



# Comics for Choice: Illustrated Abortion Stories, History and Politics

*Hazel Newlevant (Editor), Whit Taylor (Editor), O.K. Fox (Editor)*

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**Comics for Choice: Illustrated Abortion Stories, History and Politics** Hazel Newlevant (Editor) , Whit Taylor (Editor) , O.K. Fox (Editor)

Comics for Choice is an anthology of comics about abortion. As this fundamental reproductive right continues to be stigmatized and jeopardized, over sixty artists and writers have created comics that boldly share their own experiences, and educate readers on the history of abortion, current political struggles, activism, and more. Lawyers, activists, medical professionals, historians, and abortion fund volunteers have teamed up with cartoonists and illustrators to share their knowledge in accessible comic form.

Comics for Choice is edited by Hazel Newlevant, Whit Taylor, and Ø.K. Fox, and contains comics from exciting cartoonists like Sophia Foster-Dimino (Sex Fantasy), Leah Hayes (Not Funny Ha-Ha), Anna Bongiovanni (Grease Bats), Jennifer Camper (Rude Girls and Dangerous Women), Ally Shwed (Sex Bomb Strikes Again) and Kat Fajardo (Gringa!, La Raza Anthology), and reproductive justice scholars like Rickie Solinger, (Reproductive Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know) Renee Bracey Sherman (Program Director, We Testify), and Dr. Cynthia Greenlee (Senior Editor, Rewire).

6.625"x10.25", 300 pages, perfect-bound, color cover with b&w interior.

## **Comics for Choice: Illustrated Abortion Stories, History and Politics Details**

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# From Reader Review Comics for Choice: Illustrated Abortion Stories, History and Politics for online ebook

## **Stewart Tame says**

It took a bit longer to finish this than I expected. That's because I had to keep putting it down and walking away for a bit, either to let my emotions settle, or because the story demanded a bit of space to properly savor ...

As the cover promises, this is a pro-choice anthology of comics stories. Many are autobiographical. Some are historical. Some are harrowing, some empowering. All are informative and heartfelt. Having such a large and controversial subject brought out the best in these artists.

I have long considered myself pro-choice, so I was favorably disposed towards this book going in. As far as its persuasiveness goes, well, I rather doubt that many pro-lifers will even read this book to begin with. It's such a polarizing topic, after all. Those that do, well, it's nice to think that they'd change their minds, but most likely they'd have their resistance way up.

The book's true value comes from the way it demystifies the whole concept of abortion. Reading so many personal, individual stories shows what other people's experiences were like. The feeling is that, if they could get through it, so could I. Well, okay; I'm male, and, barring a medical breakthrough (or divine intervention,) unlikely to become pregnant in the foreseeable future. You know what I mean. Recommended!

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## **David Schaafsma says**

“All we want to do is control our own bodies.”

“My body, my choice.”

Comics for Choice is an important educational project, featuring comics from dozens of women (and some men) on personal experience with and institutional history of abortion in the United States. States are closing legal clinics, and the future of reproductive rights seems more in jeopardy than ever, so this seems necessary to educate a new generation about these issues. And, importantly, the book features the stories of people from across the country, some of them told and drawn by comics artists, some of the told by women and drawn by others. It feels raw and personal, and not all one thing, all one perspective; sometimes anguished, angry, ashamed, oh, all of the emotions are here.

It's not a chronological history book, it's a pastiche of perspectives, but it finally is a people's—women's—history of abortion, along the lines of Howard Zinn's People's History of the United States.

Abortion is one of those flashpoint issues that divides us as a people, even dividing families (and this is true of my family, actually). I have this feeling only pro-choice readers will read this, just as pro-choice advocates might not read a book decidedly written from the anti-choice. I think this book challenges pre- and misconceptions, though, and that is useful in itself.

The art is of course various, and the point is not that this is at the artistic level of Alison Bechdel or Chris

Ware. From a comics perspective, it is important that comics are used by a range of people to tell their stories. The entries are usually very short, and often powerful. If you are raped, if you are the victim of incest, and you get pregnant, should you be able to get an abortion? This was once not possible, you couldn't legally terminate your pregnancy, and then thanks to Roe v. Wade, it has been legal for a few short decades, but now is at issue again. This book should be a part of every unwanted pregnancy decision, part of the conversation.

Here's some of it, in a review:

<https://rewire.news/article/2017/06/2...>

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### **vostendrasamigos yotengolibros says**

this is just amazing

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### **Cecilie Larsen says**

When I supported this anthology, I thought it was just gonna be short zine. I got so much more. This is a proper book, jam-packed with personal stories and informational spreads. It succeeds in highlighting all sorts of different feelings around having an abortion - from being deeply impacted to seeing it as extended birth control - and tells both contemporary and earlier stories, through highly diverse identities, ranging from sexuality, gender, and ethnic identities to patients, doctors, clinic escorts, other workers, and generally people who have been impacted by reproductive rights. It has an overall good flow where subjects that are brought up in one comic is further explored in the next. so many of the stories are told by people who felt alone and like they couldn't speak about their abortion. It's amazing to see them share their stories.

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### **Claire says**

This is a super important collection of comics about abortion. Comics for Choice shares personal abortion stories, histories and commentaries on the politics of abortion. Each story is an important part of an open narrative about abortion, and is central to removing the stigma around the choice each of us has to determine what is right for our lives and our bodies. Required reading.

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### **Maria says**

A mixed bag of graphic accounts of abortion stories. I feel strongly about reproductive rights and the rights of women to have control over their bodies and health, so this actually made me angry to read. More and more I'm feeling like I need to take a more active role in my beliefs, and I'm a woman who has never wanted children, whose long-term marriage ended because her husband changed his mind about wanting to become a parent, and who has never, ever, been pregnant or had an abortion. Go figure.

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**Rod Brown says**

I generally try to avoid subject matter this depressing, but slap it into a comic book format and I cannot help inflicting it upon myself. The writing consistently displays powerful personal narratives and informative points of view though the art gets a little rough in places.

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**Jules Wolfers says**

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED- this is a must on your shelves understanding how abortion is a human right, a better understanding of reproductive justice, with the access to abortion from many eyes across range of identities, from being a patient to a doctor, from a POC escort to a grandmother who had an abortion before Roe vs. Wade- each story will leave you heart-touched.

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**Maia says**

A comic anthology edited by Hazel Newlevant, Whit Taylor and O. K. Fox which was successfully crowd-funded. It contains over 40 stories which range from deeply personal to informational. Some standouts include "Jane", by Rachel Wilson and Ally Shwed, about an illegal women's abortion service group in Chicago in the late 1960s and early 1970s; "October" by Kris Louis about dealing with an unplanned pregnancy while also coming out as trans; "Small Mistakes Make Big Problems" by Sophia Foster-Dimino who also designed the fabulous cover; and "Nothing Feels Real" by Vreni.

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**Rahadyan says**

It was difficult reading this book. I had to keep putting it down to stop from crying.

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**Madeleine says**

4.5 reminded me of how many stories are embedded in each person's body, the intimacy of health care and of telling your stories of receiving health care!!

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**Allie Jones says**

I want to buy everyone a copy. This was amazing. It's a collection of comics telling the abortion stories of several individuals. These stories are so important to share. I felt so emotional but so motivated reading this story. We have to fight against the stigma. Abortions are a necessary part of life. People need to understand this. Share these stories, stand up for these women. READ THIS BOOK.

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## **Emily :: {A Bushel of Books} says**

4.5/5 stars (rounded up)

A fascinating and intimate look at the lives of individuals who, for varying reasons, have had an abortion. Each story was unique, and I appreciate that such a variety of individuals stepped up to tell their story. Many stories stood out in their quality, in both storytelling and art, and I found it difficult to point to one that impacted me the most/ "a favorite."

However, there were several areas in which I thought the book was lacking. By the end, I felt that the book was a polished piece, but that there were some areas more effort could have been put in to make it more inclusive/ "complete":

- 1) Because every story featured is in comic-form, I feel that the scope of abortion experiences that could have been shared was limited. I feel that the book would have benefited had their been more writer-artist pairs, rather from writer-artists. Scientists, stay-at-home-moms, secretaries, CEOs, psychologists and therapists, grocery store clerks, individuals in the armed forces, etc. all seek/ benefit from comprehensive abortion services... so to pretty much only share stories from individuals who make their living from making art severely limited the scope of stories that Comics for Choice could have told.
- 2) The book makes an amazing effort to include individuals of different racial/ ethic, sexual, and gender identities, but I would have liked to see more writing/art from individuals with disabilities. I could write a whole essay on how I can interpret this, but I will concede and simply admit that I was disappointed to not see more women like myself featured.
- 3) Though the book contains a great deal of information on varied experiences with abortion, medical (pill) abortions, legal/ public health issues involving abortion, and medical information... I can't remember any stories that actually, clearly define how a surgical abortion works. It's always there, just under the surface, but no comic went into the details on what exactly it entails, the tools used, how it is defined medically, etc. A bizarre choice for a book that encourages empowerment through education.

In all, I felt that this book was very valuable, and one that many individuals will find strength and knowledge in, but it lacked in some (I felt) very important ways. I would gladly financially support/ read a second volume should one come about. I have decided to give this book five stars (rounded up), in spite of my issues, because I felt that the sheer breadth of honesty, personal reflection, compassion, and personality featured in these individual stories makes up for the problems I found within Comics for Choice as a whole.

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## **[Shai] Bibliophage says**

I respect those who support the choice to have abortion. But as for me, who was born and raised in a Catholic and conservative country, I'm against it because not only of moral standards, but also it may lead to health complications in the future.

I don't impose my views to those who are Pro-Choice, but I really appreciate that I was given the chance by

the publisher for the reading copy of this infographic. It is very informative and I was able to read several stories why women chose to abort their child. I don't criticize them because it's their choice, their right and what they believe. However, it never swayed me to change my perspective.

*Thanks to Alternative Comics for the reading copy.*

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### **Comics Alternative says**

<http://comicsalternative.com/comics-a...>

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