

## **Starving To Be Seen: An Examination of Anorexia In Graphic Narratives**

For an anorexic, the body seen in the mind's eye does not match what the eye sees reflected in the mirror, leading to self-harm as a means of reconciling the image with the perceived ideal. The body is also looked upon and judged by others, an additional source of pressure for the anorexic attempting to embody their ideal. Within this context, the graphic narrative form provides a particularly effective means for examining how women who identify as anorexic, as both looking and looked at subjects, are represented. Using *Graphic Women: Live Narrative and Contemporary Comics* by Hilary L. Chute and various works of feminist theory as critical lenses, this paper will seek to examine representations of female characters who identify as anorexic in young adult graphic narratives. The five comics that the paper will examine are *Lucille* by Ludovic Debeurme (English translation, 2011), *Tyranny* by Lesley Fairfield (2009), *Ink In Water* by Lacy J. Davis (2017), *Lighter Than My Shadow* by Katie Green (2017) and *The House That Groaned* by Karrie Fransman (2012). Comics that critically depict representations of the anorexic body have not received enough attention from comics scholars or young adult literature scholars. These works need more scrutiny because they represent an under-represented and misunderstood community of readers.