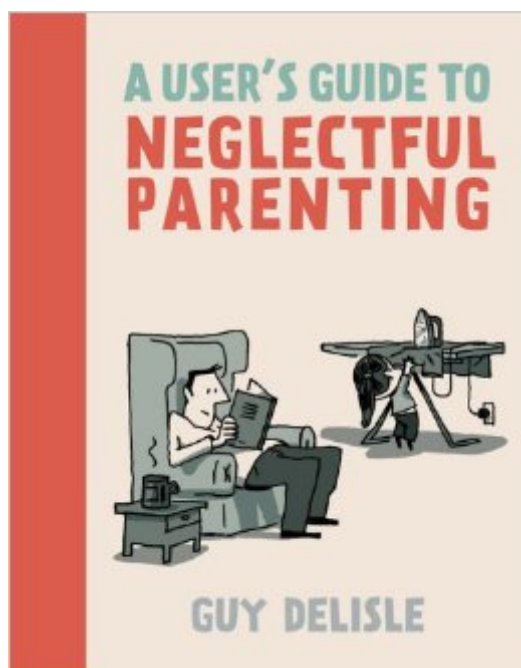


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A User's Guide To Neglectful Parenting



Synopsis

Meditations on fatherhood from the author of *Jerusalem: Chronicles from the Holy City* With A User's Guide to Neglectful Parenting, the trademark dry humor that pervades Guy Delisle's landmark and praised graphic travelogues takes center stage. Quick, light vignettes play on the worries and cares any young parent might have, and offer wry solutions to the petty frustrations of being a dad who works from home. Readers familiar with Delisle's stranger-in-a-strange-land technique for storytelling (employed in *Jerusalem*, *Pyongyang*, *Burma*, and *Shenzhen*) will recognize the titular parent in this book; Delisle's travelogues were simultaneously portraits of complex places and times, and portraits of a stay-at-home dad's ever-changing relationship with his children while his wife is out working for Doctors Without Borders. The relationship between young child and all-too-irony-aware parent is beautifully done here, and Delisle's loose flowing style has been set free, creating a wonderful sense of motion throughout. *A User's Guide to Neglectful Parenting* is an intimate, offbeat look at the joys of parenting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Guy Delisle takes a break from his usual travelogue comics to produce a highly amusing look at being a dad, specifically his parenting style towards his young son and daughter. The stories range from Delisle's shortcomings as a dad to his mischievous nature trumping his paternal instincts - all stories which are almost all hilarious. One of the stories shows Delisle forgetting to put a coin under his son's pillow when his tooth falls out - for 3 nights in a row! - and having to make up a story about

why the mouse (in Delisle's household, or maybe Canada generally, there's no tooth fairy but instead there's a tooth mouse) kept forgetting. Later on he plays a practical joke on his son, using a chainsaw to chop up a dead tree in their backyard and then, to grab his son's flagging attention, pretends that the chainsaw cut his hand off, leading to his traumatised son running indoors screaming! One of my favourites is at bedtime his daughter asking him to reassure her that baby snatchers aren't real, which of course he does. And then he goes on about a newspaper story he read earlier where a monkey in Malaysia stole a baby and leapt out of the apartment window, says goodnight and walks off, leaving his daughter completely wide awake and scared. Or when his daughter brings him a drawing she made and Delisle ends up critiquing the hell out of it, telling her she'll never win an Eisner (the comics industry Oscars) and ending with Delisle ranting about hack artists in the comics industry. It might seem like he's a cruel dad but you get a strong feeling from the book that he deeply loves his kids and that he just likes playing around with them for his own amusement - and our own of course.

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