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## Understanding Caregivers in Graphic Memoirs

Anastazia K. Csegeny

Western University, [acsegeny@uwo.ca](mailto:acsegeny@uwo.ca)

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Anastazia K. Csegeny

PhD in Media Studies

Faculty of Information and Media Studies

### **Understanding Caregivers in Graphic Memoirs**

The portrayal of caregivers and their responsibilities to those receiving care have significantly evolved over the past century; however, the needs and experiences of caregivers themselves are frequently rendered invisible and unworthy of active dialogue. Formal care is predicated on the conditions of the care recipient, and caregivers often go unacknowledged for maintaining their crucial support roles. Influenced by my lived experiences as a caregiver, I examine the representation of caregiving figures in graphic memoirs, concentrating on caregiving for those with disabilities, those who are aging, and those with physical illnesses and chronic injuries. My research centralizes the secondary character caregiving figures in the foreground of these delicate and emotional life narratives, reshaping engagements with depictions of disability, illness, and trauma; putting forth new methods of understanding the formal elements of the comics medium; and, ultimately, championing a holistic approach that acknowledges the caregiver as much as the care recipient.

**Word Count: 150**