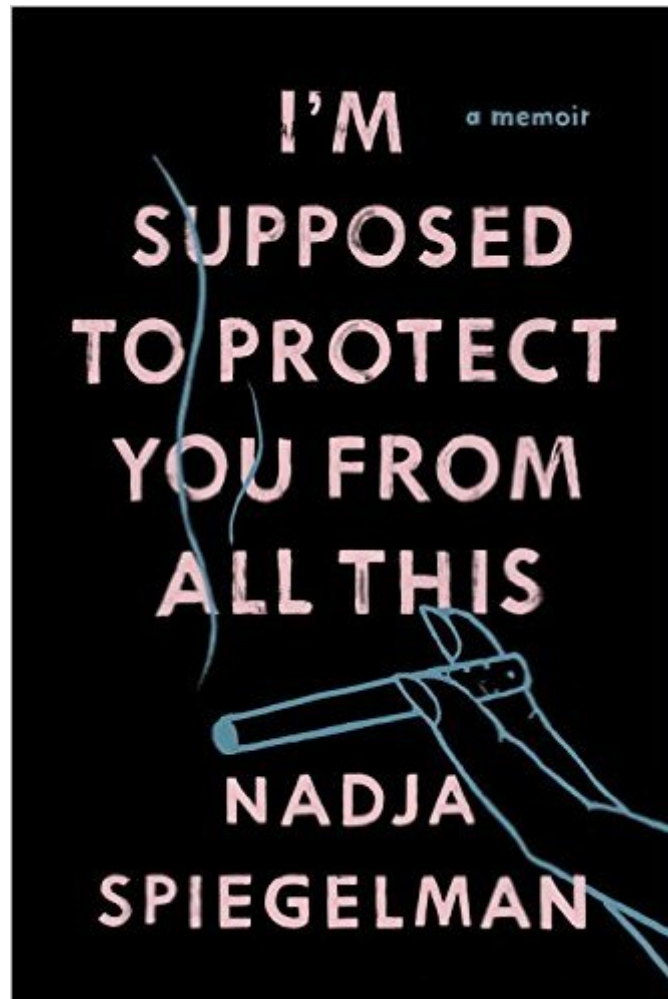


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I'm Supposed To Protect You From All This: A Memoir



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Customer Reviews

My mother wasn't perfect. My mother was intense. Things didn't happen because they were possible, they happened because she decided they would. But, as anyone who has read a fairytale knows, all spells come with a cost. The magic pulled on hidden sources. She could set the universe aflame, but she used herself as fuel. Somewhere inside, the earth was scorched.

I'm Supposed To Protect You From All This is a memoir by American graphic novelist and author, Nadja Spiegelman. Nadja is the daughter of cartoonist Art Spiegelman (author of the graphic novel *Maus*) and Françoise Mouly (art editor of the *New Yorker* since 1993), and this memoir is dedicated to her mother and grandmother. Nadja decides to write about her mother's coming of age: the process, naturally enough, requires input from her mother, Françoise, and her maternal grandmother, Josée, who had a career as a ghostwriter. My mother did not agree right away. She thought about it carefully. And then, having decided, she held nothing back. The boundaries between us fell, and fell suddenly. She let me in. There was nothing I couldn't ask. She answered me with a searching honesty rare even in the privacy of one's own thoughts. She made time for me in her crowded life.

At times, the narrative from Françoise's perspective is so intimate, the reader can be forgiven for thinking that the words are Nadja's: "Don't talk back to me," Josée replied. She was capable of saying things so terrible they blacked out the sun. "No one will ever love a girl like you," she might say. "How could you expect them to? A disagreeable, insolent, unpleasant girl like you?" The words shot darkness over Françoise's future and blotted out all hope. She was miserable. She would always be miserable.

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