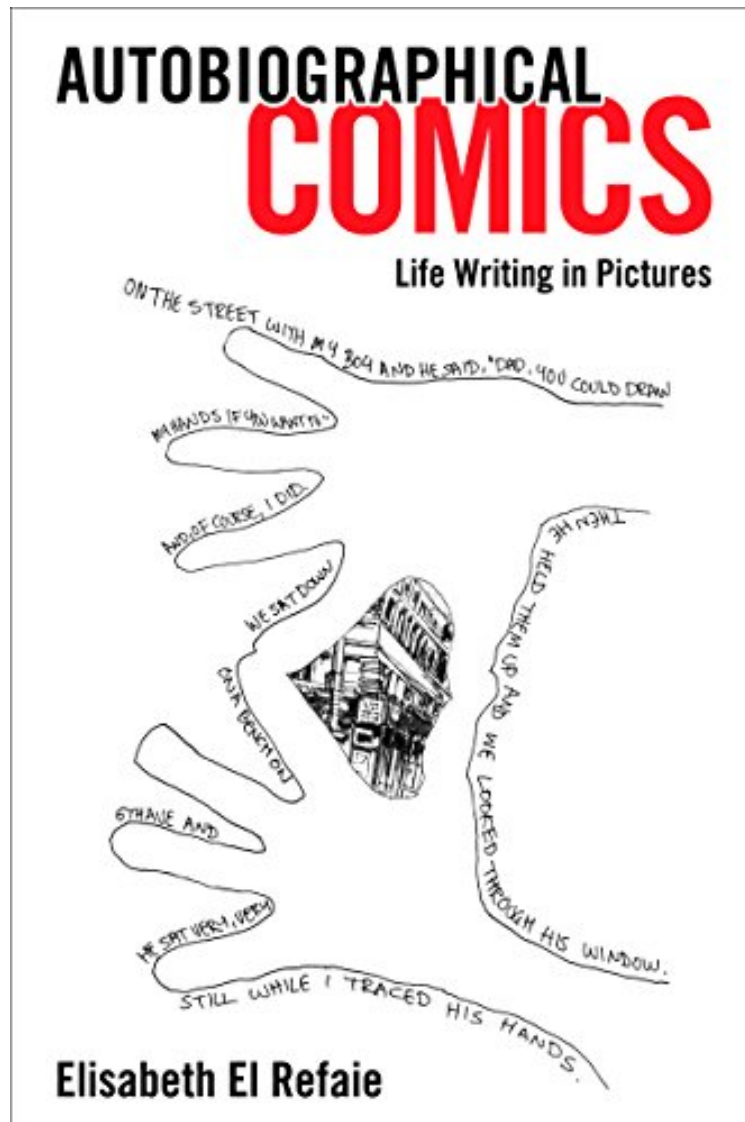


Autobiographical Comics: Life Writing in Pictures

Elisabeth El Refaie

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Elisabeth El Refaie : Autobiographical Comics: Life Writing in Pictures before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Autobiographical Comics: Life Writing in Pictures:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Anyone interested in autobiographical writing is advised to read it By Riedenburger This is an astonishing book; one of the first serious studies about the genre of autobiographical comics. In it, the author shows how this literary form (comics, graphic novels) definitely influences the way in which an autobiographical story is told. I found this really fascinating, because it means that authors who use comics or graphic novels can really tell different stories in comparison to traditional autobiographical writing. El Refaie's

arguments are more than convincing, and I can only recommend this book very strongly. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating! By Mia This book is an intelligent, well researched and clearly written exploration of autobiographical comics. I was already a great fan of this newly emerging genre, but this book has helped me notice and appreciate even more the wonderful ways in which graphic novels tell their fascinating stories. A book that gives us plenty to think about, whether we are academics, writers, artists or readers of autobiographical comics (or any combination of these). I can't wait to see how this genre evolves over the next decades - this book is a great companion along the way! 1 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Comics? By Lou This preview sounds like someones thesis. There isnt one picture of whats in store re the artwork to be inspired to buy. The most boring preview I have ever seen.

A troubled childhood in Iran. Living with a disability. Grieving for a dead child. Over the last forty years the comic book has become an increasingly popular way of telling personal stories of considerable complexity and depth. In *Autobiographical Comics: Life Writing in Pictures*, Elisabeth El Refaie offers a long overdue assessment of the key conventions, formal properties, and narrative patterns of this fascinating genre. The book considers eighty-five works of North American and European provenance, works that cover a broad range of subject matters and employ many different artistic styles. Drawing on concepts from several disciplinary fields including semiotics, literary and narrative theory, art history, and psychology El Refaie shows that the traditions and formal features of comics provide new possibilities for autobiographical storytelling. For example, the requirement to produce multiple drawn versions of ones self necessarily involves an intense engagement with physical aspects of identity, as well as with the cultural models that underpin body image. The comics medium also offers memoirists unique ways of representing their experience of time, their memories of past events, and their hopes and dreams for the future. Furthermore, autobiographical comics creators are able to draw on the close association in contemporary Western culture between seeing and believing in order to persuade readers of the authentic nature of their stories.

Based on a large and eclectic corpus, Elisabeth El Refaies study questions autobiographical comics in the light of narrative, literary, media and cultural theories. She accumulates penetrating clarifications on the socio-cultural models involved and on specific questions such as embodiment or the relationship to the mirror, to authenticity, to self-deprecation and even to abjection. The phenomenon of life writing in pictures is now provided with a complete theoretical framework. Thierry Groensteen, author of *La bande dessinée: Une littérature graphique*, *La construction de la cage*, and *The System of Comics From the Inside Flap* A fruitful reading of the best North American and European autobiographical comics About the Author Elisabeth El Refaie, Cardiff, United Kingdom, is a senior lecturer at Cardiff University. Her work has been published in *Studies in Comics*, *Visual Studies*, and *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*, among other periodicals.