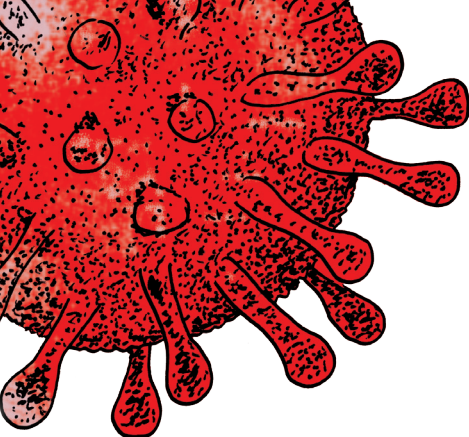


singular narratives
diverse perspectives
universal stories

New worlds of comics.

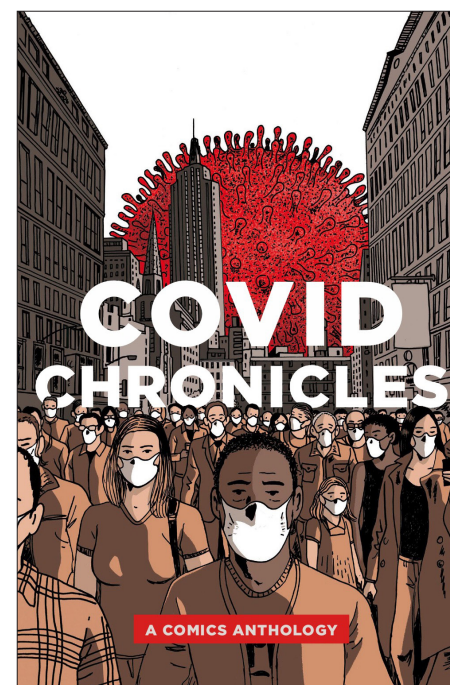
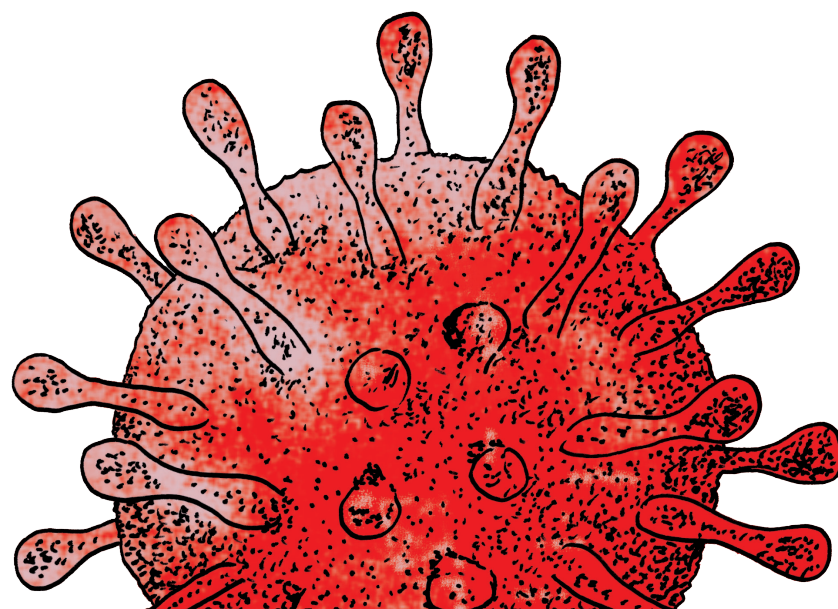
drawing our worlds together
graphicmundi.org





“COVID Chronicles will prove to be an indispensable work of graphic medicine, a testimony to a dark but unforgettable chapter in our common history.”

—**A. DAVID LEWIS**, author of *The Lone and Level Sands*



COVID Chronicles

A Comics Anthology

Edited by Kendra Boileau and Rich Johnson

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to its knees. When we weren’t sheltering in place, we were advised to wear masks, wash our hands, and practice social distancing. We watched in horror as medical personnel worked around the clock to care for the sick and dying. Businesses were shuttered, travel stopped, workers were furloughed, and markets dropped. And people continued to die.

Amid all this uncertainty, writers and artists from around the world continued to create comics, commenting on how individuals, societies, governments, and markets reacted to the crisis. *COVID Chronicles* collects more than sixty such short comics from a diverse set of creators, including indie powerhouses, mainstream artists, Ignatz and Eisner Award winners, and media cartoonists. In narrative styles ranging from realistic to fantastic, they tell stories about adjusting to working from home, homeschooling their kids, missing birthdays and weddings, and being afraid just to leave the house. They probe

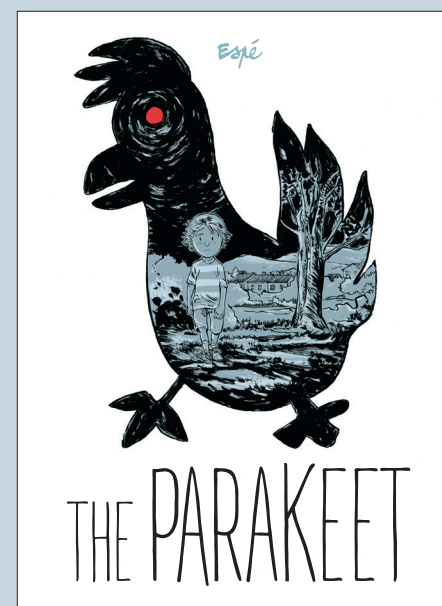
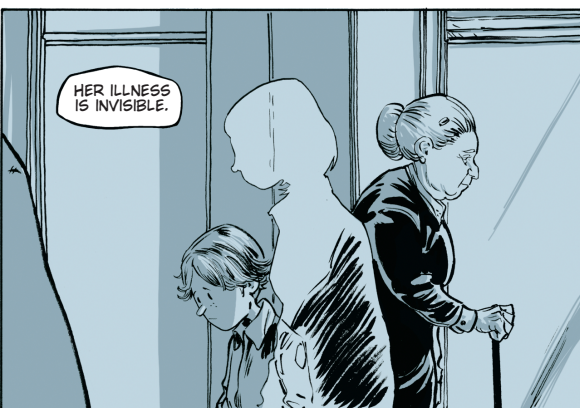
296 pages | 158 color/100 b&w illus.
6.75 x 10.25 | February
ISBN 978-0-271-09014-6
paper: \$21.95/£17.95/€20.95 tr
Comics & Graphic Novels

the failures of government leaders and the social safety net. They dig into the racial bias and systemic inequities that this pandemic helped bring to light. We see what it’s like to get the virus and live to tell about it, or to stand by helplessly as a loved one passes.

At times heartbreaking and at others hopeful and humorous, these comics express the anger, anxiety, fear, and bewilderment we feel in the era of COVID-19. Above all, they highlight the power of art and community to help us make sense of a world in crisis, reminding us that we are truly all in this together.

Kendra Boileau is the Publisher of Graphic Mundi and the Assistant Director and Editor-in-Chief of Penn State University Press.

Rich Johnson is a publishing consultant and the founder of Brick Road Media, LLC.



The Parakeet

Espé

Winner of the 2017 Parole de Patients Literary Award

Bastien is eight years old, and his mother is ill. She often has what his father and grandparents call “episodes.” She screams and fights, scratches and spits, and has to be carted away to specialized clinics for frequent treatments. Bastien doesn’t like it when she goes, because when she comes home, she isn’t the same. She has no feelings, no desires, and not much interest in him. According to the doctors, Bastien’s mother suffers from “bipolar disorder with schizophrenic tendencies,” but he prefers to imagine her as a comic-book heroine, like Jean Grey, who may become Dark Phoenix and explode in a superhuman fury at any moment.

Based on the author’s own childhood experiences, *The Parakeet* is the story of a boy whose only refuge from life’s harsh realities lies in his imagination. In his eyes, we see the confusion and heartache he feels as he watches his

“The Parakeet is a beautiful book. Espé’s storytelling is tender and compelling, narratively and visually.”

—RACHEL LINDSAY, author of *RX: A Graphic Memoir*

mother’s illness progress and the treatments fail. Through his eyes, we see how mental illness can both tear families apart and reaffirm the bonds of love. Poignant yet playful, *The Parakeet* follows Bastien’s struggle to accept the mother he has while wishing for the mother he needs.

Graphic novelist **Espé** was born Sébastien Portret in Mazamet, France. A graduate of the École des Beaux-Arts in Toulouse, he collaborated in the publication of several comics series, including *Châteaux Bordeaux*, and he is the author of two graphic novels: *L’Île des Justes* and *Le Perroquet*.

156 pages | 8.25 x 11.25 | 148 color illus. | March
ISBN 978-0-271-08805-1
hardcover: \$21.95/£17.95/€20.95 tr

Comics & Graphic Novels/Biography and Memoir



Twister

Roland Burkart

The last thing Pedro remembers is diving into the lake on his day off from work. Now he lies in a hospital bed with a wheelchair at his side. Casting a shadow from the doorway, his caretaker remarks on “how quickly one gets used to this kind of thing,” as she goes on to empty his catheter bag and to help him into his wheelchair.

Pedro must now deal with a growing mix of fear and powerlessness that surges within him as he realizes that he will be paralyzed forever; it bursts forth like a twister, “over and over again,” until he resigns himself to it. In time, Pedro’s feelings of hopelessness are offset by the realization that he can find both love and a degree of independence. With the support of his family and friends, he makes his way through rehab and finally gets back to the business of living.

Based on his own experiences, Roland Burkart’s *Twister* is a realistic and uplifting

“Though concise, Burkart’s ink drawings minimize nothing—neither the insecurities of the draftsman handling his tools, nor the doubts of the protagonist, Pedro.”

—JONAS ENGELMANN,

Comic: The Magazine of Comics Culture

narrative that will resonate with anyone who has ever experienced or borne witness to a life upended by calamity.

Roland Burkart is a freelance illustrator based in Lucerne, Switzerland. A trained artist, he was rendered quadriplegic by an accident at work and has used a wheelchair ever since. Since his accident, he has learned to draw left-handed.

120 pages | 118 b&w illus. | 6.5 x 9.25 | March

ISBN 978-0-271-08808-2

paper: \$17.50/£13.95/€16.95 tr

Comics & Graphic Novels/General Interest





Fat

Regina Hofer

At sixteen, Regina began cutting back on meals to the point where her hair started to fall out. Later, she began to binge at night while her family slept. For a long time, she was able to keep her eating disorder a secret, though hiding her problem didn't stop it from harming her emotional and physical well-being. The pressures of wanting to succeed as an artist led her to a nervous breakdown and, finally, a strong desire to start from scratch.

In *Fat*, Austrian-born author and artist Regina Hofer documents her battle with anorexia and bulimia. This powerful and imaginative graphic novel follows Regina from her childhood home in Upper Austria, where food and family meal-times were often associated with feelings of personal failure, to art school at the Mozarteum University Salzburg and a violent reckoning with her dysfunctional family.

Vivid and courageous, this memoir will resonate with anyone living through or seeking to understand what it is like to live with an eating disorder.

Regina Hofer was born in Linz, Austria. She is a freelance animator and illustrator, and she holds degrees in graphic design from the Mozarteum University Salzburg and painting and graphic design from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. Originally published in German, *Fat* is her first graphic novel.

120 pages | 118 b&w illus. | 8 x 8 | April
ISBN 978-0-271-08807-5
paper: \$17.50/£13.95/€16.95 tr

Comics & Graphic Novels/Biography and Memoir



"A stylish, touching graphic memoir. I love the square, monochrome format and intelligently playful layouts. This is a book that deserves your attention."

—UNA, author of *Becoming Unbecoming*

"The narrator's life story, told with occasional flashbacks and vivid, touching detail, makes a lasting impact on the reader."

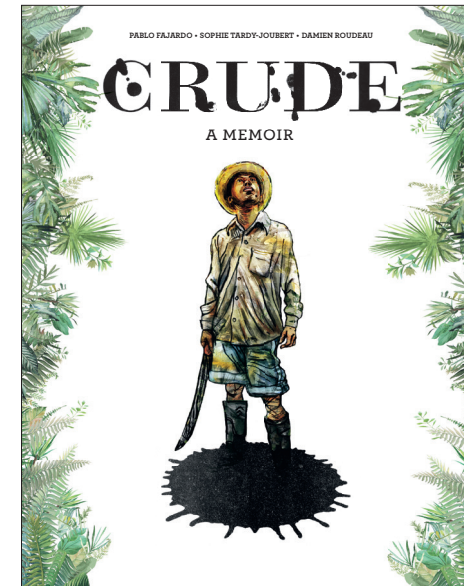
—UPPER AUSTRIA NEWS

"In minimalist, symbolic, and expressive visual language, Hofer describes a daily struggle with her own body."

—SOPHIE WEILANDT, *ORF Culture Monday*

“The record of North American corporations in Amazonia has been a wretched one. They have extracted the wealth of the country, ruined the way of life of the native peoples, and left messes behind for others to clean up. For years Chevron has been using the courts to evade its responsibility for the toxic wasteland it created in Amazonian Ecuador. Let us hope that this graphic retelling of the story of Chevron’s depredations will awaken the conscience of the corporation’s shareholders.”

—J. M. COETZEE



Crude A Memoir

Pablo Fajardo and Sophie Tardy-Joubert
Illustrated by Damien Roudeau

Oil waste was everywhere—on the roads, in the rivers where they fished, and in the water that they used for bathing, cooking, and washing. Children became sick and died, cases of stomach cancer skyrocketed, and women miscarried or gave birth to children with congenital disorders. The American oil company Texaco—now part of Chevron—extracted its first barrel of crude oil from Amazonian Ecuador in 1972. It left behind millions of gallons of spilled oil and more than eighteen million gallons of toxic waste.

In *Crude*, Ecuadorian lawyer and activist Pablo Fajardo gives a firsthand account of Texaco’s involvement in the Amazon as well as the ensuing legal battles between the oil company, the Ecuadorian government, and the region’s inhabitants. As a teenager, Fajardo worked in the Amazonian oil fields, where he witnessed the consequences of Texaco/Chevron’s indifference to the environment and to the inhabitants of the Amazon. Fajardo mobilized with his peers to seek reparations and in time became the lead counsel for UDAPT (Union of People Affected

by Texaco), a group of more than thirty thousand small farmers and indigenous people from the northern Ecuadorian Amazon who continue to fight for reparations and remediation to this day.

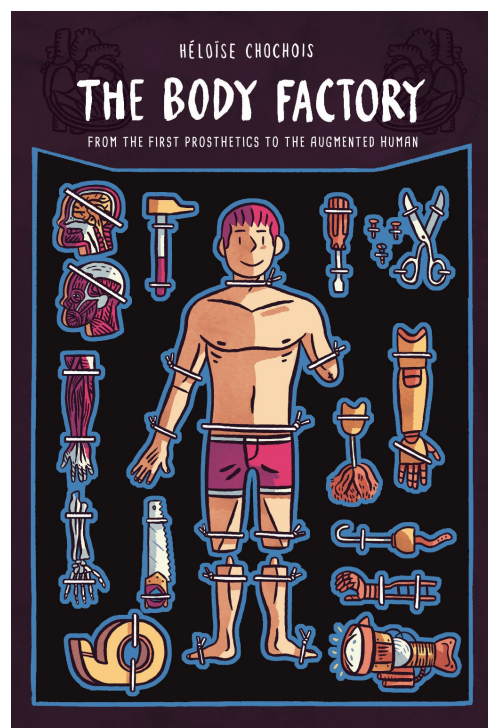
Eye-opening and galvanizing, *Crude* brings to light one of the least known but most important cases of environmental and racial injustice of our time.

Pablo Fajardo is an Ecuadorian lawyer and activist. He is lead counsel for UDAPT and continues to dedicate his life to prosecuting the case against Chevron. He travels the world to defend the UDAPT cause, advocating for environmental justice and human rights.

Sophie Tardy-Joubert is a French journalist. In 2014, she wrote a profile on Pablo Fajardo for the magazine *XXI*. She adapted Fajardo’s story for *Crude*.

Damien Roudeau is a graphic journalist. He has published illustrations in magazines and the popular press, collaborating with various organizations and NGOs.

132 pages | 8.5 x 10.75
126 color illus. | April
ISBN 978-0-271-08806-8
hardcover:
\$19.95/£15.95/€18.95 tr
Graphic Studies/General
Interest/Biography &
Memoir



The Body Factory

From the First Prosthetics to the Augmented Human

Héloïse Chochois

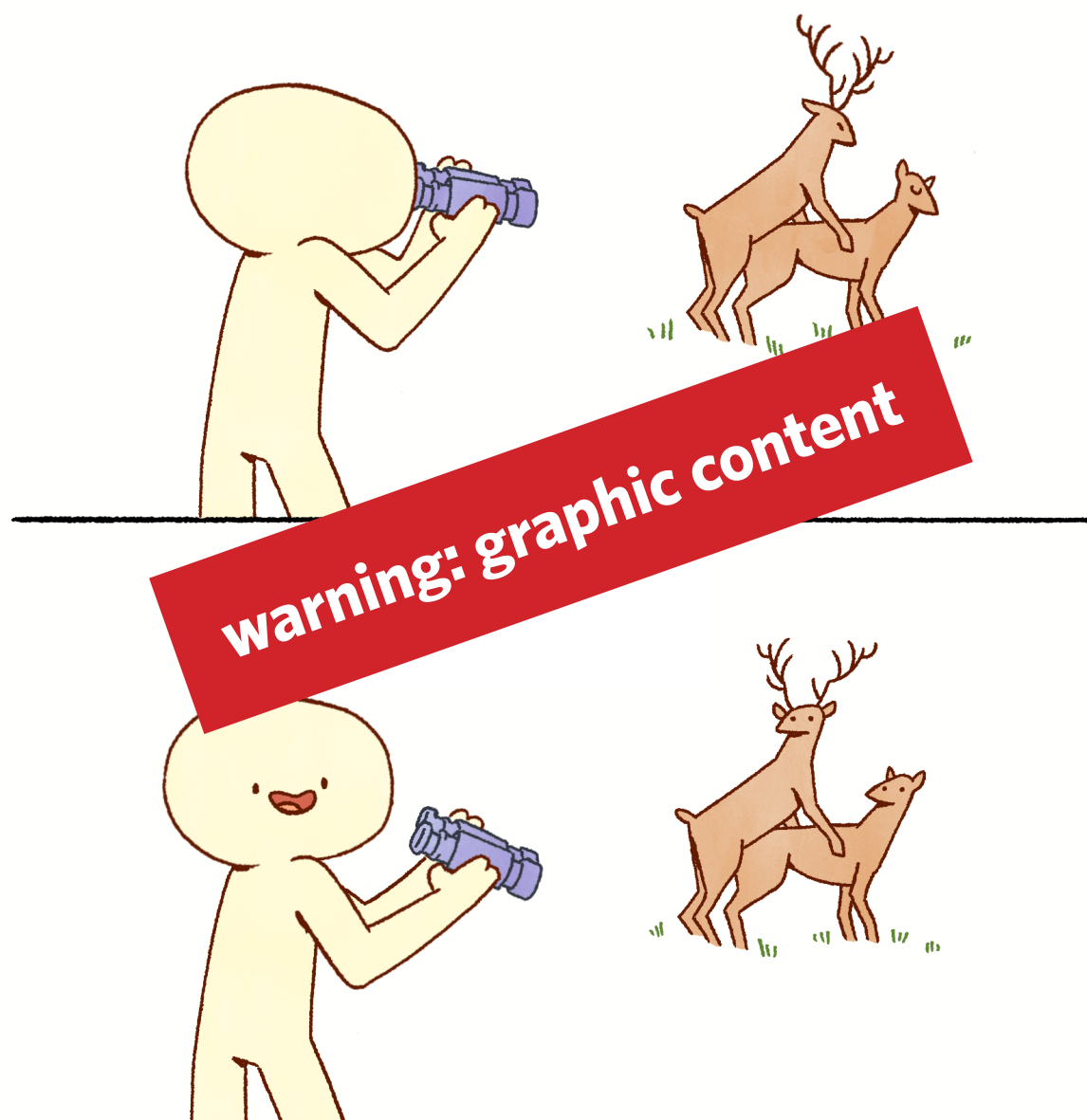
A young man has a horrible motorcycle accident. He wakes up in the hospital to discover that one of his arms has been amputated. Then a portrait on the wall of his hospital room begins to speak to him. The subject of the painting introduces himself as Ambroise Paré, the French barber-surgeon who revolutionized the art of amputation. From this wonderfully absurd premise, the two begin an imaginary conversation that takes them through a sweeping history of surgical amputation, from the Stone Age to the Space Age. Unencumbered by pathos or didacticism, this graphic novel explores the world of amputation, revealing fascinating details about famous amputees throughout history, the invention of the tourniquet, phantom-limb syndrome, types of prostheses, and transhumanist technologies.

Playfully illustrated and seriously funny, *The Body Factory* is sure to delight anyone interested in the history and future of medicine and how we repair—and even enhance—the body.

Héloïse Chochois is a scientific illustrator who debuted as a graphic novelist with the blog *Infiltrée chez les médecins*. She is the author and illustrator of *Intelligences artificielles*.

160 pages | 6.75 x 10 | 156 color illus. | May
ISBN 978-0-271-08706-1
paper: \$18.95/£15.95/€17.95 tr
Graphic Studies/General Interest/History





Dirty Biology

The X-Rated Story of the Science of Sex

Léo Grasset and Colas Grasset

What is sex? Has it always existed? What purpose does it serve? Why are there penises and vaginas? These questions are at the very core of *Dirty Biology*, an erudite (and hilarious) graphic novel that aims to teach you everything you wanted to know about sex—and then some.

"Sex" can mean a number of things. It can refer to sex organs, to sex types, to the act of copulation, or to the simple exchange of genetic material. This book explains what we actually mean when we talk about sex and reveals a wealth of astonishing scientific details along the way. For example, did you know that some species can have sex without genitals? And when it comes to genitals, did you know that there's an amazing diversity of these across species? From the evolution of penises and vaginas to far-fetched mating rituals and the shocking consequences of the sex act, *Dirty Biology* exposes

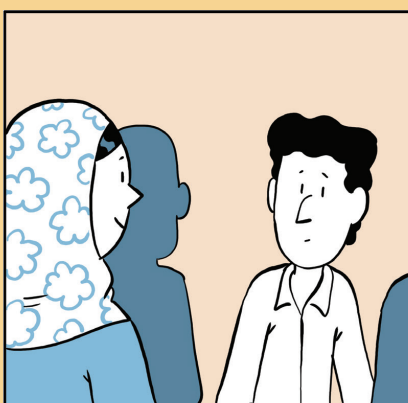
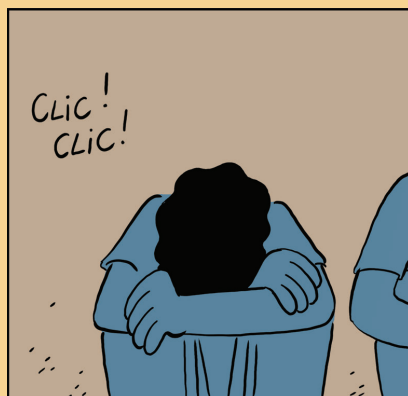
sex for what it is: a lot more interesting and more complicated than the simplistic image we often have of it.

Léo Grasset (scripter) has advanced degrees in evolutionary biology and organismal and ecosystems biology. In 2014, he began to make humorous and educational YouTube videos about biology. An English translation of his first book was published as *How the Zebra Got Its Stripes: Darwinian Stories Told Through Evolutionary Biology*.

Colas Grasset (artist) has collaborated with his brother Léo on several episodes of the YouTube program *DirtyBiology*. He blogs about his work at <http://hou-bim.blogspot.com>.

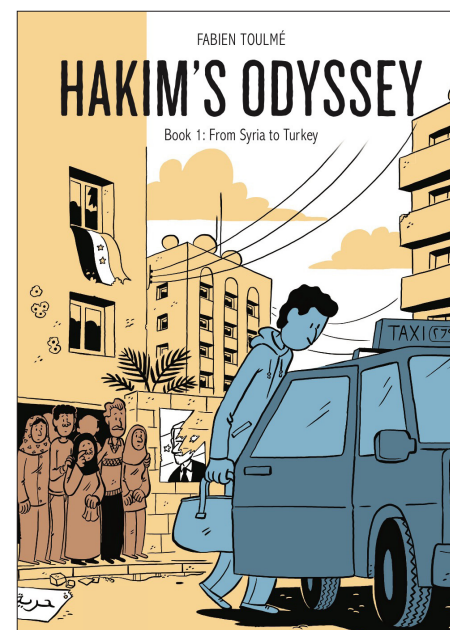
182 pages | 6.75 x 10 | 181 color illus. | May
ISBN 978-0-271-08705-4
paper: \$24.95/£19.95/€23.95 tr

Animal Studies/Math & Science/General Interest/
Graphic Studies



**“A beautiful book.
Hakim’s Odyssey is deeply
personal and superbly
researched. I loved
reading it.”**

—Benjamin Worku-Dix, author of
*Vanni: A Family’s Struggle Through
the Sri Lankan Conflict*



Hakim’s Odyssey Book 1: From Syria to Turkey Fabien Toulmé

What does it mean to be a “refugee”? It is easy for those who live in relative freedom to ignore or even to villainize people who have been forced to flee their homes. After all, it can be hard to identify with others’ experiences when you haven’t been in their shoes.

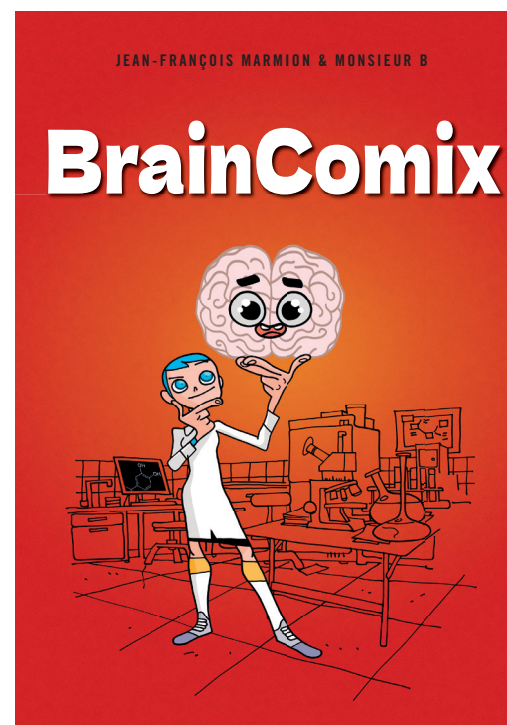
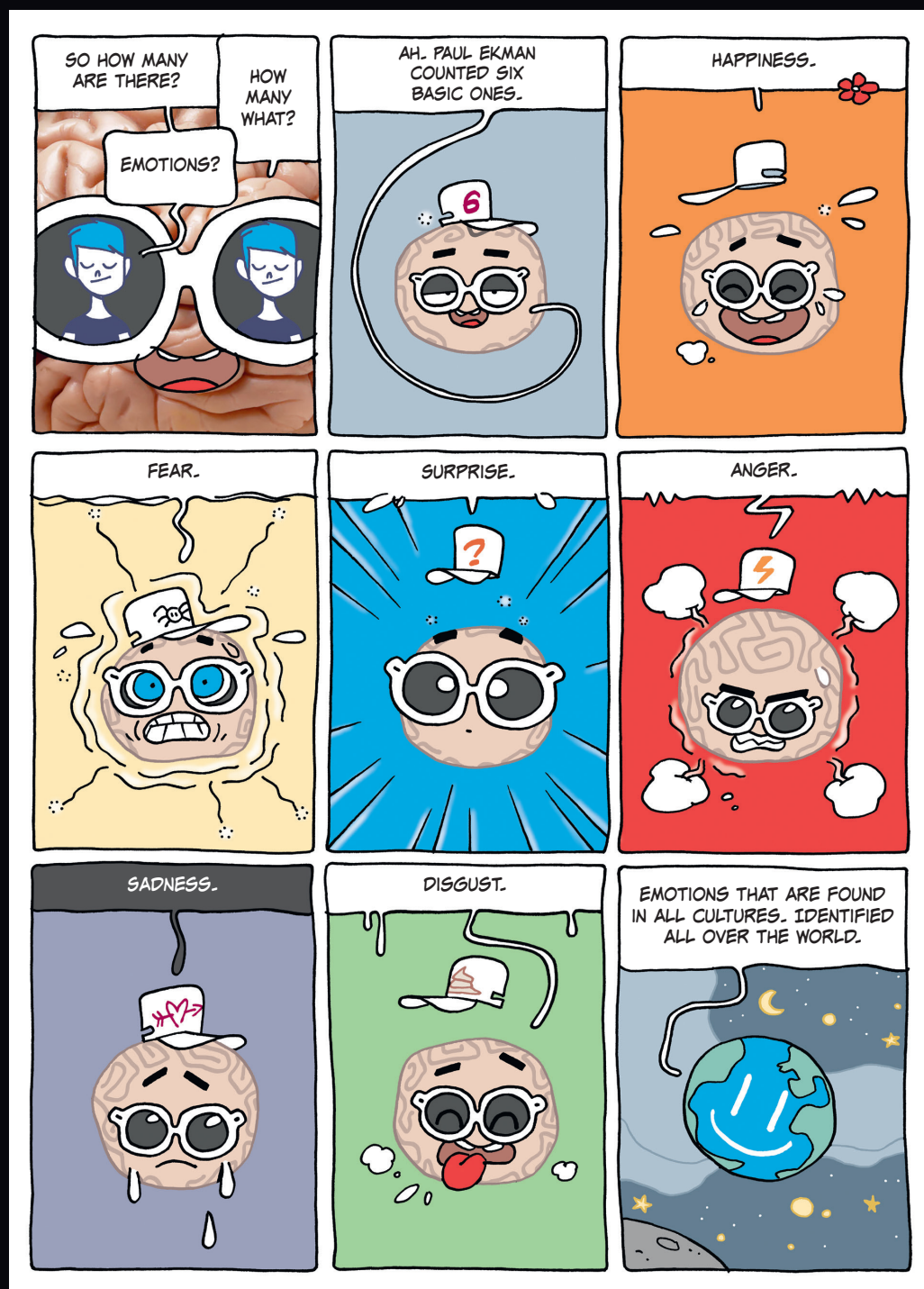
In *Hakim’s Odyssey*, we see firsthand how war can make anyone a refugee. Hakim is a successful young Syrian who had his whole life ahead of him when war forced him to leave everything behind. After the Syrian uprising in 2011, Hakim was arrested and tortured, his town was bombed, his business was seized by the army, and members of his family were arrested or disappeared. This first leg of his odyssey follows Hakim as he travels from Syria to Lebanon, Lebanon to Jordan, and Jordan to Turkey, where he struggles to earn

272 pages | 6 × 9.5 | October
ISBN 978-1-63779-000-7
hardcover: \$29.95/£23.95/€27.95 tr
Comics & Graphic Novels/Biography &
Memoir/General Interest

a living and dreams of one day returning to his home.

This graphic novel is necessary reading for our time. Alternately hopeful and heartbreaking, *Hakim’s Odyssey* is a story about what it means to be human in a world that sometimes fails to be humane.

Fabien Toulmé is the creator of *Ce n’est pas toi que j’attendais* and *Les Deux Vies de Baudouin*. He has published two subsequent volumes in the *Hakim’s Odyssey* series, translations of which are forthcoming from Graphic Mundi.



“Fun and forensic, this deep dive into anthropomorphized gray matter leaves no convolution of the brain unexplored. The brain as organ, the brain as self, the brain in all its glory.”

—Bob Fingerman, author of *Dotty's Inferno* and *Minimum Wage*

BrainComix

Jean-François Marmion and Monsieur B

The human brain is the most complex structure in the universe. It's as awe-inspiring as it is intimidating, when you're not an expert. So how can we get to know the brain? By asking him to introduce himself, of course!

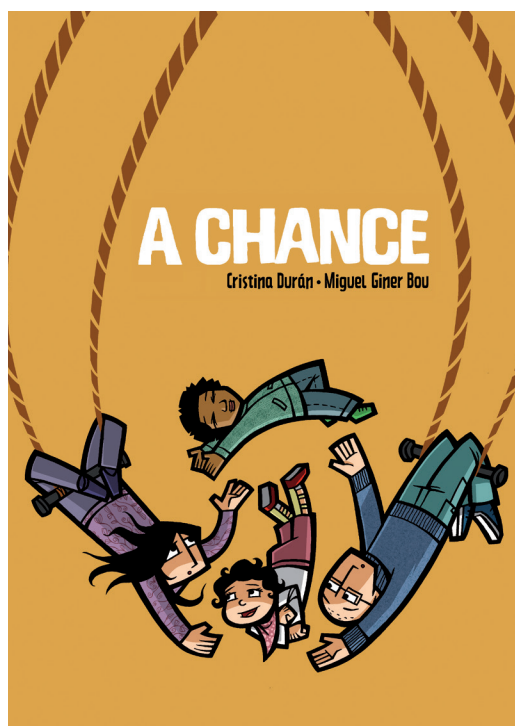
In *BrainComix*, the brain is the star of the show—hamming it up in a televised interview conducted by the intrepid journalist Julia Mojito. Without jargon, and with plenty of humor, we come to understand how this spongy, bloody organ acts as our guardian angel, filters our perceptions, and shapes the stories we tell about the world and about ourselves.

A psychologist by training, **Jean-François Marmion** is an author and a scientific journalist. He is associate editor of the journal *Sciences humaines* and a former editor-in-chief of the magazine *Le Cercle Psy*. His book *Psychologie de la connerie* was a #1 bestseller in France, and it was published in English as *The Psychology of Stupidity*.

Monsieur B is a scriptwriter-illustrator who works in comics and animation. He is the creator of several popular series, including *La Vérité sur...*, *Yoman*, and *Histoires de mecs et de nanas*.

168 pages | 7 × 10 | November
ISBN 978-1-63779-002-1
paper: \$24.95/£19.95/€23.95 tr

Comics & Graphic Novels/General Interest



A Chance

Cristina Durán and Miguel Giner Bou

A Chance is the engrossing, heartwarming story of a family's struggles and triumphs.

The narrative follows Cristina Durán and Miguel Giner Bou as they rebuild and reinvent themselves after their daughter Laia is born with cerebral palsy. Hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and doctors become part of their daily routine. There is one chance in a thousand that Laia will pull through—and they hold on to that chance with tremendous strength and indomitable joy.

Years later, with the same courage and determination, Cristina and Miguel embark on the arduous process of adopting their second daughter, Selam, from Ethiopia. This time, they face a long period of training, psychological tests, interviews, and formalities before they can even pack their bags. And when they return with

Selam, the challenge of reinvention awaits them yet again.

Cristina Durán and **Miguel Giner Bou** are graduates of the Facultad de Bellas Artes de Valencia. They started out in animation, and in 1993 they founded their studio, LaGRUAestudio, where they work as professional illustrators and comic creators. In 2019, they were awarded Spain's Premio Nacional del Cómic for *EL DÍA 3*.

312 pages | 9.5 x 6.75 | November
ISBN 978-1-63779-003-8
hardcover: \$29.95/£23.95/€27.95 tr
Comics & Graphic Novels/Biography & Memoir/General Interest





144 pages | 8 × 10 | December
 ISBN 978-1-63779-004-5
 hardcover: \$24.95/£19.95/€23.95 tr
 Comics & Graphic Novels/Biography
 & Memoir/General Interest

Iranian Love Stories

Jane Deuxard and Deloupy

Gila, 26, was at a party when the police showed up. The men were able to get away with bribes, but the women were taken to the station, and anyone who'd been drinking was forced to submit to a virginity test. She never went to another party after that.

Zeinab is 20 and she loves being a woman in Iran. She says that she feels like a queen! And despite all the risks, she confesses that she makes love with her boyfriend because the danger excites her.

Vahid is 26. He was a leader with the Green Movement. Then he watched his friend Neda die right in front of him. Now he keeps his head down, trying to finish his studies.

In a series of vignettes based on clandestine interviews, this award-winning graphic novel explores the politics and love lives of ten young Iranian men and women from diverse

backgrounds. The result is an honest portrait of Iranian youth today and a rare glimpse into a society where the sexes are strictly segregated—and Western journalists aren't welcome. Through rare testimonies from across the country, we learn about traditional marriages, the pressures of living under the regime, and how young people escape the police and defy tradition to live their love stories.

Jane Deuxard is the pseudonym of a real-life couple—both journalists. They use an alias to protect their sources and their ability to work.

Deloupy is the illustrator of several graphic novels, including *Algériennes: The Forgotten Women of the Algerian Revolution*, also published by Penn State University Press.