



Drawn to Sex: The Basics

Erika Moen , Matthew Nolan

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The first volume in a planned, 3-volume, sex-education series.

Erika and Matthew are ready to talk about sex!

Have you ever had a question about sex, but didn't know who to ask? Well, Erika and Matthew have spent years learning, talking, and creating informative comics about all aspects of sex. Using comics, jokes, and frank communication, they're here to demystify the world of sex and answer your questions—including ones you might not even know you had!

In this first book of the Drawn to Sex series, they explore the practical side of sex, from the basics of what defines sex, to barriers and testing, masturbation, and the ins-and-outs of having sex with other people.

Pick up this fun book if you're looking to learn something new, understand sexuality better, or know someone (maybe you!) who might benefit from some judgment-free education. Erika and Matthew are here to help you out

Drawn to Sex: The Basics Details

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From Reader Review Drawn to Sex: The Basics for online ebook

Alyssa Jo Barger says

I don't normally review books but felt the need to for this. I got this book by backing their kickstarter. I feel like I should say that I went into this with no prior knowledge of their previous sex comics. The reason I found interest in this is because while I'm 30 I have a 16 year old sister who I thought this book would be perfect for. I knew that she never got a talk from the rents, and with me being so much older and her and my husband being very close, she would only want to hear so much from me.

I wanted something that fell into my feelings of sex being with out shame and a personal thing where each individual needs to come to their own conclusions about what they believe/how they feel about sexual activities.

I bought two copies of this so I could have one for my self to read through before giving to her and it's just - beautiful. I wish I had something like this for when I was growing up. My parents weren't very open about things like this, and it wasn't until I was older that I even realized what sex meant to me, what I liked, and who I even wanted to have it with. I never asked my self questions because it almost more just seemed like a race to just get it done.

Honestly I would suggest this to anyone, even more to someone who has a little in their life that could benefit from this. And honestly, i feel like a lot of people could even surprise them selfs with maybe learning a thing or two from this book.

Tori (alwaysbookphoenix) Kisamore says

Before I start, I want to point out that I received this as a free eARC from Net Galley and the publisher.

HOLY COW!

This book was perfect!!! I am a Planned Parenthood advocate and volunteer and one of my passions is nursing, especially sexual health nursing. This book is a brilliant guide on sex. The illustrations are indeed super graphic so I do not recommend reading it in public unless you are comfortable doing so, but even then, it may be uncomfortable for others around you so be wise.

Erika and Matthew have clearly done their research! They even provide websites and resources where you can fact check them or just get more information about the topics they discuss.

Also, this graphic novel is very LGBTQIA+ friendly. It discusses different sexual and gender identities as well as illustrates them too. They did not leave anyone out! This is the kind of inclusive and sex positive literature that I think needs to be apart of any sex education class. (Although, I did come from a small school where we were told abstinence is the only way to a happy life, so I am a little bitter about that still, haha.) The education in this book was amazing, the illustrations were inclusive and descriptive, and lastly, I love that the authors did not just use medical lingo that not everyone will understand. They use multiple terms to describe and educate. This makes it a more fun and casual way to get educated.

I am so excited for this book to hit shelves. I hope other people find it as amazing and educational as I did.

Laura says

There are a lot of books about sex, and understanding it, out there, but Erika and her husband Matt, have written the clearest, most comprehensive, easy to understand book about sex out there.

Erika and Matt have been running their site, Oh Joy Sex Toy, to talk about toys, but they also get into the ins and outs, no pun intended, of, well sex. Erika has a very easy on the eyes cartoon style, and she tries to include all types of sexualities, as well as bodies, when she draws her stories.

This book is a collection of the strips she did about sex.

This page is part of the three or four page story about consensual sex, and how to know what it is.

and this page is about condoms, and Matt's first experience purchasing one.

All of the stories cover the basic things you need to know about sex, from what STDs are, to what the best method of birth control might be for you, from the pill to the condom, to the IDU.

Each story is told without shame, without assumptions, and the characters in the story ask the questions that you might be too embarrassed to ask.

This is a valuable resource, as well as fun to read. It gives you a lot to think about, and answers questions you might not even have thought of to ask. Even if you think you know everything there is to know about sex, you might be surprised to learn a few things, and be entertained in the process. Highly recommended.

Thanks to Netgalley for making this book available for an honest review.

Ken says

I had never read the webcomic that inspired this graphic novel, but that didn't stop me from backing the Kickstarter to get my copy. I loved the humor, non-judgmental nature, and accessibility with which the authors covered these topics. And the diversity! Of genders, parts, colors, body shapes — even limb differences. I really appreciated all the thought they put into this.

My one disappointment is that their coverage of birth control did not include vasectomies. Our society puts more of the burden of birth control on women, and it would've been helpful to include more ways that men can share that responsibility — especially since men seem less prone to discuss their health, especially sexual health, with one another.

The inside flap says this is the first of a series. I look forward to the follow-ups!

Tucker (The Library Reader) says

I still remember when I had 'the talk.' I was sitting in my dad's car eating ice cream (of which I quickly lost my appetite for) and we had the talk. My dad only gave me the basics and so I had to pick things up along the way through reading, t.v., Etc.

If you're looking for answers to the questions you're afraid to ask, this is the book for you! Complete with all sorts of instructions, warnings, and answers.

The drawings were good and I loved the humor and writing. This book is a staple for all kids coming of age!

Bottom Line:

4 Stars: A great book for those with great questions

Age Recommendation: 13-15+ (Obviously being a book about sex there is all sorts of sexual content.

Parents, I suggest you take a flip through this book and then pick and choose what pages you want to show to your kids ?)

Thanks to Limerence Press for providing me with a review copy.

Emma says

Whereas most educational books focus on sex as a way to explain where babies come from, this book focuses on understanding your body, contraception/safer sex and sex for pleasure. "People deserve to know how their shit works, to be empowered to ask for what they want, and to feel secure in saying 'yes' or 'no' or 'Let's try it but I reserve the right to change my mind'" (page 28).

The artwork is great quality and features cartoon versions of the authors answering questions from a diverse range of characters. The language used is inclusive of different genders and sexualities, and the authors use a broad definition of what "counts" as sex. The advice is non-judgemental and there is a strong focus on consent and respect. The authors are very clear that no one should be pressured into doing anything they don't want to, and that if someone doesn't want to have sex- now or ever- then that is always the right decision for them.

The book serves as an introduction to different topics and the authors point to Planned Parenthood and Scarleteen as more in-depth sources of information. It is very accessible and completely unashamed which means a refreshing change from the cringy advice most people got in their youth. It would be useful both for people who think they know a lot about sex and those who know very little. It would not be suitable for explaining sex to children, but nor is it meant to be.

[Free ARC from NetGalley]

Justine says

Growing up, up until now really, I always had been curious about such things, living in a Catholic-majority

country with such conservative beliefs and the atmosphere in schools even in some universities, made it weird to look up such, but that didn't hinder me. I know for a fact that I am not doing harm to myself and others. I may have been creating a safer world for me and some others. Haha.

I am no expert, when I found Drawn to Sex on NetGalley, I had to know. What really covers? the What, Why, When, and Hows of all.

And THOSE questions were answered here.

Saying I love it is an understatement, Drawn to Sex is curated with the sincerest detail and precaution there is! It was humorous, funny, and dead serious with the warnings. Over safety, comfortability, consent, and all of that. What I love more about it is that it doesn't cast out any minority. Personally, I may be a today's old over some facts that I have uncovered here.

The art itself is really calming and humorous. And if you look closer into it, you will see that there are reps of different body types, disabilities (physically speaking), sexual identities. Which is very encouraging not only towards safe sex but embracing one's sexuality. What wows me more is the breadth of the topics, it was divided into the novel, from the what is sex to the how.

It created a positive space that shows in every page of the novel, embracing sex and sexuality even!

Totally recommended for everyone. If you're looking for a Kickstarter guide, why not pick this one up.

Holly says

Originally posted at ragdollreads.co.uk

Ragdoll Rating: 5/5 Buttons

Recommended For: Everybody and anybody, whether you've never had sex or you do it all the time.

About the Book...

Drawn to Sex: The Basics is a brief (but extensive) look into the world of Sex Education. Wise and clever advice on a whole host of important topics is presented with a wonderful array of cute illustrations.

The book is broken up into four sections; Sex the Concept, Doin' it Safely, Doin' it With Yourself, and, Doin' It with Other People. The first section starts with what sex is, consent and so on, and the following sections build from that starting point.

This would be an ideal starting point for getting a deeper understanding of the world of sex.

What I thought...

My first impression of this book came from the introduction, and it caused me to do something I haven't actually bothered doing so far in the reviewing career. I made a list of positives and negatives! The trigger for this was literally the first line of the book, which read:

"Hello my Dearest Perverts!"

Now, this phrase appears several times in the book, and is only ever used as a term of endearment. Perhaps it is also intended as a way of reclaiming the word, to help put some distance between the ideas that sex is perverted, and that perverts are bad, therefore sex is bad. Whatever the reason, it unsettled me a little...actually quite a lot.

Fortunately, on reading the rest of the book, I completely abandoned the list because there was nothing to properly dislike.

There are so many things to like about this book. I'll briefly break down the book, then talk about some extras I loved. Obviously am not an expert on sex education (or sex generally) in any sense of the word, so I can't I just have to assume that the information in this book is factually correct. Having said that, I learned just a ridiculous amount by reading it.

Section 1, Sex the Concept, starts by taking a look at what sex actually is, the various forms of sexual acts, consent and sex positivity. It also tries to advise the reader on how to answer the question Am I ready to have sex? It's a really interesting chapter, and I was really pleased to see how reassuring the whole thing was. It is made absolutely clear that sex is good, if that's something you want, and that it's totally valid and normal if you don't want sex now, or ever! It also talks about how being sex-positive doesn't mean you have to be crazy in to kinks fetishes, and the finer points of what constitutes consent.

Section 2, Doin' it Safely, is all about protection, barriers and contraception. We get a little bit of information about STI's and the importance of getting tested regularly, including some details about what sort of things testing actually involves. Then it moves on to contraception, starting with condoms. This is probably the best condom related information I've read, especially considered the nightmare we were given in school (and if you've never heard of the Johnny Condom song, then think yourself lucky...). We also get taught about internal condoms - note, internal, not female, this book is super good at not using gendered terms for things, it's really trans inclusive which I love. We also get told about things like dental dams and finger cots. Then we get loads of information about forms of birth control, all of which have a list of positives, negatives and some side effects, which I thought was a really good idea. To round off this section there is a chapter on sexting, which I assume is put in the Safely section because it points out that there is always a chance that a sexy pic will be seen by someone other than its intended recipient (and it gives ways to lessen the chance it gets linked back to you), a warning about the legal implications of sexting while under age, and a bit about not how consent extends to pictures as well. Actually the way consent and not sharing other peoples nudes was brought up was really nice to see and well put.

Section 3, Doin' it with Yourself, is all about healthy exploration of your body, your likes and dislikes and masturbation. This chapter talks about fantasies and how they are normal and healthy, and examining them can help you understand your needs better. But it also talks about how not everything in your head is an actual desire you need to act on, and it says in a non-judgemental way that you can and should find help if you find yourself worried about fantasies. It was a good chapter. Then it talks a bit about the Sexual Response cycle, which I had never heard of but which is basically about how there is more to sex than the orgasm. This section concludes with some advice on masturbation for people with vulvas and people with penises (note that again, there was careful use of inclusive language. This section involves tips on exploring your body, diagrams - both external and internal - of the sexual organs, and a brief look at how sex toys can help with self pleasure.

Section 4, Doin' it with Others, is all about how sex works with other people. This section takes a look what I

suppose are the main forms of sexual contact with others. It breaks down what is involved, how to do it safely, what to do if things go wrong and all sorts of other good stuff. It includes more diagrams and cartoons, tips and advice and even covers things such as safe and sensible threesomes!

So that's the content covered, now on to the extra bits I liked.

First off, is the cartoons throughout. The visual representation of content makes it so easy to absorb and remember. It doesn't feel cold or clinical or judgemental, it is warm and friendly and reassuring. The characters featured are really diverse, different races, genders and sexualities. It also includes characters in wheelchairs and with other disabilities, which is something I have not seen in...well in anything if I'm honest. The language in the book is also really carefully selected. I've already mentioned how it is trans inclusive, but the book also reminds you from time to time that it's OK to not want sex, or have a low sex drive.

Ideas such as safe sex, consent and 'sex should feel good for all involved' are brought in throughout the book. Each section builds on what came before, providing what I feel is a really well-rounded and detailed look at the subject. Sources are provided whenever statistics are used and wherever the author feels there is more to be said, but not enough space, the reader is provided with websites to look at for further information.

One word of warning, the language in this book is not clinical or...professional seems like the wrong word...it uses a lot of slang words as well as technical terms. As such, this book contains a lot of instances of 'swear words', and also cartoons of people engaged in various sexual positions. So this is probably more of a teen+ book...

Final Thoughts...

This book is excellent. I learned a huge amount from this book - I'm not likely to need it, but it's good to be informed. The comic style of presentation means that this is a book you can easily read in a day and would find it easy to come back to if you needed a reminder. It's excellent. Read it, give it to your teens and your buddies and your partners. Get informed, bub!

Isabella says

If this is the basics I don't want to think what the advanced book is about LOL. At any rate, this comic is explicit but it's funny and informative at the same time, I learned new things myself, so don't think you're ever too old to learn about sex and contraception.

Stephanie says

Wow.

Drawn to Sex by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan is definitely a bit of a shocker the first time you read it. But, I have to say, it was pretty amazing. In a society that regularly has issues with sex education and being inclusive, this book was a breath of fresh air. Not only did this book include people of all sexualities, but it also included transgender and disabled. It also includes all kinds of body types, which was absolutely wonderful to see. Those aren't things I come across in books very often and therefore it was definitely

something I appreciated.

Overall, the book was overwhelmingly positive. And best of all it was informative, offering a great deal of information on a variety of sexual topics as well as links to websites that will provide readers with even more very important information. Of course, as this is a graphic novel of web comics, there was quite a plethora of NSFW content. And I think this is something anyone who picks up this book should expect. But, if for some reason you did not expect that, you have been warned. This book might be a little bit much for some of you out there.

I personally do think it's worth reading, though. And while I can imagine a fair number of parents not wanting their teens to be reading this—and to be fair, some of the topics are definitely very adult (threesomes, for example)—but I do feel that since the sex education in this country is disgustingly subpar, it's very beneficial for teenagers to have access to certain information. Especially that which involves consent, STIs, and safe sex. Not enough people teach young people about these things (properly!) and the more opportunities they have to find this information, the better off they will be. I deeply appreciated this book for its goal to educate people accurately.

The only thing I didn't care for with this book was its regular reference to its readers as perverts. I don't think it's particularly problematic, but it did bug me a little. The referencing was not indented to be negative in any way and so this dislike is a personal preference on my end. At the end of the day, I'm glad that this book exists. It's worth reading.

I was provided a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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Anna says

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I didn't expect to like this as much as I did, but I loved it! I think sex-positivity is super important and I love that more and more people are talking about it. Whether it be a from lack of sex education in school, not having an adult figure to talk to, or being afraid of getting judged, many people don't have a lot of guidance when it comes to sex, so they don't talk about it.

At the beginning of the book, one of the pages of the comic strip said:

“At the end of the day, what kind of sexual activities you do or don't do will not change your worth as a person. You are whole, you are valid, you matter, and you deserve empathy and compassion. Sex doesn't change that and anybody who tells you otherwise is projecting their own issues on to you.”

I think this is so important. So often, I've seen the message passed that certain sexual practices are shameful or having sex before marriage makes you a bad person. These things can mold our minds into feeling shameful about sex and, in turn, feeling shameful about ourselves for any sexual experiences we may have. This comic strip encourages the reader to stop feeling guilty because at the end of the day sex doesn't change your worth as a person and being informed about consensual, safe, sex makes it better for you and your future partners.

One of my favorite things about this was that the authors reiterate multiple times that what one person may want/believe/think is right might not be the same for the next. They tell you time and time again that your idea of sex positivity might not be the same as theirs and that's okay.

The illustrations were also amazing. There were so many different types of people shown in the illustrations.

That was definitely something about it that I loved because it really drives home that this is a book for everyone.

This book provided sex education in a fun, informative, non-judgmental way. It had some humor, but it also had some very important messages. The comic strip covers a broad variety of topics from consent, to different methods of birth control, masturbation, and different sexualities. It is written in a way that makes it an enjoyable learning experience. It is definitely something I wish I had growing up when the only sex education I received was that abstinence was the way to go, so in my later years I knew nothing about contraception, STIs, sex, or masturbation. I think this is a great book if you want to learn the basics that you aren't getting taught in school. If I had children I wouldn't mind giving them when they are older.

Su says

My sex-education was really wonky - from my public high school in a small-town conservative Arizona and my private all girls Catholic high school in socially conservative Incheon, South Korea to my grandmother who was brash, blunt and cursed worse than a sailor I had a really confusing mixed bag of information. Luckily (?) for me as a demisexual with just enough popularity sex wasn't something I wanted or felt I needed. But today's young people - especially high school aged ones - are under lots more pressure, it seems, with even MORE misinformation available to them! So I saw this and had to pick it up and I am oh so glad I did!

While this book is not exhaustive by any means, it IS pretty darn comprehensive. From the technical physical mechanics of it all to the equal importance of how you feel and think about the act and communicate - Erika and Matthew thoroughly cover all the basics of sex in an approachable and fun way that never feels preachy or like you're being talked down to. As I write this, I'm five days away from turning 26 and I loved reading this! It's definitely a book I will share with my teens from church and whatever future children I may have of my own. Because regardless of religious protocols, the truth is every person not only deserves but NEEDS to be armed with the facts regarding sex and how to have it safely! No matter what stage of life you choose to have sex in or with whom, you and your partner deserve and have a right to healthy, safe sex that makes you both feel good and even empowered. And Drawn to Sex: The Basics provides a good foundation for having that!

I also think this could be a great resource for folks, couples and other matches who grew up in restrictive environments and still have trouble taking about these topics. I look forward to breaking it out with my partner in the future and asking "Have you seen this? What do you think about this bit?"

For those of us wanting to start or continue engaging in great, healthy and happy sex this is a wonderful book to have around full of advice/reminders that can empower you and your partner to make sexy choices together that not only feel great but might also give your healthcare provider a sense of relief! It's also a really awesome gift to give a young person who may have confided in you that they're thinking about sex but don't really feel comfortable talking about it or don't know where to start looking for solid information.

destiny ? [howling libraries] says

When I was younger, I struggled a lot with recognizing what was healthy or unhealthy in a sexual relationship. Sex has been a part of my life for a long time as someone who is attracted to multiple genders

and does not fall anywhere on the asexual spectrum, but unhealthy relationships and exposure to unhealthy scenarios as a teen messed up my views on what it should look like, and honestly, Erika Moen's *Oh Joy, Sex Toy* webcomics were a tremendous help. In fact, I have to say that I think I first learned sex positivity from Erika's words. Because of my eternal gratitude to her and her partner Matthew for their guidance, when I saw that they were coming out with *Drawn to Sex*, I naturally felt like I had to review it.

I can't say that I learned anything new from this book, because 1) I followed their webcomic for *years*, and 2) I've been around the block long enough at this point to have learned these things firsthand. That said, this is such a fantastically comprehensive guide and I would absolutely encourage anyone and everyone to read it, regardless of your sexuality and gender identity—Erika and Matthew cover it all.

On top of how in-depth everything is, the representation in the comics? Flawless. Erika so strongly normalizes different races, sexualities, identities, body types, disabilities, and anything else you can think of. It's something I first noticed about the webcomic back in the day, and I was so happy to see that she still focuses so strongly on including as many people as possible. There's also a lot of attention paid to phrasing—instead of using binary terms, she'll use phrases like "people with *insert sexual term here*"—and she even takes time more than once to point out that asexuality comes in many different layers, and each and every one of those layers is perfectly valid.

I would recommend *Drawn to Sex* to anyone and everyone, and am so proud of Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan for the work they're doing. ♥

Thank you so much to Oni Press for providing me with this ARC in exchange for an honest review!

mo says

Full review on my blog!

A joyful, approachable, gloriously inclusive volume on the basics of sex. It welcomes and celebrates consenting adults who are comfortable doing any and all kinds of sex, as well as those who are uncomfortable with some or all sex. Informative, well-researched, friendly, and well worth a read, even if you know plenty about these topics already.

Ally Camble says

For the first half of *Drawn to Sex* I thought repeatedly, "This is the book I needed when I was a teenager. This is exactly the book." But. I'm not sure I would have read it when I was younger because of some of the content that comes after that first half. Unfortunately, it's not a book that I can give to just anyone. That being said, after finishing I went to find Moen and Nolan's comic strip and sent it to my step-son.

Ok, the good stuff.

There's a lot of positive things about *Drawn to Sex*:

1. It's a comic! About a very physical thing! This is a brilliant way to teach people about sex because they

can see what's it all about instead of hearing awkward, possibly confusing and complicated details. A picture says a thousand words and all that.

2. It's diverse. The authors include a variety of people in their strips, including the LGBTQ2S community and people who are differently abled.

3. They give sources for further research. A lot! In the section on birth control and barriers, they give a little information on many different methods, then recommend good websites to find more information. They do this sort of thing throughout the book. Because a comic can only cover so much.

4. Everyone can learn something from this book.

Note: I'm pretty sure Moen and Nolan didn't write Real Sex with my demographic in mind, so any discomfort I have in sharing it with certain people is not really an issue. It is great! It is informative and inclusive and should be read by multiple people! Especially people who haven't had a great sex education. Like me!

A copy of this book was provided by Netgalley for an honest review.
