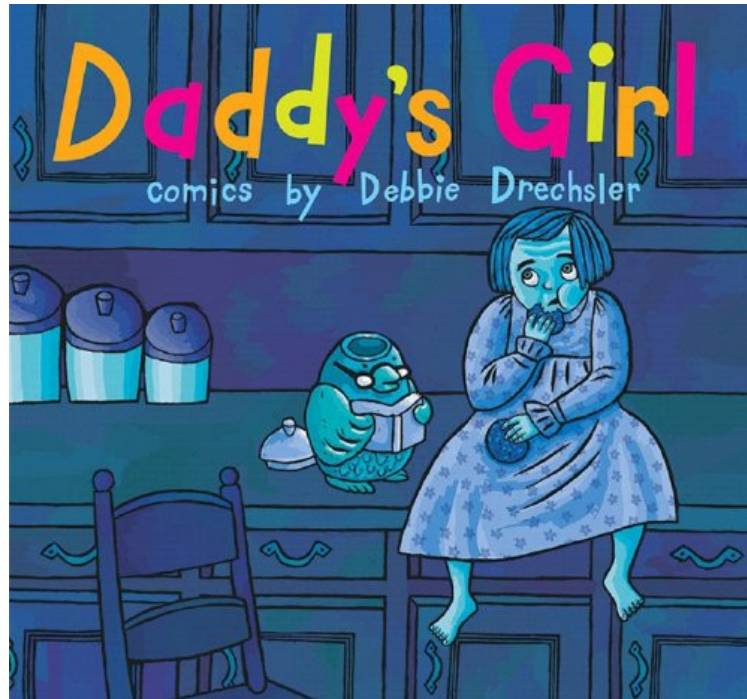


(Mobile book) Daddy's Girl

Daddy's Girl

Debbie Drechsler

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Debbie Drechsler : Daddy's Girl before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Daddy's Girl:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is the best graphic novel that I've seen about childhood sexual abuseBy New England LisaThis is the best graphic novel that I've seen about childhood sexual abuse. I cannot believe it's gone out of print. What's up with that? Most of this book tells the story of a girl, Lil, and her family life. It shows her complicated relationship with her sister, her distracted Mom, her efforts to fit in with her peers and repeated sexual assault by her father. Her mother has no idea what's going on and encourages Lil to lose weight--as if this is all that's wrong in her life.This book shows masterfully how Lil tries to keep her father away, understand what her father has done, blames herself, and keeps the secret. The father's words, the girl's thoughts, and the ways the abuse affects other spheres of the girl's life ring 100% true to me.The drawings are black and white, pen and ink--they look like etchings. They're evocative and terrific.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is quite a fantastic book, but bewareBy LisabThis is quite a fantastic book, but beware! DO NOT let kids get anywhere near it--it is deeply disturbing. After I read it, I put it on a high, high shelf.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very chillingBy D. GibsonA stark, short tale of a woman who grew up in a sexually abusive home and how that person reacted to the abuse. There is no fluffy writing here, abuse and behavior is shone in bare-bone snippets and snapshots, including self-blame and acting out.

A new edition of a long out-of-print Fantagraphics classic. Fantagraphics Books is proud to re-release one of the most powerful and moving books in its distinguished publishing history: Debbie Drechsler's first collection of short comic

stories, *Daddy's Girl*. Originally published in 1995 and distributed only to comic book specialty stores, *Daddy's Girl* was ahead of its time: Two years before *The Kiss*, Kathryn Harrison's critically acclaimed story of her incestuous relationship with her father, Drechsler's account of her abuse at the hands of her father, told from the point of view of an adolescent, is one of the most searingly honest, empathetic, and profoundly disturbing uses of the comics medium in its history. Rendered entirely in black and white, Drechsler's meticulous brush lines gather into heavy textures that suggest the claustrophobic tension of the environment that threatens her pre-teen and adolescent female protagonists. Characters such as Lily, who can't escape her father's abuse, and Franny, a girl whose desire to be accepted leads her into dangerous territory, struggle not to be visually and emotionally overwhelmed. Both girls are rendered in chunky, rounded lines, as if they've been shaped by the oppressive weight of their blandly suburban milieu, where pretending that everything is all right and maintaining the status quo is prized above truth and upheaval. However, Drechsler's characters also have wide-open eyes, suggesting that they still maintain their innocence, and their world does contain some beauty and hope, as long as the characters have the resolve to look for it: art and creation is offered as a form of salvation. Central to this quasi-memoir is Lily's relationship to her father—a confused jumble of fear, trepidation, and love. Drechsler's book was nominated for an Ignatz award the year it was released, and she went on to create the critically acclaimed *The Summer of Love*. With the critical and commercial success of mature and uncompromising works by women cartoonists such as *Fun Home*, *Squirrel Mother*, and *Persepolis*, *Daddy's Girl* should receive serious media attention and find a responsive readership.

Daddy's Girl is a powerful book that uses a childlike graphic style to explore the adolescence of a young girl, Lily, whose life is being destroyed by sexual abuse. Drechsler pulls no punches in her depiction of incest, and many scenes are hard to read, but this book shows that comics can be a vehicle for serious subjects; the drawings pull the reader into her world more completely than the written word ever could. Drechsler's depiction of childhood is perfect, and there are happy moments within the horror of Lily's life. In one chapter, Lily and a friend contemplate suicide, then walk into the woods, away from their problems. In the last panel, as they sit eating tiny wild strawberries, there is a moment of hope which resonates long after the book is finished. From Publishers Weekly Drechsler's quiet but formidable reputation in alternative comics can be traced to a series of melancholic short strips dealing with the incestuous victimization of a young girl by her father. This collection includes those dark tales as well as others that relate the painful experiences of Lily as she deals with both the usual problems of teenage adjustment and the ominous presence of her father. In "Sixteen," Lily's efforts to be social veer into an episode of sexual degradation and teenage cruelty. But Drechsler's touching stories of familial gloom also feature veins of subtle irony and hope-laden humor. In "Helping the Poor," Lily's self-righteously benevolent mother insists the family deliver gifts to a poor black family, and the delightful encounter between the children of the families reveals Drechsler's knack for wit and gentle pathos. Her drawings are characterized by an expressive linear flair and dark, vividly patterned forms—a stylish and poetic example of nuanced cartoon realism perfectly attuned to these affecting, humane vignettes. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. Drechsler's expressionist style both enhances and contrasts with her characters' attempts to cling to innocence and identity in the face of personal horror. - Karin L. Kross, *Bookforum* Brutal and beautiful. - *Philadelphia Weekly* By turns chilling and poignant. - *Publishers Weekly* An excoriating piece of work, which manages a miraculous marriage of the brutal and the innocent. The artwork is a visual feast, while the emerging portrait of a family and growing up is note perfect. - Neel Mukherjee, *The Times Online*