

Essential Graphic Medicine: An Annotated Bibliography

Created by Alice Jagers and Matthew Noe

Funded by an American Library Association Carnegie-Whitney Grant

Welcome! This is the PDF version of our project, entitled Essential Graphic Medicine: An Annotated Bibliography. This bibliography emerged out of Alice and Matthew's combined experience with collection management work related to graphic medicine, that is, comics about health, and our shared interest in making this field/genre more accessible to library workers new to the concept. Below you will find more detailed information about the project and our approach, some important caveats, and links to each of the 30 annotations. In addition, you can find a web version of this bibliography on the [Graphic Medicine website](#).

We hope you find this helpful for your work - be you a library worker or not - and invite your questions or comments! You can reach us using the [Contact Graphic Medicine](#) form or find us on Twitter: [@AJagers324](#) for Alice and [@NoetheMatt](#) for Matthew.

The Project

In late 2017, after answering countless requests for ideas on how to start a graphic medicine collection, we came together to propose an annotated bibliography project that would help library workers do just that: get *started* with graphic medicine in their library. While the two of us have expertise on this, being mindful of potential for bias, we decided that to do an essential list properly, we would need the input of the graphic medicine community. To that end, we launched a survey in early fall 2018 to coincide with the 2018 Graphic Medicine Conference and distributed it to conference attendees, listservs, and directly to those within the community we might otherwise miss. Respondents were asked to list their top 10 must-have comics for a graphic medicine collection.

In total, we received more than 90 distinct comics recommendations for what might constitute an "essential" title for a library to include in a graphic medicine collection. Title list in hand, we then counted how many times a title was mentioned, determined suitability to the genre, and checked for availability. This last point was important because we wanted the titles in this bibliography to be readily purchasable by libraries. This means any titles that are currently out-of-print, are only available directly from creators, were part of a crowd-funding project (and have not been reprinted by a larger publisher), and floppy-style comics were all removed from consideration as these present significant challenges to collection by most North American libraries.

From there, we sought to ensure that, as much as possible, a wide-array of medical topics are included. This presents some difficulty as a vast majority of readily available comics in the genre focus on cancer or mental health in all their various presentations. In order to ensure a wide-array, we chose to add additional titles of our choosing to the survey results over the course of the project - such as more recent publications like *Gender Queer*. As more comics in the genre see publication - and there are more every year - the

range of health topics is sure to expand. We sincerely hope to see this project in need of updating sooner than later because that means the genre is flourishing!

Once determinations were made about what this essential set would include, titles were divided to be annotated. This required one or both team members to read each comic, provide bibliographic information, and write up a brief annotation on the title that makes it easy for a collections manager to make quick decisions on purchasing. After significant discussion, we opted to **not** include any specific age rating for the titles, but we do include a "Special Considerations" line that notes potentially triggering information or things like "Adult Language" that may pose a problem in certain library communities. To once again use *Gender Queer* as an example, to provide a strict age rating might limit the availability of this comic in a way that prevents it from getting into the hands of younger readers that desperately need to see themselves represented in a positive way. We encourage collection managers to be inclusive in their purchasing and shelving practices so that readers of all ages can find information that they need, even if some in the community might disagree.

While we are proud to present this list for your consideration, we also want to warn against the risks of canonization and the privileging of some works in the genre above others. There is an inherent struggle between presenting a collection development tool like this one and one of the goals of graphic medicine - to expand what we talk about when we talk about health to include the subjective experience. More clearly, while you will find comics like *Cancer Vixen* and *Marbles* on our essential list, it is important to recognize that they are representing an individual experience that may or may not resonate with everyone. For more on these concerns, see the *Graphic Medicine Manifesto* and the [Minding Graphic Medicine's Rise panel](#) from the 2020 New England Graphic Medicine Conference.

The Team



Alice Jagers, MSLS (she/they) is a health sciences librarian with expert knowledge in graphic medicine. They have previous experience in healthcare billing, anthropology, and was the Outreach Coordinator at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Alice is the Multimedia Editor for the Graphic Medicine website and publishes a monthly list of upcoming graphic medicine comics on their website. You can also find Alice creating watercolor illustrations and comics on Twitch.



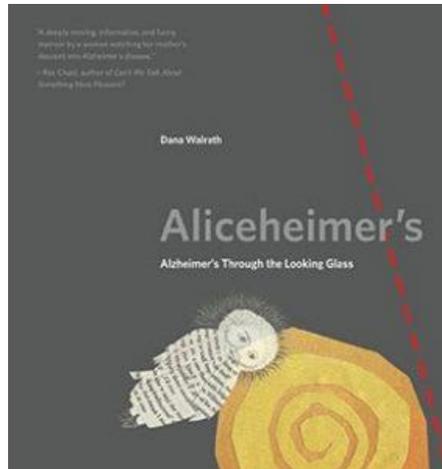
Matthew Noe, MSLS (he/his) is Lead Collection & Knowledge Management Librarian at Countway Library, Harvard Medical School, and a part-time instructor at the University of Kentucky. Matthew is a specialist in graphic medicine and advocate for the use of comics at all levels of education. He is currently President-Elect of ALA GNCRT, Treasurer of the Graphic Medicine International Collective, and a 2020 ALA Emerging Leader. You can often find him overcaffeinated, screaming about all manner of things on Twitter, or curled up with two dogs, a book, and not enough hands.

The Annotations

On the following pages you will find the 30 works of graphic medicine selected for this project, arranged alphabetically by title. Each one includes our annotation, as well as bibliographic information and a link to a review on the Graphic Medicine website when available. On the web version of this list, each annotation also includes a link out to find a copy in a library via Worldcat or to purchase via Bookshop. These links are omitted for this PDF version.

Supported by a Carnegie Whitney Grant from the American Library Association.

Find out more at www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/publishing/sundry/alapubawrds/carnegiwhitney.



Title: Aliceheimer's: Alzheimer's Through the Looking Glass

Author: Dana Walrath

Illustrator: Dana Walrath

Primary Health Topic: Alzheimer's Disease

Secondary Health Topic(s): Caregiving, Compassionate Care

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: April 30, 2016

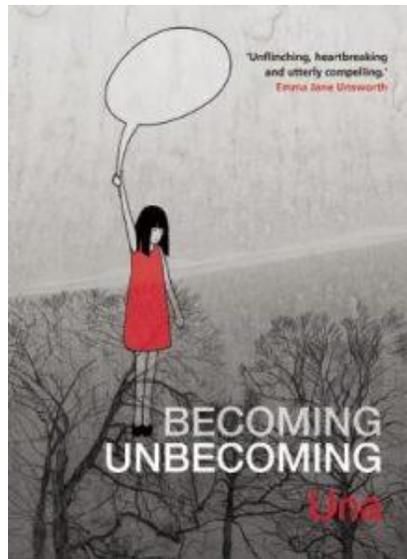
Publisher: Penn State University Press

ISBN: 9780271074689

GM Review: [Guest Review by Erin Partridge](#)

Annotation: *Aliceheimer's* is a mixed media comic centering around Dana Walrath's mother, Alice. Walrath dives into her experiences with her mother, who is suffering from Alzheimer's. The reader sees the human side of Alice and Dana. Walrath explores her mother's cognition as if it were a different culture, because it is an alternate worldview. She seeks to understand reality as her mother sees it. "What year is it?" is one question she asks Alice, honestly curious to know the answer. The book is beautiful and evocative.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Becoming Unbecoming

Author: Una

Illustrator: Una

Primary Health Topic: Trauma

Secondary Health Topic(s): Mental Health, Sexual Violence, Rape

Special Considerations: Rape, Sexual Assault, Violence

Publication Date: September 30, 2015

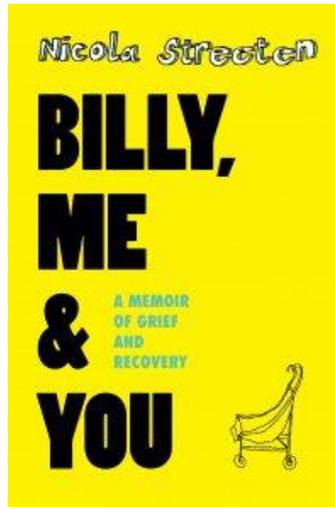
Publisher: Myriad Editions/Arsenal Pulp Press

ISBN: 9781551526539

GM Review: N/A

Annotation: Becoming Unbecoming is a difficult but necessary book about gender double standards, sexual violence, and fear. Although the violence is not directly depicted, it is clear what has happened. The content includes what doesn't get discussed in 'polite' conversations, but should be. It all takes place during the time the Yorkshire Ripper was raping and killing women with the press at times blaming the victims and glorifying the man.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Billy, Me & You: A Memoir of Grief and Recovery

Author: Nicola Streeten

Illustrator: Nicola Streeten

Primary Health Topic: Bereavement

Secondary Health Topic(s): Grief, Death, Cardiac Health

Special Considerations: Death

Publication Date: October 27, 2011

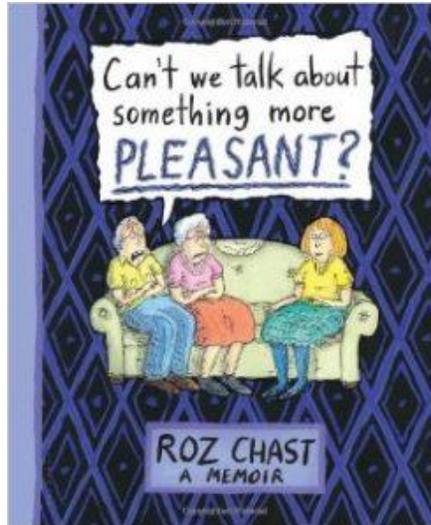
Publisher: Myriad Editions

ISBN: 9780956559944

GM Review: [Guest Review by Sathyaraj Venkatesan and Anu Mary Peter](#)

Annotation: *Billy, Me & You* is a unique experience. It's a comic exploring the grief, trauma, and recovery following the death of Streeten's two year old son, written more than a decade after his death, built on reconstructed memories from diary and journal entries from that time. It's also a surprisingly funny comic, which isn't something you expect in a story about grief, but Streeten infuses the absurdity of living through such trauma (and our responses to) with a wry humor you can't help but chuckle at. Not limited to discussing individual grief, *Billy, Me & You* provides valuable insight into the culture around grief and the limits of public acceptance.

Annotated By: Matthew Noe



Title: Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir

Author: Roz Chast

Illustrator: Roz Chast

Primary Health Topic: Aging

Secondary Health Topic(s): Dying and Death, Caregiving

Special Considerations: Death

Publication Date: May 6, 2014

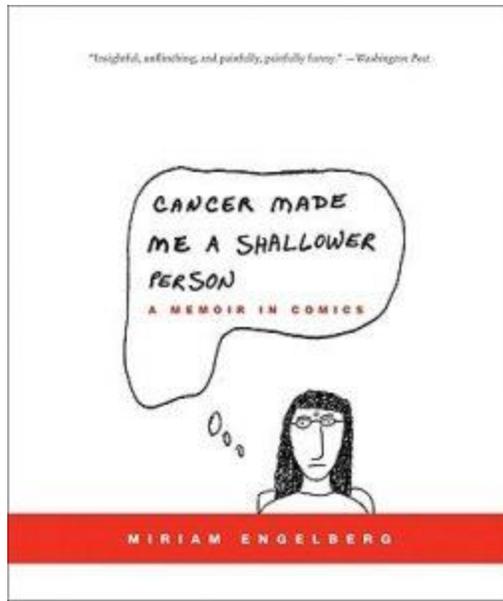
Publisher: Bloomsbury

ISBN: 9781608198061

GM Review: [Guest Review by Michelle N. Huang](#)

Annotation: Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant is a memoir by the New Yorker cartoonist, Roz Chast. She introduces the reader to her relationships with her parents from her childhood to their dying and deaths. The memoir testifies to the need for end of life planning. As the title suggests, her parents avoid the topics of dying and death, which leads to issues for Roz Chast. There is humor and gravity in turn and together. This title also includes a few photos among the illustrations.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Cancer Made Me a Shallower Person: A Memoir in Comics

Author: Miriam Engelberg

Illustrator: Miriam Engelberg

Primary Health Topic: Breast Cancer

Secondary Health Topic(s): Mental Health

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: July 6, 2006

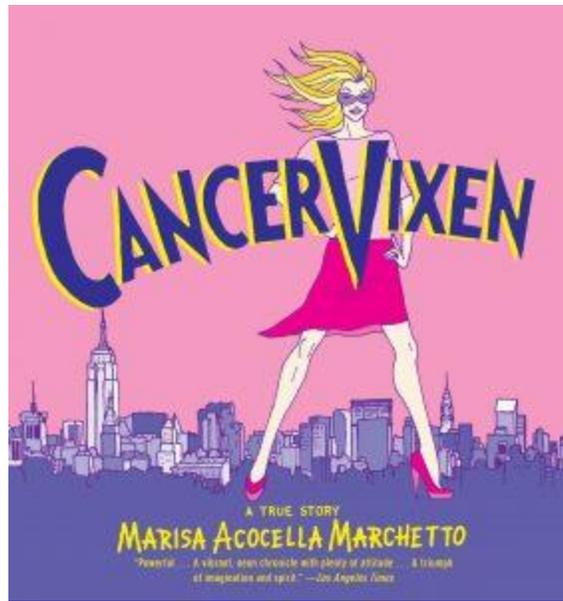
Publisher: HarperCollins

ISBN: 9780060789732

GM Review: [Review by Ian Williams](#)

Annotation: Cancer Made Me a Shallower Person has minimalist illustrations with insightful depth. This memoir [fights back] against the battle terminology associated with cancer and against the idea that trauma inevitably leads to strength of character. It is a brutally honest look into being a person with cancer.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Cancer Vixen: A True Story

Author: Marisa Acocella Marchetto

Illustrator: Marisa Acocella Marchetto

Primary Health Topic: Breast Cancer

Secondary Health Topic(s): Health Insurance

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: September 26, 2006

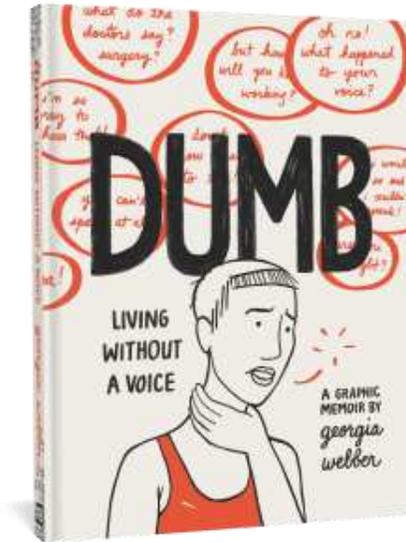
Publisher: Knopf Publishing Group

ISBN: 9780307263575

GM Review: [Review by Ian Williams](#) / [Guest Review by Nathan Sethu](#)

Annotation: Cancer Vixen explores the experiences of Marisa Acocella Marchetto discovering a lump in her breast while uninsured. The patient experience explained in a striking visual and emotional manner. Marchetto describes her own unique experiences, but many are common and resonate with other breast cancer patients. Marchetto gives the reader an inside look at her mind during the process, including the unanswerable speculations of how and why she had cancer.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Dumb: Living without a Voice

Author: Georgia Webber

Illustrator: Georgia Webber

Primary Health Topic: Loss of Voice

Secondary Health Topic(s): Throat Injury, Disability

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: August 7, 2018

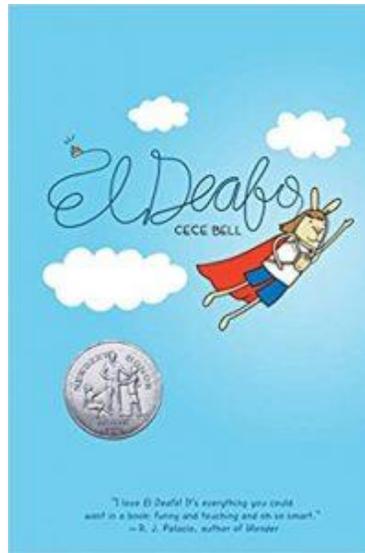
Publisher: Fantagraphics

ISBN: 9781683961161

GM Review: [Review by Kevin Wolf](#)

Annotation: Originally published as a series of mini-comics, Georgia Webber's *Dumb: Living Without A Voice* is a brilliant work of comics memoir, using the freedom of the medium to illustrate the experience of losing one's voice. Webber uses color (red) and collage to show not only the physical pain of her condition, but the emotional, psychic pain that comes from losing something so vital to one's identity. Readers with their own chronic health conditions, particularly those who are often left with insufficient help from the healthcare system, will see themselves in the story.

Annotated By: Matthew Noe



Title: El Deafo

Author: Cece Bell

Illustrator: Cece Bell (with colors by David Lasky)

Primary Health Topic: Hearing Loss

Secondary Health Topic(s): Hearing Aids, Stigma, Deafness

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: September 4, 2014

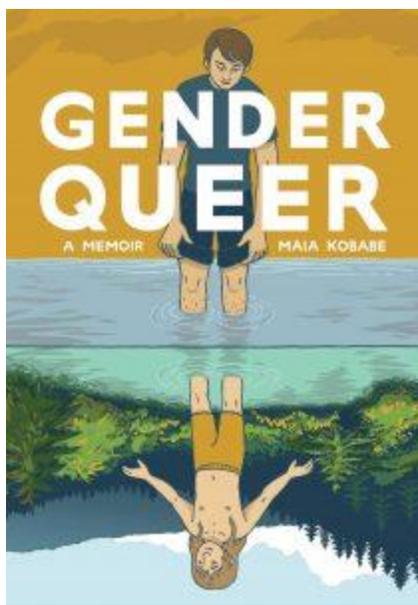
Publisher: Abrams

ISBN: 9781419712173

GM Review: [Guest Review by Elna McIntosh](#)

Annotation: *El Deafo* is a memoir directed at a younger audience, but an enjoyable read for all ages. Cece Bell is four when she gets meningitis and as a result has hearing loss. The depictions of her losing her hearing and how she perceives sound are poignant. She gets a hearing aid, which at the time was quite large. The way Bell describes learning how to communicate and to deal with the social pressures of being different are heartwarming. This is one person's experience with hearing loss in a funny and endearing way.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Gender Queer: A Memoir

Author: Maia Kobabe

Illustrator: Maia Kobabe

Primary Health Topic: Gender

Secondary Health Topic(s): Sexuality, Reproductive Health, Bias

Special Considerations: Nudity, Adult Language

Publication Date: May 28, 2019

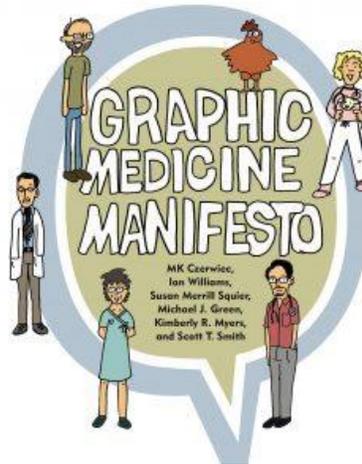
Publisher: Lion Forge (Oni Press)

ISBN: 9781549304002

GM Review: N/A

Annotation: *Gender Queer* details creator Maia Kobabe's experiences in learning about gender, sexuality, and identity. Ranging from Kobabe's childhood to publication, the work seamlessly introduces concepts to the reader through personal experiences and is a masterwork in visual metaphor with numerous full-page renditions such as balancing identity on a scale. A must read title for anyone questioning the demands of the gender binary or seeking to better understand those living outside of it.

Annotated By: Matthew Noe



Title: Graphic Medicine Manifesto

Author: MK Czerwiec, Ian Williams, Susan Merrill Squier, Michael J. Green, Kimberly R. Myers, and Scott T. Smith

Illustrator: MK Czerwiec

Primary Health Topic: Graphic Medicine

Secondary Health Topic(s): N/A

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: 2015

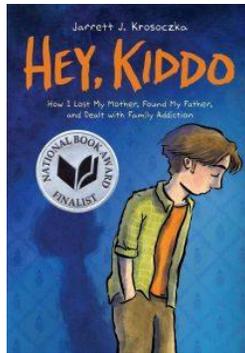
Publisher: Penn State University Press

ISBN: 9780271066493

GM Review: N/A

Annotation: Although the introduction is told through comics and there are many graphic medicine examples throughout the book, most of the manifesto is prose. The book consists of essays on the potential uses and benefits of graphic medicine. The essay topics include: the making of comics scholarship, uses of graphic medicine with other health humanities scholarship, uses of graphic medicine in a medical school, graphic pathography in the classroom and clinic, iconography of illness, and the benefits of creating graphic medicine. This is a vital resource for introducing people to graphic medicine.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction

Author: Jarrett J. Krosoczka

Illustrator: Jarrett J. Krosoczka

Primary Health Topic: Addiction

Secondary Health Topic(s): Grief, Family Dysfunction

Special Considerations: Child Neglect, Drug Use

Publication Date: October 9, 2018

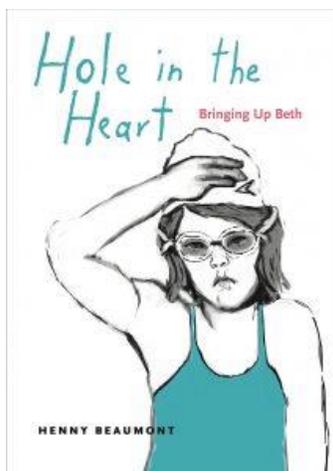
Publisher: Scholastic Graphix

ISBN: 9780545902489

GM Review: N/A

Annotation: *Hey, Kiddo* is a rare, honest gem in middle grade comics in that it speaks to common, but often unspoken struggles: growing up with grandparents, parental addiction, and the cloud of grief that follows many throughout their childhood. The comic follows author Jarrett Krosoczka through his childhood, fighting to come to terms with what life has dealt - raised by loving, but opinionated grandparents, finding his father, (not) understanding his mother's addiction and cycle of appearance/disappearance in his life, and finding that art is a creative outlet that helps you survive. Illustrated with an almost hazy line and burnt colors, the artwork forces you to confront and feel the story as if you are experiencing it yourself from inside a memory, rather than merely reading it on a page. A vital comic, especially for younger readers who may be living through similar experiences.

Annotated By: Matthew Noe



Title: Hole in the Heart: Bringing Up Beth

Author: Henny Beaumont

Illustrator: Henny Beaumont

Primary Health Topic: Down Syndrome

Secondary Health Topic(s): Caregiving, Cardiac Health

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: June 9, 2016

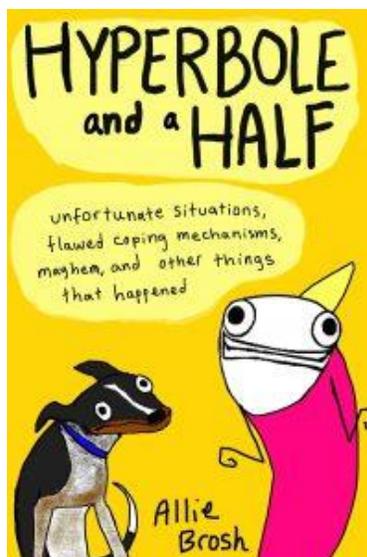
Publisher: Myriad Editions/Penn State University Press

ISBN: 9780271077406

GM Review: N/A

Annotation: *Hole in the Heart* is a graphic memoir spanning more than a decade covering creator Henny Beaumont's experiences as mother to daughter Beth, born with Down's Syndrome. Beaumont is unflinchingly honest in depicting her thoughts - all her worries and stresses, all her love and care, all her frustration - as well as showing the failures of society to treat people with Down's with even a modicum of respect. The title is taken from Beth's need for open heart surgery as an infant to correct a hole in her heart, a common problem caused by Down's Syndrome. Throughout the book, the reader sees struggles for agency, fights for empathy and equitable treatment both in medicine and education, and is lucky enough to share in the joy of bringing up Beth.

Annotated By: Matthew Noe



Title: Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened

Author: Allie Brosh

Illustrator: Allie Brosh

Primary Health Topic: Mental Health

Secondary Health Topic(s): Depression, Anxiety

Special Considerations: Adult Language

Publication Date: October 29, 2013 (print)

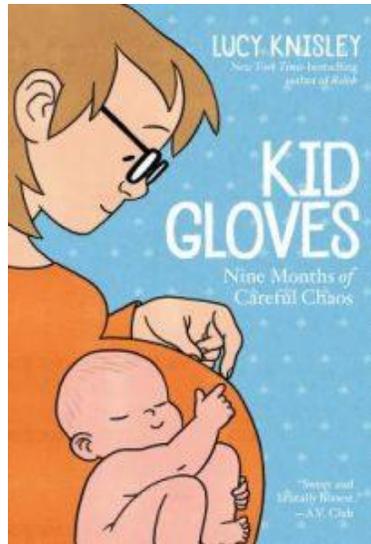
Publisher: Gallery Books

ISBN: 9781451666175

GM Review: N/A

Annotation: *Hyperbole and a Half* is a collection of stories about depression, anxiety, identity, and Brosh's dogs (helper dog and simple dog). Originally posted as a [webcomic](#), the stories have been collected, although in a different order, for this book. Several parts take on heavy topics - such as depression - in a lighthearted way. Around the bits about mental health are incredibly funny things her dogs have done and explorations into her life as a child. The art is intentionally simplistic for comedic effect.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Kid Gloves: Nine Months of Careful Chaos

Author: Lucy Knisley

Illustrator: Lucy Knisley

Primary Health Topic: Pregnancy

Secondary Health Topic(s): Birth, Miscarriage, Preeclampsia

Special Considerations: Trauma, Miscarriage

Publication Date: February 26, 2019

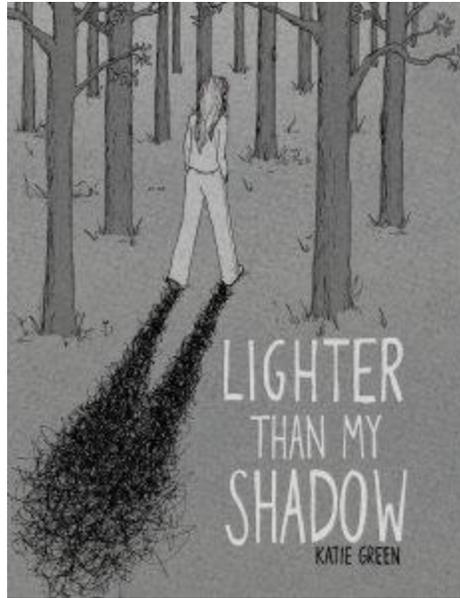
Publisher: First Second

ISBN: 9781626728080

GM Review: [Review by Kevin Wolf](#)

Annotation: *Kid Gloves* is a memoir about pregnancy and birth. Knisley tells the story of a miscarriage followed by a pregnancy which goes full term. She includes some history of medicine regarding old beliefs about pregnancy and birth. At a particularly climatic part of the story, the art style changes completely to reflect a change in the storytelling. It adds significantly to the emotions surrounding the events. Although Knisley is telling her individual story, the situations relate to circumstances many other women have faced as well. She presents subjects other people might want to “sweep under the rug.”

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Lighter Than My Shadow

Author: Katie Green

Illustrator: Katie Green

Primary Health Topic: Eating Disorders

Secondary Health Topic(s): Anxiety, Trauma

Special Considerations: Sexual Assault, Suicidal Ideation, Eating Disorders

Publication Date: October 11, 2013

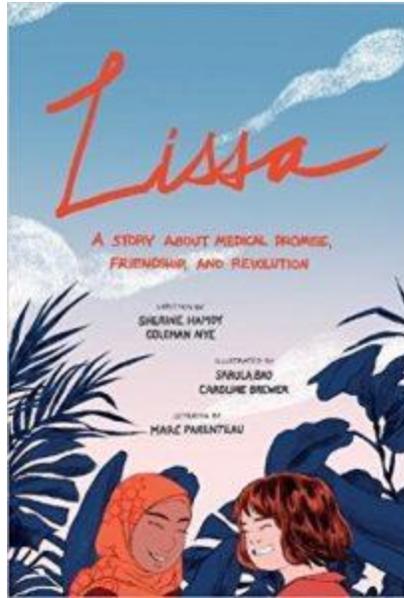
Publisher: Jonathan Cape/Oni Press

ISBN: 9780224090988

GM Review: [Guest Review by Crystal Yin Lie](#)

Annotation: *Lighter Than My Shadow* gives the reader a haunting look into having eating disorders and body dysmorphia. The illustrations provide powerful examinations of the concepts of shame, disgust, and anxiety. This is a good title to use in a class on empathy and should be considered a true must have for young adult collections. Green shares difficult experiences and emotions, but presents them in an accessible way for processing.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Lissa: A Story About Medical Promise, Friendship, and Revolution

Author: Sherine Hamdy, Coleman Nye

Illustrator: Sarula Bao, Caroline Brewer (with lettering by Marc Parenteau)

Primary Health Topic: Social Determinants of Health

Secondary Health Topic(s): Kidney Failure, Breast Cancer, Genetics

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: November 16, 2017

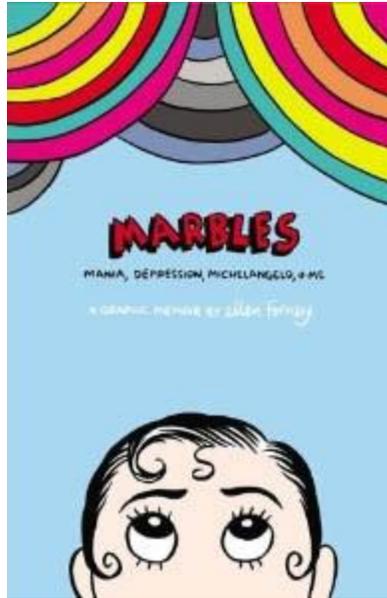
Publisher: University of Toronto Press

ISBN: 9781487593476

GM Review: [Guest Review by A. David Lewis, PhD](#)

Annotation: *Lissa* follows two young women from childhood to early adulthood. It contrasts their cultures, their viewpoints, and the impact health and medicine has had on their lives. Throughout the story, revolution and change are powerful forces affecting both characters. The art is wonderful, including carefully chosen graffiti in panel backgrounds that deserve special attention. *Lissa* is a powerful work that examines how culture shapes our connections with health and medicine.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Marbles: Mania, Depression, Michelangelo, and Me

Author: Ellen Forney

Illustrator: Ellen Forney

Primary Health Topic: Bipolar Disorder

Secondary Health Topic(s): N/A

Special Considerations: Adult Language, Brief Nudity

Publication Date: November 6, 2012

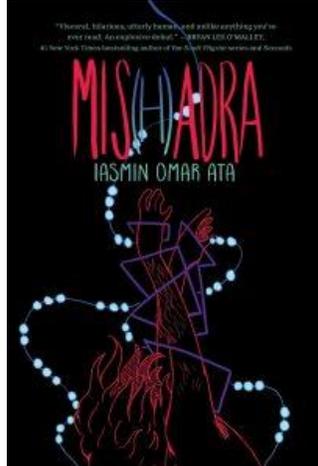
Publisher: Avery

ISBN: 9781592407323

GM Review: [Guest Review by Kat Georgakopoulos](#)

Annotation: In *Marbles*, Ellen Forney entrusts us with her story with her concerns of medication and bipolar disorder, while striving for balance and health. She expertly illustrates her symptoms and emotions, while taking on the positives and negatives of mental illness. The memoir attacks the stigmas around mental illness head on, especially through the presentations of her visits with her therapist.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Mis(h)adra

Author: Iasmin Omar Ata

Illustrator: Iasmin Omar Ata

Primary Health Topic: Epilepsy

Secondary Health Topic(s): Mental Health, Anxiety, Depression

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: October 3, 2017

Publisher: Gallery 13

ISBN: 9781501162107

GM Review: N/A

Annotation: Few conditions have a history wrought with superstition, misunderstanding, and outright hostility the way that epilepsy does - and that is the topic at hand in Iasmin Omar Ata's *Mis(h)adra*. The story follows the daily life of Arab-American Isaac and his struggles to live a functional college student life while managing his epilepsy, a task that is complicated at every turn by a healthcare system that doesn't believe him and a society with little interest in meeting his needs. Inspired in part by Ata's own experiences, *Mis(h)adra* is one of the most visually stunning works in the graphic medicine genre, letting the visuals teach the reader about Isaac's experiences rather than explain through wordy dialogue.

Annotated By: Matthew Noe



Title: Mom's Cancer

Author: Brian Fies

Illustrator: Brian Fies

Primary Health Topic: Lung Cancer

Secondary Health Topic(s): Caregiving

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: March 31, 2006

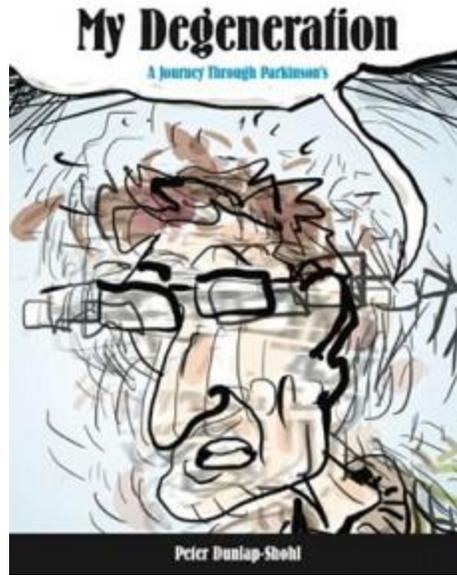
Publisher: Abrams

ISBN: 9780810971073

GM Review: [Guest Review by Ed C.](#)

Annotation: *Mom's Cancer* chronicles the journey through the diagnosis and treatment of the titular Mom's lung cancer. Fies tells the story as a caregiver of his mother. He describes the discussions, which are heated at times, with his sisters and mother about the illness. The story features an honest look into the difficulties around caring for a loved one and around navigating the healthcare system. The comic beautifully illustrates symptoms and emotions around cancer and cancer treatment.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: My Degeneration: A Journey Through Parkinson's

Author: Peter Dunlap-Shohl

Illustrator: Peter Dunlap-Shohl

Primary Health Topic: Parkinson's Disease

Secondary Health Topic(s): Mental Health

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: November 15, 2015

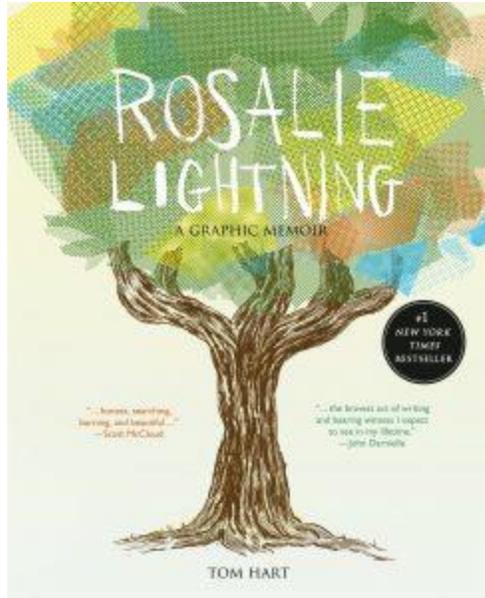
Publisher: Penn State University Press

ISBN: 9780271071022

GM Review: N/A

Annotation: This memoir is from the patient's perspective as Peter goes through the process of diagnosis and coming to terms with his diagnosis. The reader is given an up close look on what Peter felt and experienced with progressive, disabling, and incurable condition. This includes his physical symptoms but also the emotions surrounding this diagnosis. Peter provides creative illustrations of potential symptoms of Parkinson's.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Rosalie Lightning: A Graphic Memoir

Author: Tom Hart

Illustrator: Tom Hart

Primary Health Topic: Grief

Secondary Health Topic(s): Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC)

Special Considerations: Death

Publication Date: January 12, 2016

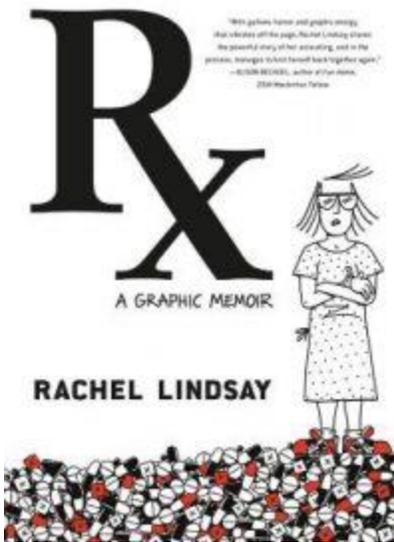
Publisher: St. Martin's Press

ISBN: 9781250049940

GM Review: N/A

Annotation: Rosalie Lightning is a memoir about Tom Hart and his wife's experiences losing their two year old daughter suddenly and with unknown cause. Hart explores his feelings and interactions with his wife in the direct and later aftermath. The reader is taken on a journey through grief, acceptance, and healing.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Rx: A Graphic Memoir

Author: Rachel Lindsay

Illustrator: Rachel Lindsay

Primary Health Topic: Bipolar Disorder

Secondary Health Topic(s): Hospitalization, Pharmaceutical Industry

Special Considerations: Adult Language

Publication Date: September 4, 2018

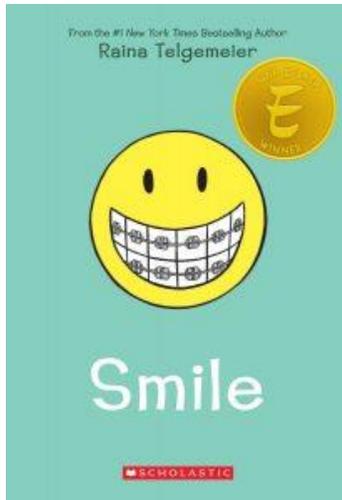
Publisher: Grand Central Publishing

ISBN: 9781455598540

GM Review: [Review by Ian Williams](#)

Annotation: Rx is a memoir about bipolar disorder, involuntary hospitalization, and the pharmaceutical industry. The art contains depth and added meaning to the text. For example, Rachel's eyes are drawn differently for a manic episode, a depressed episode, and balanced. The iconography is rich. The story follows the creator as she suffers from bipolar disorder leading to her hospitalization. There are contrasting views from her, her mental healthcare providers, and her family.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Smile

Author: Raina Telgemeier

Illustrator: Raina Telgemeier

Primary Health Topic: Dentistry

Secondary Health Topic(s): Braces, Stigma

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: February 1, 2010

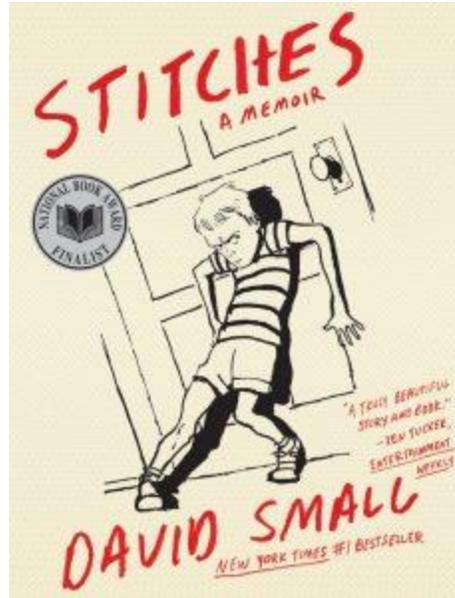
Publisher: Scholastic (Graphix)

ISBN: 9780545132060

GM Review: N/A

Annotation: *Smile* is a juvenile graphic memoir about a girl dealing with family and school issues. Then on top of all that, she injures her front teeth. The story follows her concerns about various attempts to fix the damage. The art is typical of Raina Telgemeier: fun, easy to digest, and containing beautiful colors. The characters also appear in later Telgemeier books, such as *Sisters*. The story is based on events in Telgemeier's life, including her relationship with her sister. While the book is aimed at a younger audience, it's enjoyable for all ages and is one of few comics to tackle dentistry directly.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Stitches

Author: David Small

Illustrator: David Small

Primary Health Topic: Throat Cancer

Secondary Health Topic(s): Trauma, Radiology

Special Considerations: Depictions of Child Abuse

Publication Date: September 8, 2009

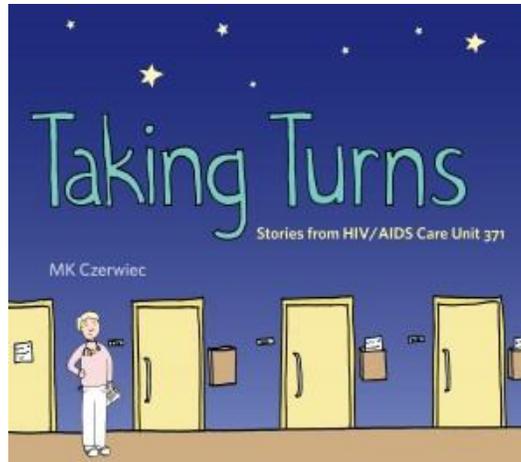
Publisher: W.W. Norton & Company

ISBN: 9780393068573

GM Review: [Review by Ian Williams](#)

Annotation: Stitches follows the experiences of the creator, David Small, when his asthma was treated using radiation before the side effects of radiation were known. Small waited until after his parents were deceased to publish the memoir, because it is a raw look at the choices they made, how they acted, and how it affected him. Stitches has many poignant illustrations of emotions and perspectives.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371

Author: MK Czerwiec

Illustrator: MK Czerwiec

Primary Health Topic: HIV/AIDS

Secondary Health Topic(s): Nursing; History of Medicine

Special Considerations: Death

Publication Date: 2017

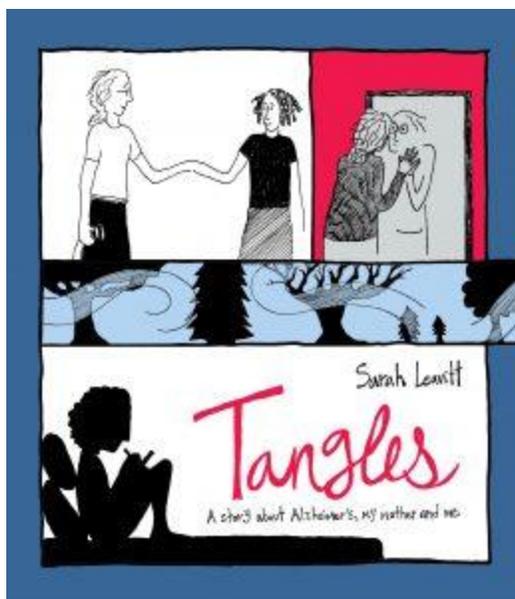
Publisher: Penn State University Press

ISBN: 9780271078182

GM Review: [Guest Review by Dr. Devlyn McCreight](#)

Annotation: Taking Turns explores the world of HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371, part of the Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago, during the height of the AIDS epidemic. Recalled from archival records, oral histories, and MK Czerwiec's experiences as a nurse on the ward, readers are given an honest look at the grief, suffering, and hope that defined this period in time and that resonates throughout the medical world to this day. Illustrated simply, in primarily four panel pages, and with a healthy dose of color, Taking Turns offers readers an opportunity to not only absorb the history easily, but prompts empathetic reflection for each member of the community – patients and families, yes, but the medical staff as well.

Annotated By: Matthew Noe



Title: Tangles: A Story About Alzheimer's, My Mother, and Me

Author: Sarah Leavitt

Illustrator: Sarah Leavitt

Primary Health Topic: Alzheimer's Disease

Secondary Health Topic(s): Caregiving

Special Considerations: Nudity

Publication Date: May 1, 2012

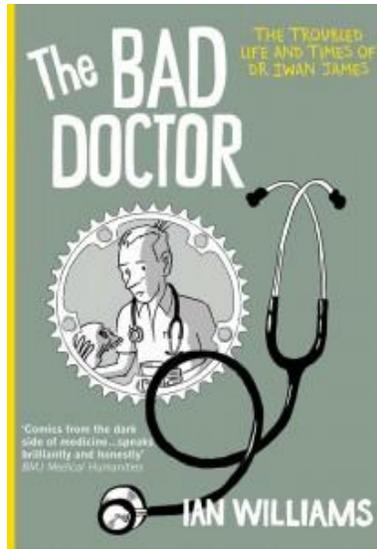
Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing

ISBN: 9781616086398

GM Review: [Guest Review by Nathan Sethu](#)

Annotation: Tangles is a memoir with a complex story about caring for a parent with Alzheimer's disease using a simple art style. The simplicity evokes strong feelings of the frustrations, sadness, anger, grief, and loss that come from caregiving. The reader follows Leavitt as her mother gradually loses who she is.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: The Bad Doctor: The Troubled Life and Times of Dr. Iwan James

Author: Ian Williams

Illustrator: Ian Williams

Primary Health Topic: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

Secondary Health Topic(s): General Practice

Special Considerations: Suicidal Ideation; Adult Language

Publication Date: June 26, 2014

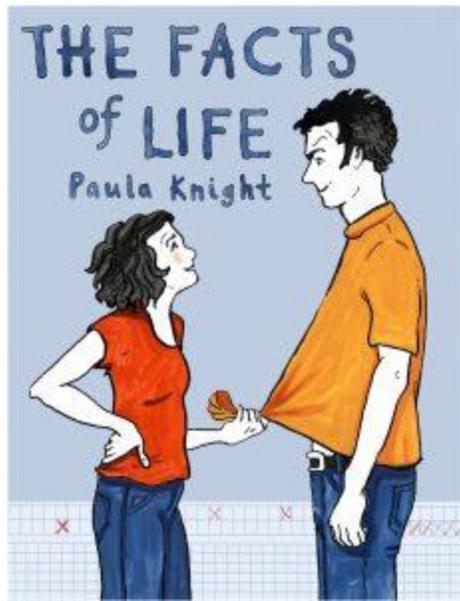
Publisher: Myriad Editions/Penn State University Press

ISBN: 9780271067544

GM Review: [Guest Review by Dr. Ian Fussell](#)

Annotation: The fictional doctor, Iwan James, is a physician in England and secretly suffers from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. The reader is led through the doctor's everyday life at home and at work. The art is black and white. This graphic novel takes a look into one perspective of a healthcare provider helping various patients one after another. The doctor also has to deal with other healthcare providers. There are fewer graphic medicine titles from a healthcare provider perspective. One particularly poignant panel depicts the different prayers that Iwan had to do every night to keep his world safe.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: The Facts of Life

Author: Paula Knight

Illustrator: Paula Knight

Primary Health Topic: Infertility

Secondary Health Topic(s): Miscarriage

Special Considerations: Miscarriage

Publication Date: March 16, 2017

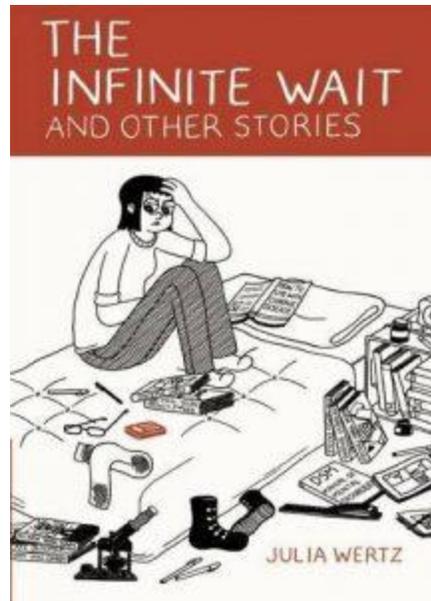
Publisher: Myriad Editions/Penn State University Press

ISBN: 9780271078465

GM Review: [Review by Kevin Wolf](#)

Annotation: The Facts of Life is a memoir from Paula Knight of her experiences around gender, sexual education, pregnancy, miscarriage, and societal expectations. From a young age, she was exposed to the understanding that she would marry a man and have children. Knight guides the reader through her process of figuring out what her feelings about having children were. The iconography is excellent, especially a page with her drawn as a tree.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: The Infinite Wait and Other Stories

Author: Julia Wertz

Illustrator: Julia Wertz

Primary Health Topic: Systemic Lupus

Secondary Health Topic(s): Mental Health, Alcoholism, Depression, Chronic Illness

Special Considerations: Adult Language

Publication Date: September 15, 2012

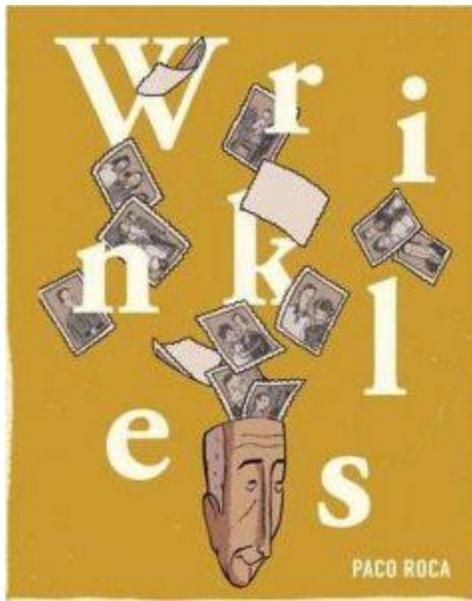
Publisher: Koyama Press

ISBN: 9780987963024

GM Review: [Guest Review by Andrew Schechterman](#)

Annotation: *The Infinite Wait and Other Stories* is composed of three short stories about the creator Julia Wertz's string of jobs, her lupus diagnosis, and books. All the stories relate to health, but the most obvious connection is the narrative about her diagnosis with lupus. This book is irreverent, funny, and startling.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers



Title: Wrinkles (Original Spanish title: Arrugas)

Author: Paco Roca

Illustrator: Paco Roca

Primary Health Topic: Alzheimer's Disease

Secondary Health Topic(s): Aging

Special Considerations: N/A

Publication Date: July 26, 2016 (Originally published in 2007)

Publisher: Fantagraphics

ISBN: 9781606999325

GM Review: [Guest Review by Martha Cornog](#)

Annotation: Wrinkles is a fictional narrative originally published in Spanish with the title, Arrugas. The English edition published by Fantagraphics is translated by Erica Mena. The main character, Ernest, has been losing memories due to Alzheimer's disease. The story follows him and a company of other older people at a care facility as they age and die. It is a compassionate story with incredible art.

Annotated By: Alice Jagers