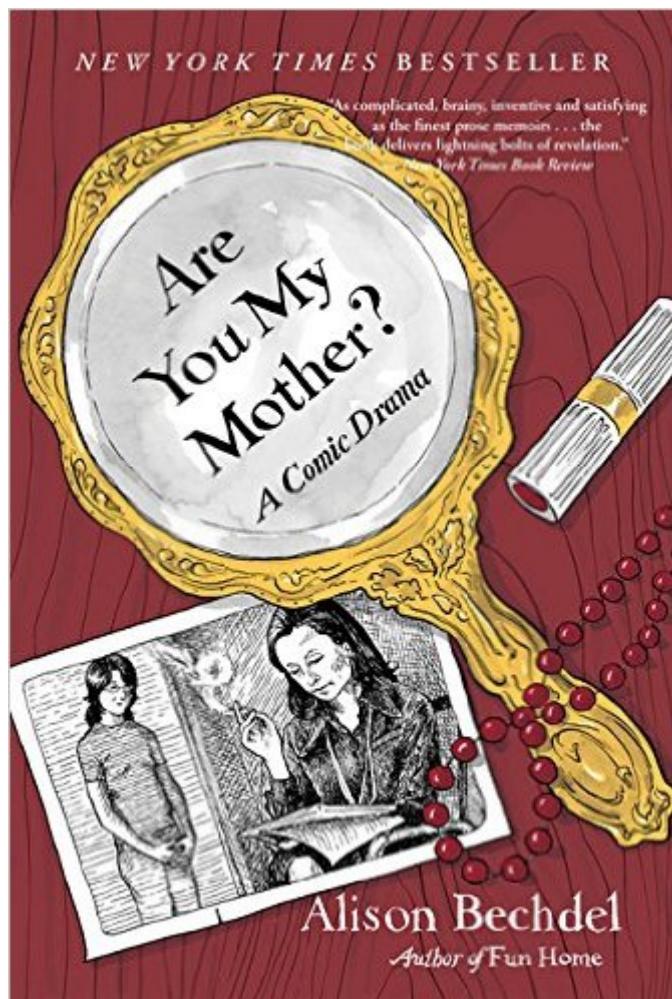


The book was found

# Are You My Mother?: A Comic Drama



## Synopsis

From the best-selling author of *Fun Home*, Time magazine's No. 1 Book of the Year, a brilliantly told graphic memoir of Alison Bechdel becoming the artist her mother wanted to be. Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* was a pop culture and literary phenomenon. Now, a second thrilling tale of filial sleuthery, this time about her mother: voracious reader, music lover, passionate amateur actor. Also a woman, unhappily married to a closeted gay man, whose artistic aspirations simmered under the surface of Bechdel's childhood . . . and who stopped touching or kissing her daughter good night, forever, when she was seven. Poignantly, hilariously, Bechdel embarks on a quest for answers concerning the mother-daughter gulf. It's a richly layered search that leads readers from the fascinating life and work of the iconic twentieth-century psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott, to one explosively illuminating Dr. Seuss illustration, to Bechdel's own (serially monogamous) adult love life. And, finally, back to Mother "to a truce, fragile and real-time, that will move and astonish all adult children of gifted mothers.

## Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Mariner Books; Reprint edition (April 2, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544002237

ISBN-13: 978-0544002234

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (167 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #16,596 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 inÂ Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies & History Graphic Novels #21 inÂ Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Literary #47 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Child Psychology

## Customer Reviews

A story about a dead parent has a beginning and an end. A story about a living parent is quite a different thing, especially if you know the parent will be reading the story and you're invested in their response. With all that, I am astonished and in awe of Bechdel's courage - not just to reveal herself so intimately, but to do the same for her relationship with her mother. This is not *Fun Home*: A Family Tragicomic 2. It's much more complicated and diffuse. Bechdel's story about her father felt complete and symmetrical. This is much more distant and intellectual with the trailing off nature

inherent to a story about two living people who continue to interact. Again and again we return to the image of Bechdel reading in this book . . . reading books about psychoanalysis, reading old correspondence between her parents, even reading transcripts of telephone conversations between her mother and herself (she would type what her mother was saying during the calls). She relates to her mother through reading and this central image tells us more about the brokenness of the relationship than anything else. Her mother, in return, will tell her about stories she reads in the New York Times that make her point instead of saying directly what it is she wants to say. There is little that is tactile or intimate about their relationship. The reader winds up thinking their way through the book in the same way that Bechdel has thought through her relationship with her mother. In *Fun Home*, Bechdel used literature, concepts of sexual identity, and even mythology to explore and illuminate her relationship with her father.

Well this hurts. I wanted to love this book so much. I adore Alison Bechdel. She's incredibly smart, witty, analytical, and heartbreakingly honest--all qualities that have made *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, her first foray into graphic memoir, a modern classic. It's one of my favorite books, not to mention one of my most frequently recommended titles. *Fun Home*, if you'll indulge me for a moment, is the story of Bechdel's relationship with her father and her coming out process. Her father was many things: an English teacher, a funeral home director, an antique collector, a vigilant restorer of their family home, and a closet homosexual. Bechdel strongly suspects that his sudden, mysterious death after walking in front of an oncoming truck was suicide. He could be distant, demanding, temperamental, and cold to his family. Writing *Fun Home* was (I imagine) like a therapy session for Bechdel, who hadn't come to terms with what it was like to grow up in the cold, dark household her father created, and who wanted to understand why her father made the decision to hide his sexuality. It works in large part because there's automatic tension between Bechdel and her father: he being emotionally distant and firmly closeted, she sensitive and determined to live her life out in the open. The emotional journey she undergoes in the process of writing it all out is cathartic--revelatory, poignant, and beautiful. This is not the case with *Are You My Mother?* It has been said that the unexamined life is not worth living.

Well, Bechdel's mother says it--in these pages--after previewing several chapters--of this book--pre-publication: "It's a metabook." It's a book about--among many things--the creation of this book about her mother, and her mother is commenting on the creation of this book about her. How meta is that? A dream sequence opens each section, and is usually revisited with greater insight later in

the chapter. Psychology and psychoanalysis play a massive role here, with Alison's sessions with two different counselors giving us an intimate and ongoing look into her personal struggles. Parallel to this is her self-imposed (and almost obsessive) study of the work of psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott. His books, his papers, his biography--all give her another lens to view her conflicted and evolving Self through. Another Bechdel feature is how she refers to and draws on other literature and writers: Virginia Woolf, Adrienne Rich, and a fabulous aha moment with Dr. Seuss. And mom. A gifted actor, a stunted writer of poetry, a woman married for many years to a closeted gay man, and a mother who learned from her own mother that "boys are more important than girls." There are some heartbreakingly moments here (I won't share and spoil it). At times mom seems to purposely seek to diminish her daughter by referencing other authors, other memoirists, or other cartoonists, understandably triggering envy. And sometimes she seems to do this unconsciously. Not sure which feels worse when you are on the receiving end. On the other hand, there is absolutely a bond here. The two speak often by phone, visit, do a trip to the city together. So in their own ways, they do keep trying.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

BEANY AND CECIL Comic Book Collection: ALL 5 CLASSIC COMIC BOOKS BASED ON THE ANIMATED TELEVISION SHOW PUBLISHED IN THE 1950s (CLASSIC TELEVISION CARTOON COMIC BOOKS) Are You My Mother?: A Comic Drama IRON MAN, VOL. 1: 1963-1980: Every Marvel IRON MAN Comic Book Cover From 1963 (Tales Of Suspense #39) And The 1968 Series (IRON MAN COMIC BOOK COVERS) DICK TRACY 2: 4 COMPLETE CLASSIC COMIC BOOKS - 220 PAGES plus A PROMOTIONAL DICK TRACY COMIC BOOK FROM THE 1940s WOLVERINE COLLECTOR'S GUIDE: Every Marvel Wolverine Comic Book Cover from the 1982 and 1988 Series (COMIC BOOK COLLECTOR'S GUIDE) RARE HORROR 3: COMIC BOOKS WHERE ONLY 1 ISSUE WAS EVER PUBLISHED: 6 COMPLETE CLASSIC HORROR COMIC BOOKS FROM THE 1950s and 1960s (RARE COMICS) Classic TV: WESTERNS 1 - SIX COMPLETE CLASSIC TELEVISION COWBOY COMIC BOOKS: OVER 200 PAGES OF COWBOYS, INDIANS AND OUTLAWS (CLASSIC TV COMIC BOOKS) SUPERMAN COLLECTOR'S GUIDE, VOL. 3: THE BRONZE AGE: Every Cover of "SUPERMAN" Comic Books 1971-1986 (SUPERMAN COMIC BOOK COVERS) RARE LOVE 1: COMIC BOOKS WHERE ONLY 1 ISSUE WAS EVER PUBLISHED: 6 COMPLETE CLASSIC ROMANCE COMIC BOOKS FROM 1949-1953 (RARE COMICS) ROCKY and BULLWINKLE: 6 COMPLETE CLASSIC COMIC BOOKS FROM THE 1950-60s - 216 PAGES OF ANARCHY AND MADCAP FUN (CLASSIC TELEVISION CARTOON COMIC BOOKS Book 3) THE RIFLEMAN 2: 6 COMPLETE ISSUES OF THE CLASSIC COMIC

BOOKS BASED ON THE HIT 1960s TELEVISION SERIES (Classic Television Comic Books Book 8) SPIDER-MAN COMIC BOOK COLLECTOR'S GUIDE: VOL, 2: Every Cover From The Second 10 Years - 1974-1983 (SPIDER-MAN COMIC BOOK COLLECTOR'S GUIDES) The SPIRIT Comic Books, Vol. 2: Issues #6-7-8-9-10: Five Complete Issues of the Classic 1940s Comic Books by Will Eisner Overstreet's Comic Book Marketplace Yearbook: 2015-2016 (Overstreet Comic Book Marketplace Yearbook SC) El comic hispanico / The Hispanic comic (Spanish Edition) THE CISCO KID COMICS: 6 COMPLETE CLASSIC COMIC BOOKS FROM THE GOLDEN AGE - 248 PAGES OF OLD CALIFORNIA DRAMA AND ADVENTURE Chicano Drama: Performance, Society and Myth (Cambridge Studies in American Theatre and Drama) Wedding Speeches: Mother Of The Bride Speeches: On This Special Day Speeches for the Mother of the Bride (Wedding Speeches Books By Sam Siv Book 3) My Mother, Your Mother: Embracing "Slow Medicine," the Compassionate Approach to Caring for Your Aging Loved Ones Switching Lanes: A Mother Daughter Love Triangle (Mother Daughter Series)

[Dmca](#)