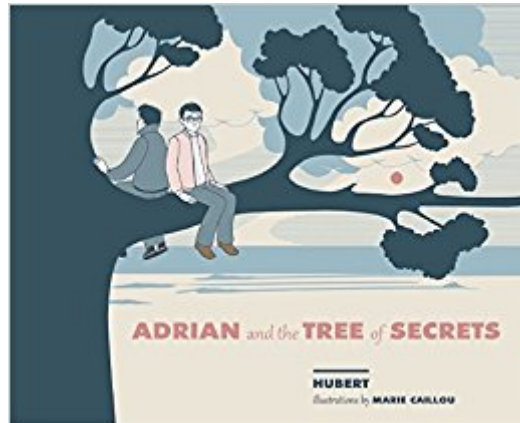




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Adrian And The Tree Of Secrets



Synopsis

Adrian isn't very happy these days. He lives in a small town and goes to a Catholic high school. He wears glasses, secretly reads philosophy books, and wishes he had more muscles. He's dogged by a strict mother, bullied by fellow players on the soccer field, and chastised by the school principal, who considers gay rumors about Adrian as a sign that he is "ill." But Jeremy, the coolest kid at school, thinks otherwise; he takes Adrian on scooter trips, where they end up in Jeremy's secret treehouse stealing kisses. Adrian finds himself falling in love, until Jeremy's girlfriend rats them out, sending Jeremy into a tailspin of embarrassment for being different than the rest. What will become of him?

Adrian and the Tree of Secrets is a poignant, beautifully illustrated graphic novel about first love, growing up, and having the courage to be true to yourself.

Hubert studied at the School of Fine Arts in Angers, where he first set his career sights on comics. He has written a number of graphic novels and comic series in French, including one that has been translated into English: *Miss Don't Touch Me*, Vols. 1 and 2, a graphic novel series set in Paris in the 1930s.

Marie Caillou studied fine arts in Strasbourg, France, and then in 1995 went to Brussels to study animation. She has directed short animated films, including a series entitled *Peur(s) du Noir* (Fear of the Dark). This is her first book to appear in English.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8.2 x 6.5 inches

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Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #684,678 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Gay & Lesbian](#) #556 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Gay & Lesbian](#) #3030 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 6 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up • According to a study published in 2011 by Dr. Mark Hatzenbuehler, gay teens who lack the support of their community are five times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers. The work's small French town provides an accurate backdrop for the story of a questioning young man in a repressive environment. Marie Caillou's illustrations echo the Art Deco movement. Adrian is bound by the expectations of his mother, the priests and nuns at the Catholic school he attends, and the small town in which he lives until an accident on the rugby field in PE takes him from bullied outcast to secret love interest of the star player, Jeremy. When the two are discovered, Jeremy is quick to distance himself from Adrian. It is possible that something was lost in the translation from the original French to this English version; the end result is a series of episodes that seem to suggest a strong dislike of the Catholic church and its influence, rather than a deeper, more nuanced character exploration that is hinted at in Adrian's conversations about philosophy. An admirable topic, but lacking in execution.

• Jodeana Kruse, R. A. Long High School, WA

"Visually beautiful, and using both dialogue and captivating images, Adrian and the Tree of Secrets lets Adrian's story unfold panel after panel ... This graphic novel is a sensitive reminder that there are still plenty of [gay teens like] Adrian's out there, and despite great leaps forward, isolation and harassment remain a reality for many LGBT youth around the world."

• About.com LGBT Teens

"Rendered in crisp lines filled in with shades of blue, green, brown, and salmon, Marie Caillou's graphics astutely emphasize Hubert's affecting narrative about life beyond black and white."

• BookDragon

"Author and artist expertly balance naivete and worldliness, from both Jeremy and Adrian, allowing readers to empathize with both. The ambiguous ending could serve as a conversation starter that gets teens talking about society's and religion's rules and how challenging it can be as individuals to carve one's own path."

• Shelf Awareness

"Writer Hubert and illustrator Marie Caillou explore the emotional fraught world of gay adolescence in this beautifully rendered graphic novel."

• Lambda Literary

"In the spirit of Alison Bechdel and other comic artists opting for realism over fantasy as their storytelling methods, a new graphic novel depicts the difficulties of growing up as a closeted gay man ... Adrian's adventures are imbued with thoughtful discussions of art and literature, and are made touchingly relatable by illustrator Marie Caillou."

• Huffington Post

"Visually beautiful, and using both dialogue and captivating images, Adrian and the Tree of Secrets lets Adrian's story unfold panel after panel ... This graphic novel is a sensitive reminder that there are still plenty of [gay teens like] Adrian's out there, and despite great leaps forward, isolation and harassment remain a reality for many LGBT youth around the world."

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In a long line of coming of age stories, this simple and subdued story stands out! The artwork is stunning and while some of the themes may be very much hackneyed, it still somehow manages to captivate. I relate very much to Adrian as I'm sure many other gay people do. His experiences are universal and that's what makes this so successful. I'm proud to have this in my library and I can't wait to recommend it to all my friends.

Kinda depressing.

Unusual story about a kid's "coming out" in a French Catholic family.

The reason for one star is the book is completely unreadable in eBook form, which is the form I purchased the book. I purchased the eBook after a glowing review by an international news paper. The eBook form of the book does not work. You are supposed to be able to expand the picture but it doesn't do that. So the text is way too small to read and the picture is so tiny you can't really tell what is going on in the frame. I purchased this sometime ago and reported the problem to but the problem isn't fixed after a month. I wonder why did not check the product they were to sell. Why would a reputable company sell a product that clearly does not work. This experience leads me to be less trusting of books for Kindle or eBooks from .com. did take the product off its offerings after I alerted them to its unreadability. I would not suggest any eBook form of this publication till it is fixed. I will be cautious of further eBook forms of purchase from in the future. This is not an obscure book.

Seriously, in this day and age to be creating a story about young gay men that inevitably ends in tragedy! I thought we'd gotten past this story line years ago when it was de riguer for any book with gay characters to feature a tragic ending. While the blossoming of first love and admission of attraction are handled well, and certainly there's still plenty of anti-gay bullying experienced by young people, to feature two suicides, one admitted and the final one suggested, without a disclaimer or even a suggestion of the resources available, like the Trevor Project, is grossly irresponsible. The message here is that if you don't have a supportive, understanding parent, if your first love rejects you out of fear and internalized homophobia, then the only way to resolve things is to throw yourself into the cold deep ocean and disappear. From a graphic perspective, while the overall look is appealing, it's also clear that Hubert never took an anatomy class and studied how people actually move, stand, bend, run, etc. There's an odd uncomfortable stiffness to the figures.

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