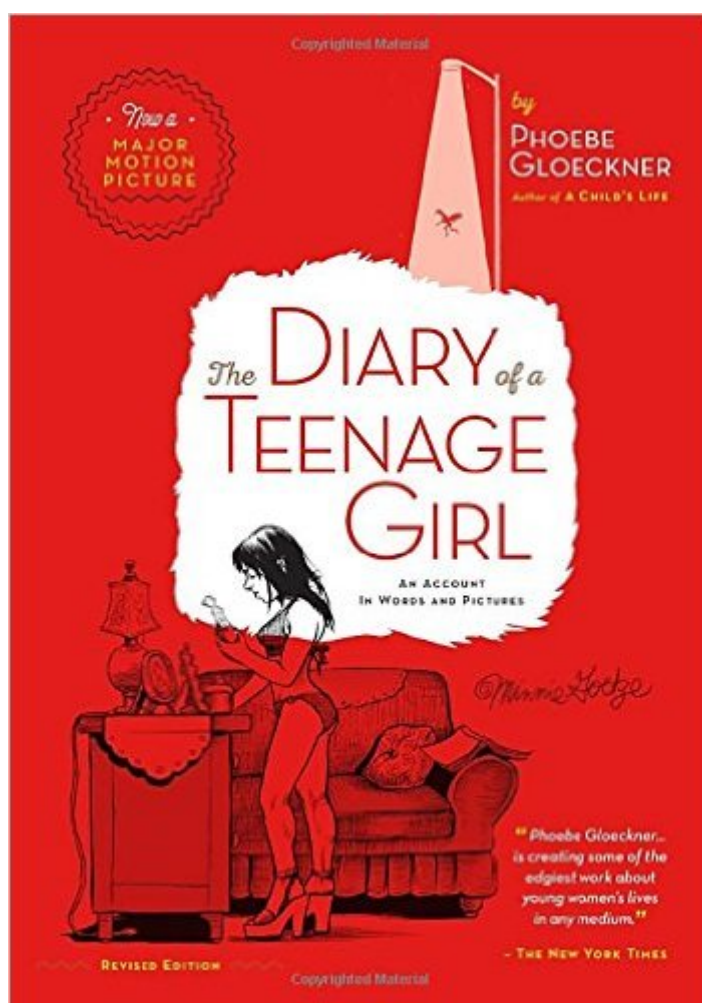


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# The Diary Of A Teenage Girl, Revised Edition: An Account In Words And Pictures



## Synopsis

First released in 2002, this provocative, critically acclaimed novel is now a major motion picture starring Bel Powley, Kristen Wiig, and Alexander Skarsgård. "I don't remember being born. I was a very ugly child. My appearance has not improved so I guess it was a lucky break when he was attracted by my youthfulness." So begins the wrenching diary of Minnie Goetze, a fifteen-year-old girl longing for love and acceptance and struggling with her own precocious sexuality. After losing her virginity to her mother's boyfriend, Minnie pursues a string of sexual encounters (with both boys and girls) while experimenting with drugs and developing her talents as an artist. Unsupervised and unguided by her aloof and narcissistic mother, Minnie plunges into a defenseless, yet fearless adolescence. While set in the libertine atmosphere of 1970s San Francisco, Minnie's journey to understand herself and her world is universal: this is the story of a young woman troubled by the discontinuity between what she thinks and feels and what she observes in those around her. Acclaimed cartoonist and author Phoebe Gloeckner serves up a deft blend of visual and verbal narrative in her complex presentation of a pivotal year in a girl's life, recounted in diary pages and illustrations, with full narrative sequences in comics form. *The Diary of a Teenage Girl* offers a searing comment on adult society as seen through the eyes of a young woman on the verge of joining it. This edition has been updated by the author with an introduction reflecting on the book's critical reception and value as diary or novel, historical document or work of art. Also included in this revised edition are supplementary photographs and illustrations from the author's childhood, including some of her own diary entries. "Phoebe Gloeckner... is creating some of the edgiest work about young women's lives in any medium." "The New York Times" "One of the most brutally honest, shocking, tender and beautiful portrayals of growing up female in America." "Salon" "It's the most honest depiction of sexuality in a long, long time; as a meditation on adolescence, it picks up a literary ball that's been only fitfully carried after Salinger." "Nerve.com"

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## Customer Reviews

Gloeckner's latest, a combination of comics and prose, follows the sexual misadventures and coming-of-age of Minnie Goetze, a troubled teenager very much reminiscent of Gloeckner, as she stumbles toward adulthood in 1970s San Francisco. Minnie's diary details the loss of her virginity to Monroe, her mother's less than devoted boyfriend. She falls in love with him, though he continues to sleep with Minnie's self-absorbed, drunken mother. A hellish adolescence follows: Minnie's kicked out of various schools, has promiscuous sex and ends up on the streets, strung out and obsessed with a young lesbian who pimps her out for more drugs. Gloeckner mined these same experiences in her award-winning graphic novel *A Child's Life*. In this work, though, Minnie's story is told through a combination of prose, illustrations and comics, capturing the confused inner dialogue of a precocious, attention-starved girl with a talent for drawing. This is both the book's strength and its weakness. Unlike the highly distilled emotions of *A Child's Life*, the prose descriptions of Minnie's experiences are engaging but formless, bleeding onto the page. The crisp details of Gloeckner's b&w drawings help by grounding the stories in a convincing realism, but they're obviously the product of an older, more judgmental, but also more reflective, self. More affecting are the casual teenage doodlings and comics that Gloeckner includes periodically throughout the book. Though not related directly to the story, they seem a more honest depiction of the necessary but casual self-reflection that a diary can help keep alive. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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Adult/High School-Fifteen-year-old Minnie Goetze's life is ugly. As the book opens, she asks her mother's 35-year-old boyfriend to have sex with her and he complies. She has many horrible things happen to her, including rape, some of which are the result of her own poor choices. Despite what should have been a privileged family life, there are no healthy or affectionate adults in her life. This story is brutal and raw but Minnie, for all of her teen angst, self-absorption, and self-degradation, shines on every page. Despite the fact that everyone in her young life has used, abused, or abandoned her, Minnie is a valiant and formidable character. She may feel lonely and unloved, but

she is never completely lost. Her call to a suicide hot line late in the book is ironic because it gets her the best advice: she has a free will and she doesn't have to become like the dysfunctional people around her. The novel is a mix of primarily diary entries, with occasional illustrations and short "scenes" in graphic-novel format. In the dedication, the author writes that the book is "for all the girls when they have grown," and that is the best criterion for determining the book's readership. Some of the illustrations are sexually explicit and the subject matter and language are definitely for mature readers. Minnie's story of abuse and neglect is one that is rarely told, and rarer still, told so well. Jane Halsall, McHenry Public Library District, IL Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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Phoebe Gloeckner's *Diary of a Teenage Girl* is an Account in Words and Pictures of Minnie, a fifteen-year-old who is having an affair with Monroe, a 35-year-old man who is also her mother's lover. What makes this story so different from other child abuse memoirs is that not once in the book does young Minnie (or anyone) claim she was coerced, abused, molested or raped. In fact, throughout the book, we are led to believe that Minnie was an active and willing participant in the relationship. There are endless coming-of-age stories depicting young boys enjoying their budding sexuality without shame, many of them lusting after women twice their age. Usually we are given a view of women as sexual objects, yet deny that they are sexual creatures. This is a story of a teenage girl shamelessly exploring her sexuality with enthusiasm. She is intelligent, self aware, amorous, sexually liberated, without the usual consequential disaster normally associated with these traits. This is one reason why *Diary* is such a unique novel. This 300 page book switches between prose and graphic novel, starting with a detailed drawing of Minnie, dark long hair with short bangs, big eyes looking up into the sky. The words on the opposite page read: I DON'T REMEMBER BEING BORN. I was a very ugly child. My appearance has not improved so I suppose it was a lucky break when he was attracted by my youthfulness. You can tell in the drawing that Minnie is not bad looking, but it is easy to get right into her mind-set, because what 15-year-old ever knows she is attractive? We also understand that this character has some insight because she knows it was her youthfulness that attracted the attention of Monroe. Set in San Francisco during 1976, the adults in Minnie's life have no boundaries, or any understanding of her emotions, needs or intelligence. Her best friend Kimmie is the epitome of all Minnie dislikes in herself. As we get to know Monroe better, we understand that he is an insecure, needy, emotional child at best, and at worst, he is an all-out child molester who should be imprisoned for life. This book is unique,

powerful and not for the tenderhearted. If you are bored reading about women that are usually the victim, always innocent, never responsible for their own decisions or their own lot in life, you will find this story refreshing in its truthfulness. The artwork is beautiful and detailed. It's no surprise the author/artist works as a medical illustrator. I also read *A Child's Life*, Phoebe's previous book published in 1998. The graphic novel was classified as pornography and refused entry by customs officials in both France and England. It reads to me as the story-board for the 2002 *Diary*; if you are planning on reading both, start with *A Child's Life*, not because it's necessary for the story line, but because reading it after *Diary* might be redundant or anti-climatic. Favorite quote "I wish I knew someone who was happy" or "My youth is something that cannot be helped." Previously reviewed on [TheLosAngelesBeat.com](http://TheLosAngelesBeat.com)

Phoebe Gloeckner paints a fascinating portrait of "Lil' Minnie" in this thinly-veiled autobiographical diary of her own life on the rough streets of 1970s San Francisco. Minnie gets into mischief and makes bad teenage choices. She does poorly in school. She has an affair with her mother's boyfriend, Monroe, 20 years her senior. She hangs out with bad influences, takes drugs and puts herself in harmful situations. However, she's also an amazing artist, with life burning bright in her eyes, full of curiosity and intensity. I ordered this book just before seeing the movie version of "The Diary of a Teenage Girl", and wish I'd just read the book instead of seeing the film. The book is much more multi-dimensional about Minnie, whereas the film is a one note sexual study of her affair with Monroe. Gloeckner grapples with the issues that every 15 year-old throughout the decades has grappled with, namely, "What's the point of all this?" and "What do I wanna do with my life?"--both questions going hand-in-hand. She's simultaneously introspective and observant, soaking up the world and people around her. The adult characters are well constructed, though none behave well. They're all bad influences, even more confused about life than young Minnie. Throughout most of the story they're drunk, stoned, spoiled, selfish, inappropriate (and some would argue, criminal). The book, constructed of diary entries, is interspersed with artwork and cartoons. Totally fascinating. Grateful to Gloeckner for baring the heart of her messy teen years, and sharing her brilliant observations on life's absurdities with us. It's a work of genius.

Such a heartbreaking and emotional book. DEFINITELY NOT FOR EVERYONE. It is crass and raw and dark and full of disgusting and horrific things. If you are looking for a light novel that has happiness throughout, look to another book. But it was a real and dark look into the things people

don't want to think about or ever experience. Pictures were well drawn and some make light to the artist's background in drawing anatomy work for hospitals. Creepy and raw but a very full experience overall.

A wonderful, deeply moving, heartbreaking read. It partly felt a little too "cautionary" for me, like Go Ask Alice, but even still I couldn't stop reading. Looking forward to seeing the movie and reading the author's other work. Can't say much more than that because I'm still processing but WOW.

I read this in preparation for Phoebe Gloeckner visiting my college campus. She is an amazing writer and artist, and just an all-around interesting human being. This book is devastating and beautiful at the same time, and it talks about sex and drugs and teenage angst without being moralizing or condescending.

An amazing coming-of-age story, well told, of what this young girl went through as she left behind any semblance of girlhood. Notably lacking in blame and avoiding any retreat into "victimhood", the events of her transition are told with a matter-of-fact tone that sounds completely authentic and makes these astounding events utterly believable. Telling parts of the story in panels was effective and appropriate and moved the story forward at a brisk pace. I have lent out my copy to several friends. It is hard to read in places, but the story must be told. I am sure many young girls face traumas that are similar in scope, even if the details are different.

Very interesting story written as a diary and turned into a book...it is very risqué and explicit so it is for the open minded and not the faint of heart...definitely worth reading, I read it in 3 days and I plan to read it again. Seller was also prompt and the book was in perfect condition!

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