



Dar: A Super Girly Top Secret Comic Diary, Volume One

Erika Moen

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As seen online at DarComic.com, DAR! chronicles the six year long autobiographical story of Erika Moen, a lost 20-year-old lesbian artist-wannabe in college who falls in love with a boy in England and the evolution that her sexual identity undergoes before winding up marrying him as a queer 26-year-old full-time cartoonist. Along the way there are many vignettes about sex, farts, the queer community, the Brits, vibrators and figuring out sexual identity.

The first DAR volume, collecting re-toned strips from 2006-2009 of the award-winning weekly webcomic —PLUS bonus, behind-the-scenes material!

DAR Volume 1 (A Super Girly Top Secret Comic Diary)

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From Reader Review Dar: A Super Girly Top Secret Comic Diary, Volume One for online ebook

Julia says

Stylistically, Erika Moen's first volume of her collection of web comics are enjoyable, but content wise there's too much to be desired. I appreciate weirdness and quirkiness and honesty but these strips are gratingly gross and pointless, lacking any strong narrative or insight other than "sexuality is strange."

Antonomasia says

Have I read this or am I still Currently Reading? Not clear where vol. 1 ends, and I'm reading it on the website.

I loved *Bucko*, on which Moen collaborated with Jeff Parker - that was hilarious - but I don't really click with this. I wanted it to be funnier, or to like the art more. I wanted prettier words and/ or pictures. Hmm, I think the only time I really enjoyed a simply drawn, serious autobiographical comic was because I was acquainted with the writer. Probably these aren't my sort of thing as a rule.

Even though one of my Goodreads friends is in this...

Was thinking: Same first name, looks like him, right city, he recommended *Bucko* to me - is it? ... Scroll down, same surname!

How embarrassing to have given 3 stars to an author from whom, it turns out, I'm only two degrees of separation. Dilemma. Maybe the awkwardness of this post is in the spirit of the comic...

Olavia Kite says

Autobiography or just a bunch of inside jokes? Amid the sex positive discourse, which I think Moen goes on to explore further and better on her later work, the whole thing just feels like "cute (i.e., boring) adventures of a couple—with an EDGE!"

Jennifer Hendzlik says

I sat down with this as a much needed break from committee reading as it was a recent gift that had a lot of meaning behind it.

DAR is a honest and intimate look at a woman who is super funny, crass and finds herself in complete confusion when she gets a lady boner(omg, I could not write this without putting that in here) for a guy when she identifies as a lesbian. You know how people say how important it is to see self-representation in this life? I've felt that as a woman, I've felt that as a lesbian and now I search for it in this middle ground I find myself in. Very few really get it and it was nice to take some time and laugh with a woman that does.

Jenna says

Interesting and I did like the drawing style. Some of the strips seemed to be inside jokes so I wasn't quite sure how to take them. But overall I did enjoy this series and it was fun to follow Erika through her evolution.

Raina says

Love this. Moen wrote a regular webcomic for years and they are compiled in this book. I met her at a PLA gathering and we chatted for quite a while. So she signed my copy. It's a meandering story, which doesn't necessarily follow a set plot as it's just a regular autobio comic. However, she deals with being a lesbian who falls in love with a man, minutae of life, and other dramas of a young twentysomething coming to age. Great stuff, I can't wait for her next stuff.

SA says

Oh, Erika Moen, you wonderful creature.

This and Volume Two are a mixed collection of Moen's autobio comics over a number of years. I never read Dar when it was active online, so it was fun to go back and read this for the first time. There were a couple in there that just made my heart squeeze; but knowing how happy she is now makes the darkness here all the more remarkable because you know what's happening next. (Moen and her husband reside in Portland and are regular figures on the comics scene.)

These are a great way to familiarize yourself with Moen as you look towards her current work.

Pretty Literate Opossum says

I tried, and I just couldn't get through this one.

It's a collection of jokes I don't find funny, sexcapades that cause me to cringe--

Ok seriously, don't make glorping sounds when you play with a guy's foreskin, Erica. You made the choice to bed this guy and record it in your art journal to share online. It's not funny, it's *un*funny. This was the point when I stopped reading.

I didn't even get to the pages that have been deemed "problematic."

Audacia Ray says

Moen's approach to gender and sexuality is light and cute, and I definitely enjoyed the read.

I'm not a regular reader of her comics though, and this piece on the Bitch Magazine blog was pointed out to me, about a strip in which Erica fetishizes trans men <http://www.bitchmagazine.org/post/rad...>

Complex stuff, but basically - just because it's light and cute doesn't mean it isn't also transphobic and damaging.

Sarra says

Page 87 features an ugly "special ed" joke. What is with indie comics & cartoonists and ableism? It's practically a cliché at this point, and I'm beyond tired of it. Special Ed jokes are particularly nasty because it's children they're taking aim at - and dehumanizing.

Kathryn Hemmann says

Three things I love about Dar:

- (1) the way Erika Moen draws,
- (2) the way Erika Moen writes, and
- (3) the way Erika Moen tells jokes.

I wish I had discovered this comic earlier in my life, because it is fantastic.

Green says

this girl is gross, annoying, repetitive, and over the top. Not for me, i suppose.

Anna says

Okay full disclosure, I am frequently annoyed by Erika Moen's comics, but this was actually not as bad as I was expecting. I actually kind of like her drawing style. And the stories are a mixed bag, but there are some cute moments. BUT any time she talks about Matt I am instantly irritated. Where to begin? The whole relationship, at least how it's portrayed in the comics, just reminds me of those annoying straight people who identify as queer because they like to dress up like animals or some crap like that. I'm not having it. I really try to avoid weighing in on how other people identify, but for god's sake can he just say she's bi or whatever instead of saying she's a lesbian who fell in love with a man? I also can't wrap my head around how of all the men in the world, *this* is the guy she goes for? I don't get it at all. I'm so annoyed by people fawning all over dudes for having a British accent, IT'S NOT THAT INTERESTING. The worst comic by far in this collection is definitely the one about her and Matt ogling lesbians at Pride.

Gayle Francis Moffet says

Honest, funny, sexy, embarrassing, and cute as hell. Erika Moen has a natural talent for knowing which parts of her life are the best to share, even if those parts aren't the ones you think she'd tell you.

As it's a series of strips, there's not much to say about the ongoing narrative except that there *is* one, and it's very sweet and fun and sometimes it hurts a little, but the honesty Erika Moen gives in her work makes it all lovely.

2017 update: Re-read this on a whim, and I was as delighted as I was originally. It's so fun to read it again while a fan of *Oh Joy Sex Toy* and see the strips on sex and body weirdness (queefing) that feel like proto-strips.

Mo Irma says

LOVED it!!! Related to her story on so many levels. Can't get enough of her content. MORE ERIKA MOEN! :-D Was sorry to see it end, but am loving her new books on Sex Ed and the reviews with her husband. The Sex Ed especially is super helpful and empowering since I have my own issues and am not that knowledgeable so it's really great to have such frank discussion and non-judgmental information. It's been so important to me in my work to try to overcome some things. Sex Ed related and mental health too.

Keep up the good work!!! Thank you for all you do. :)
