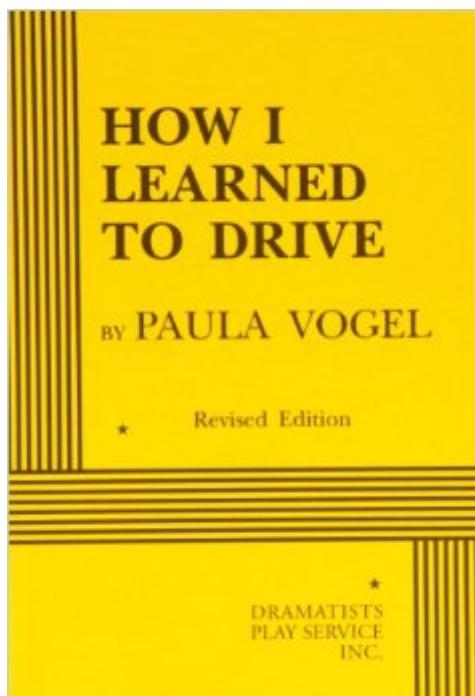


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# How I Learned To Drive - Acting Edition



## **Synopsis**

Balmy evenings in rural Maryland are fraught with danger, and seductions can happen anywhere from a river bank to the front seat of a car, where a young self-conscious girl is learning to drive. To Lil Bit, the radio is the most important part of the car, but the pop music of the 50s can never quite drown out the harrowing images in her mind. A L.A. Theatre Works full-cast performance featuring: Randall Arney, Joy Gregory, Glenne Headly, Paul Mercier, Rondi Reed --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This play has been my favorite contemporary play since I first read it about four years ago. It tells the story of Lil' Bit and her relationship with her uncle Uncle Peck which begins when she is very young and continues until she is in college. Though she is clearly a victim of molestation, the story is much deeper than that of a victim and her perpetrator. Vogel lets to audience into Lil' Bit's dysfunctional family in which her grandfather is over-sexed and her grandmother is at the beckon call of his sexual urges. In addition, Lil' Bit's mother gives her advice on sex and men that is misguided due to her own failing as a wife. The only family member that Lil' Bit can turn to is her uncle who loves her as more than a niece. The two begin a relationship before Lil' Bit even reached puberty. Though Lil' Bit knows that the relationship is wrong, Uncle Peck is her only advocate and support. The play is told through various scenes that are not chronological. Vogel chose to do this in order to question the audience about at what point does their relationship become inappropriate. She wanted the audience to view a scene and think "is this wrong" and then escalate to a more

graphic scene in order to raise the question "now is it wrong". With each scene, Vogel is asking the audience when does the relationship cross the line. While there is not a great deal of action, it is one of the most thought-provoking plays. I cannot give it enough praise!!

Something is wrong with the way this book is put together. Page 40 and page 41 are not continuous pages. There should be a page in there or something. It's very weird. And I know it's not supposed to be like that because I read this play in school and I liked it, so I got a copy recently. (It's a great play by the way. It's disturbing but very moving at the same time). After I found the misprint I ordered another copy because I thought maybe it was just in that one, but it's in the second one I got too. I'm going to order a different edition of the play.

Every quarter, for our English class book project we have to read one or two of the titles from the list that our teacher gave us. Being strapped for time, I decided to read a play, and luckily the play that I chose was "How I Learned to Drive" by Paula Vogel. Little did I realize that in reading this amazing piece of literature I would fall in love with it. Now, instead of just spending an hour reading the play, I want to spend a few hours watching it. I want to see how the actors portray the extended metaphor ( of sexual encounters and how it relates to learning how to drive a car ) that is the whole play. Vogel does a great job of creating real life characters who help us see into the sick world of a child molester. Although we naturally hate Peck for doing what he does, Vogel does an amazing job of dropping hints as to why he hurts Li'L Bit( so if you get a chance, read it more than once ). I would definitely recommend this play to any type of person. It is an easy read but more importantly, it tastefully makes you aware of what type of people there really are in this world.

I just went to see my university production of this play, and so I decided to get the book, because it brought out so many emotions many of us have never felt before. This book is so moving and heart wrenching. Lil Bit takes you on an adventure that is so real and so scary, that you can't put the book down. If you get the chance, don't waste it on any other play. This is THE PLAY to read.

This play was very good but concerned a topic that is repellent - abuse. Sexual abuse by family members. For good measure, there are also versions of the play performed on Youtube. So I am stuck. How do you rate something that was good but about something you do not consider good? I confess I would much rather turn my eyes away from the topic in the hopes that it would just go away. I suppose that is the value of such literature. It puts right in your face that which you would

rather not see.

I saw this years ago and when I was looking for something unique and powerful to direct I ordered this script. I wasn't disappointed. Peck is one of the most fabulous roles a guy could ever hope for. Lil Bit is every bit as challenging part. The staging and approach of this play are far from standard and make for the opportunity for a theater to break from their normal run of box sets and standard play structure. A very worthwhile read.

"How I Learned to Drive" is very modern in its presentation, but enormously unnerving. Its use of a Greek chorus and minimal stage props just adds to the eeriness and vulgarity of the story. What is scary and truthful about this play is that in some families, occurrences like this may be happening. The character of Peck will give you goose bumps. I recommend.

I saw this performed through Perseverance Theatre in Anchorage, Alaska, and Paula Vogel is a great artist when it comes to making believable characters. In this play, the child molester, Uncle Peck, is portrayed in a way that you grow to like him. The book by itself is worth buying, and a great piece of humorous and spellbinding literature.

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