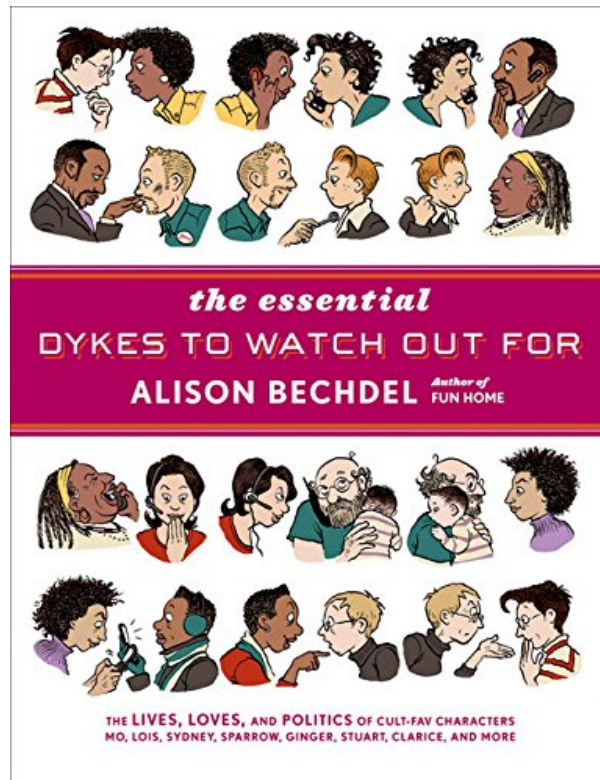
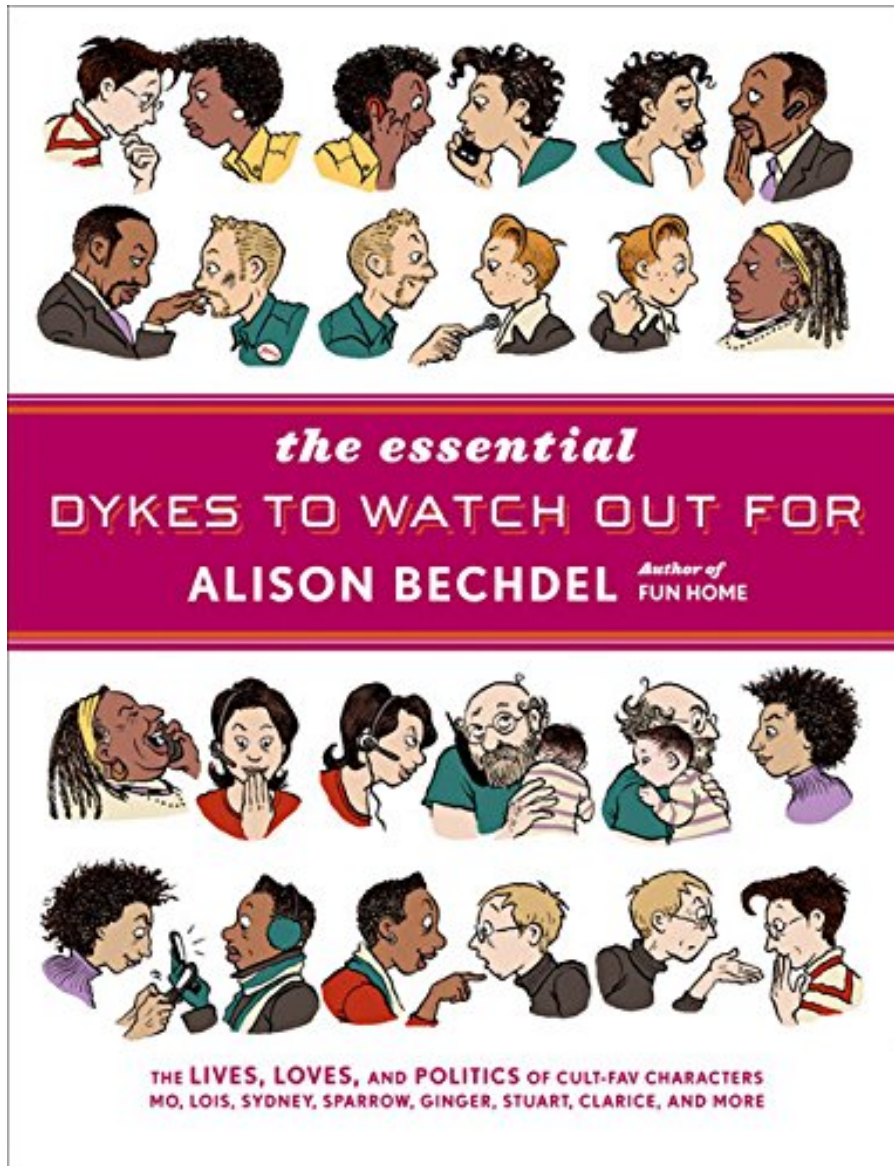


THE ESSENTIAL DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR BY ALISON BECHDEL



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From Publishers Weekly

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THE ESSENTIAL DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR BY ALISON BECHDEL PDF

From the author of *Fun Home* -- the lives, loves, and politics of cult fav characters Mo, Lois, Sydney, Sparrow, Ginger, Stuart, Clarice, and others

For twenty-five years Bechdel's path-breaking *Dykes to Watch Out For* strip has been collected in award-winning volumes (with a quarter of a million copies in print), syndicated in fifty alternative newspapers, and translated into many languages. Now, at last, *The Essential Dykes to Watch Out For* gathers a "rich, funny, deep and impossible to put down" (*Publishers Weekly*) selection from all eleven *Dykes* volumes. Here too are sixty of the newest strips, never before published in book form.

Settle in to this wittily illustrated soap opera (Bechdel calls it "half op-ed column and half endless serialized Victorian novel") of the lives, loves, and politics of a cast of characters, most of them lesbian, living in a midsize American city that may or may not be Minneapolis.

Her brilliantly imagined countercultural band of friends -- academics, social workers, bookstore clerks -- fall in and out of love, negotiate friendships, raise children, switch careers, and cope with aging parents.

Bechdel fuses high and low culture -- from foreign policy to domestic routine, hot sex to postmodern theory -- in a serial graphic narrative "suitable for humanists of all persuasions."

- Sales Rank: #66968 in Books
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- Original language: English
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- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 1.17" w x 8.00" l, 2.35 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 416 pages

Features

- *The Essential Dykes to Watch Out For*

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Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Misadventures of a Lovable, Lesbian "Our Gang"

By J. Jamakaya

I've spent many hours enjoying this wonderful compilation of Alison Bechdel's "Dykes to Watch Out For" cartoon series. Drawn between 1987 and 2008, the "Dykes" strip focuses on the misadventures and foibles of a group of close-knit LGBT friends as they pursue education, work and love affairs while debating personal politics and political correctness.

The strip is funny but also thoughtful in tone. It's unique in that it features multi-sexual, multi-racial, multi-ethnic characters and continually comments on the culture and politics of the times: lesbian and gay rights, the AIDS epidemic, the wars in Iraq, 9/11, celebrity culture, transgenderism, the financial crisis, etc. The characters attend many an anti-war protest, Pride parade and women's music festival. They debate and spoof the latest twists in gender theory. The feminist bookstore owner Jezanna rails against "Bunns & Noodle" stealing her business.

The protagonist, Mo, is forever analyzing and second-guessing herself (like a lesbian Woody Allen). Her pal Lois is sexually omnivorous and proud of it. Other characters include Harriet, Sparrow, Ginger, Malika, Clarice and Toni and their kid Raffi. They are a lovable, oddball "Our Gang" whose friendships, arguments,

love for and exasperation with each other blend into an astute, layered saga of a modern family, with all its warmth and complications. I read this toon when it first ran in alternative newspapers back in the 1990s. Reading it again still made me laugh and think. This would be a great gift for an LGBT or feminist friend.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

I love these comics as they are so personal and true to life for most older and new lesbians/dykes.

By NMamzlver

Absolutely the best book by Alison Bechdel. I grew up reading these comics and they helped me come out of the closet with laughter and respect. I bought this book for my step-daughter for her college graduation. I hope she enjoys them as much as I do. I absolutely love these comics and I feel like she can love them too. Although our issues as lesbians are not the same they are in the same realm as they were back then and I am proud to give them to my daughter to read and love as much as I have.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

One of the greatest comic artists of our time

By morehumanthanhuman

I began reading Bechdel's strip in college during the George W. Bush presidency. It was a welcome dose of sanity in a world that felt increasingly bizarre and insane. The genius of the strip is that it was fully political but also went beyond it. Bechdel created a whole world in miniature, characters who cared about each other while living their lives side-by-side. The style of lovingly detailed pictures paired with immaculately phrased text that would become familiar to the world through *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* and *Are You My Mother?: A Comic Drama* was pioneered here, in twenty-seven years of strips.

This "essential" collection doesn't include every strip, but it is close enough to get the full sweep of the story. It also doesn't include the bonus materials found in many of the smaller collections. My hope is that someday we will get a complete DTWOF collection - Bechdel's work is certainly important enough to warrant that treatment. Until that day, this high-quality volume is the best way to experience one of the greatest serial comics of all time.

See all 60 customer reviews...

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