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Into Violence

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"Blandine Rinkel's heartfelt story of a troubled childhood deftly explores intergenerational trauma and the often painful power it takes to break free."

Six-year-old Lou and her father Gérard play *barbichette*, a staring contest where the loser gets slapped. As they hold each other's gaze, Lou is afraid her father will kill her. She lives in constant fear of provoking one of her father's terrible fits of cruelty. Shattered by grief and incapable of explaining his emotions or apologizing, Gérard teaches his daughter to hate vulnerability and weakness. Lou grows up to become a dancer who performs as fiercely as an Amazon, a female warrior ever ready to do battle, on stage. And in bed... Until one day she discovers that masculinity isn't just a matter of strength, and that her father's legacy of violence isn't what makes her powerful.
