

Fun Home: The Story

Fun Home invites you to open the door into the life and memories of successful cartoonist Alison Bechdel as she moves between two time periods in her life—her childhood and her college years.

Small Alison (childhood) struggles against her father Bruce's obsessive demands, her mother Helen's seeming indifference, and the first hints of her sexual identity. She longs for her father to play airplane with her, doesn't care to wear dresses and be conventionally feminine, and seeks out attention from her parents that is hard to come by as they deal with their marital issues behind closed doors.

Bruce is an English teacher and the director of the Bechdel Funeral Home, where Small Alison and brothers John and Christian can be seen making fun commercials to promote the business. Bruce is closeted and seeks out affairs while frequently lashing out in anger at his family. Helen chooses to look the other way with Bruce's deceit and focus her efforts on her piano-playing. Her dreams of becoming a Broadway actor were dashed early on when she married Bruce, but finds an escape by performing in community theater.

Medium Alison (college) is excited but nervous to be on her own. One day she joins a Gay Union meeting at her school and meets Joan, someone she instantly connects with, and they begin a relationship. Medium Alison attempts to come out to her parents as a lesbian but is ignored. In a later poignant moment, she and her father have a confusing but meaningful conversation as they take a drive and attempt to express themselves to each other.

In present day, Alison continues to narrate her memories and soon returns to evaluate her current life. She considers the connection between her coming out and her father's untimely death when she was younger. Newly reconciled with her past, she recalls a happy moment in time playing airplane with her father and feels at peace and finally "home."