



## Only Dad

*Alan Titchmarsh*

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According to their friends, Tom and Pippa Drummond have the perfect existence - a great lifestyle, a lively marriage, and a great kid in Tally. In their late thirties, living in a converted barn on the edge of the Sussex Downs, Tom is a partner in 'The Pelican', a restaurant in Axbury Minster, and Pippa, after a short career as a cook, grows herbs for sale locally and brings up sixteen-year-old Tally - a lively blonde with her head screwed firmly on to her shoulders. A rare summer holiday is planned - an idyllic retreat in the Italian hills. Tom takes time off from the restaurant, Pippa leaves her herbs in the charge of a dotty neighbour, and Tally takes a break from the two men in her life - fast-living Alex and the plodding, persevering 'Blip'. Tuscany is everything they hoped it would be - cicadas in the trees, the scent of sage and citrus and suppers under the stars. But their joy is short lived. Overnight their lives, their circumstances, their very identities are suddenly altered, and life will never be the same again. From being the envy of their friends, the Drummonds are plunged into a world that nobody would wish upon them.

## Only Dad Details

Date : Published September 6th 2004 by Pocket Books (first published 2001)

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Author : Alan Titchmarsh

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## From Reader Review Only Dad for online ebook

### Nicola Read says

I found this a bit cheesy overall. I won't be seeking out Alan's other novels and am frankly quite amazed that his writing has been praised so highly!

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### Alowk Rustagi says

Simple writing potraying emotions of a normal man and teenager.

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### Karen Manning says

My mum loved Alan's books. Sadly she passed a few months ago and while looking through her many books to decide which to keep or giveaway, I browsed the first chapter of this one which caught my eye, and I was quickly hooked. Maybe the similarity in the suddenness of loss but I really enjoyed it and will be keeping the selection she has. The Last Lighthouse Keeper is next!

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### Joan hollingworth says

#### Ok but nothing special

Predictable but an OK light read, dont think I shall be buying more though. Sugest you stick to gardening Alan.

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### Michelle Wiles says

I loved this book. I am definitely falling in love with Alan Titchmarsh as an author. He has a lovely, descriptive writing style and his stories are great. I will be reading more.

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### Christine Ottaway says

An engaging story of love and loss and love found again - of love amongst teenagers and love amongst those much older.

Alan Titchmarsh has a light touch but a great eye for detail that paints the picture. You can hear his voice narrating the story!

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### **Andrew says**

Yes, this was definitely a fantastic read. I loved the characters and it is just a really easy going story. This is definitely a book that you can pick up and read if you want to get into serious relaxation of the mind and forget your surroundings for a short while. I definitely recommend this book. I shall hunt for Alan's other books as he definitely has the gift of the written word.

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### **Alaide Mo says**

Esta novela viene en uno de esos "Libros selectos".

Desde hace 6 años que me regalaron el libro (sí, yo tenía 10 años), "Only dad" fue el único título (en español: Siempre serás mi papá) que me llamó la atención de todos los libros que se encuentran en esa selección y de hecho el único que he leído de los cuatro que vienen.

Creo que por agarrarle cariño demasiado pronto a los personajes fue que me gustó tanto el libro.

Es algo así: Tom Drummond (o no sé cómo se escriba) es un padre de familia que quiere ser escritor aunque su madre quería que fuera granjero terminó siendo dueño de la mitad de un restaurante, tiene una esposa llamada Pippa y una hija llamada Tally (Natalie).

La historia no es más que la vida de Tom como esposo y papá. Después de tomarse unas vacaciones éstas le harán un giro de 360° a su vida a causa de una pérdida.

Creo que también a pesar de hablar centralmente sobre pensamientos de Tom, también toma mucho en cuenta al personaje de la hija, Tally, lo cual supongo que es lo que más me gustó.

Es una buena novela.

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### **Harriet Quimby says**

I was surprised by some of the things inside this book especially as it was wrote by Alan Titchmarsh. However this was a very easy light read that I breezed through on holiday.

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### **Carolina Piña says**

Es entretenido pero nada sorprendente

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### **Bgnotchn says**

An easy read, quite touching really. It made me consider reading more of his stuff.

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### **Lydia Bailey says**

A surprisingly enjoyable light read. If I hadn't known it had been written by Alan Titchmarsh I think I would

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have enjoyed it more! Reading the sex scenes was a bit like watching a romantic film with your dad in the room....

His writing is really lovely in places but pretty cheesy in others. There are beautiful descriptions of places and scenes & some unexpected bursts of great humour and/or insight but they don't really flow with the dialogue & plot. The ending was pretty predictable and most of the characters (with the exception of the two main ones) were one dimensional. I didn't like how big events were glossed over 'the days passed in a blur' 'suddenly a year had gone by.' However, it did keep pulling me back and I looked forward to seeing what happened next.

It felt like the first novel from someone with great potential.

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### **Jane says**

This is a typical love-loss-acceptance-recovery book. Often not my cup of tea, but I did enjoy this one.

Tom, Pippa, and their daughter Tally are the perfect British family. Then on holiday in Tuscany Pippa dies suddenly. The story is basically how Tom and Tally cope with her death.

I listened to the audio version which was narrated by the author. I felt that his matter-of-fact, not melodramatic, reading added much to my enjoyment of the story.

The fact that I enjoyed this and didn't like *Wide Sargasso Sea* probably says a lot about my intellectual level - but let's not go there.

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### **Angela Lewis says**

Very nicely written and engaging, the feelings created emotionally surprising. Nice story - as in fine for a couple of days during the holidays.

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### **Samantha says**

I just enjoy these books. A Good read.

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