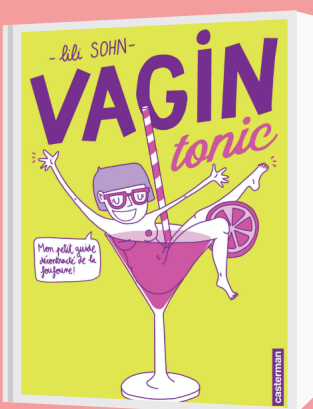


EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SEX ED



a literary analysis of French graphic novels

CORPUS



(2018)



Lilli Sohn

Author and illustrator of multiple graphic novels covering taboo topics on women's health



(2019)



L  a Bordier

Producer of Youtube series, *Cher Corps*, on women and their relationship with their bodies

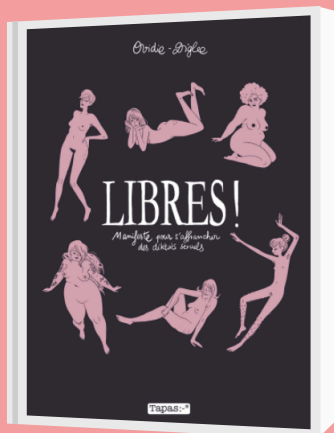


(2018)



Emma

Computer engineer, feminist blogger and artist of multiple graphic novels



(2017)

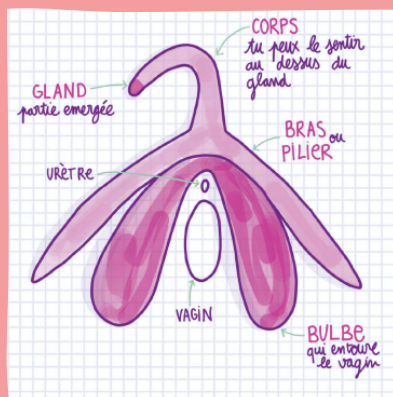


Ovidie

Feminist filmmaker, documentarist and author

APPROACHES TO ANATOMY AND HEALTH

In response to recent attempts to restrict women's access to certain health care services and a general deficiency in the education of women in regards to their bodies, multiple graphic novels have been published in France with the goal to provide women with a way to self-educate themselves and to destigmatize these conversations through an informal presentation of accurate, thorough content and relatable testimonials from women.



First and foremost, the graphic novels present a plethora of anatomically accurate representations of female anatomy, focusing specifically on more obscure organs, such as the clitoris.

The authors also tackle the stigma surrounding the female genitals. In the scene above, a group of girls are expressing their disgust for the appearance of the vagina, while one of the girls relates that she finds it beautiful, encouraging the others to take a closer look. Through these intimate conversations, they revalorize the female body, helping women to feel comfortable in their own skin.



Another common goal among the graphic novels is the discussion of women's health, specifically in regards to modern practices of gynecology. The authors present many testimonies from women, discussing the difficulties they've faced during annual check-ups or giving birth, and the general sense of discomfort and fear shared by many women when visiting the gynecologist.

SO WHAT?

The format of the graphic novel, a highly-respected art form in France, provides the ideal way of presenting this type of information. The Ignorance and stigma surrounding the female body prevents women from being able to make informed decisions regarding their own health. Compounding this with the historic male dominance within the domain of gynecology, and the manipulation of women's legal rights to make decision about their own bodies, these graphic novels provide a way for women to not only educate themselves but also to feel more comfortable in their own skin.

Sources:

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