When People Die
Stories from Young People
When People Die: Stories from Young People is a comic that tells numerous stories about death and resilience from a group of young people. The comic helps readers gain different and better perspectives on grief and what grieving means for young people.

These stories and scenarios have been written by a group of young people selected from Children’s Hospices Across Scotland (Robin House), HMYOI Polmont, and Richmond’s Hope, and put together by the team at the Dundee Comics Creative Space. This comic will help people such as school teachers, guidance counsellors and anyone who reads it to learn more about how it feels to be in the position of a grieving young person, and how to act in situations that may come up with a grieving child.

This comic means a lot to me, and the other young people, as it has been an outlet for the feelings I may have kept inside; it has given me the opportunity to help other young people and adults who may not know what to do in order to help a bereaved young person and has allowed me to also come to terms with my situation and my feelings.

It is a sad subject, but don’t worry, it’s not all sad! These stories and scenarios show not only how the young person may feel, but also talk about how to help and what makes us feel better – the purpose is to educate and help others, and that is exactly what this comic has allowed us to do.

None of this would have been possible without the extremely hard and amazing work from the team at Dundee Comics Creative Space and the artists at Ink Pot Studio and everyone else involved, so a massive thank you to them!

I hope that you, the reader, enjoy the comic as much as we have enjoyed producing it and I hope that you are able to take something away from it.

Abbie Gunn

Contents

Introduction to the Project 4
Story: Golnar Nabizadeh
Art: Rebecca Horner

Parent Talking to Young Child About Death
Story & Art: Abbie Gunn

Tips for Parents
Story: Hannah Bradley Art: Monica Burns

Someone Just Died
Story & Art: Hannah Bradley

Someone Just Died: Artist Response
Art: Garry Mac

Dealing With Grief
Story & Art: Kian Taylor

Hannah’s Tips
Tips: Hannah Bradley Art: Rebecca Horner

Child’s Point of View
Story & Art: Abbie Gunn

Practitioners’ Tips for Supporting Children Experiencing Bereavement
Story: Lynsey Semple & Amy Maloy
Art: Mark Brown

Papa Passed Away
Story & Art: Anonymous

Papa Passed Away: Artist Response
Art: Garry Mac

It’s OK to Not Be OK
Story & Art: Emily Gunn

It’s OK to Not Be OK: Artist Response
Art: Katie Quinn

Young Person Telling Friends a Pet Has Died
Story & Art: Abbie Gunn

Young Person Telling Friends a Pet Has Died: Artist Response
Art: Norrie Millar
In creating this comic, our aim was to honour the voices, perspectives, and insights that each of the young people brought with them in creating the stories and tips you’re about to read. For this reason, this comic is constructed a little differently to other titles our team has worked on before. We have organised the contents so that the young people's original artwork is reproduced as it was drawn. Artists from Ink Pot Studio then prepared responses to these artworks, as well as tips and suggestions from the young people. You’ll see some of these responses facing the original artwork. The young people worked with the artists to feedback into the finished comics pages, and tips pages, and their mutual appreciation, led to a highly productive and fruitful collaboration. We hope you enjoy reading the original contributions and the responses alike.
INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

Hi! Welcome to our comic about bereavement.

This comic is one of the outputs from a project called ‘Comics & Bereavement’, funded by the Scottish Universities Insight Institute.

The project brings together researchers from the universities of Dundee and Strathclyde, who have an interest in exploring the impact of loss and grief on young people.

It’s estimated that 78% of young people experience bereavement before the age of 18.

Given this statistic, it’s important that we talk about these experiences more in our families, schools and communities.

We wanted to enable young people to share their advice for their family, friends, teachers, and carers.

We hope these stories can help other children by being honest about death and bereavement.

We ran workshops with young people from HMYOI Polmont, Children’s Hospices across Scotland (CHAS), and Richmond’s Hope.

Working with artists at Ink Pot Studio, they reflected on their experiences of loss by creating comics.

But why comics?
COMICS USE WORDS AND IMAGES TO TELL STORIES. READERS INTERPRET WORDS, IMAGES, AND GESTURES TO CREATE MEANING.

THIS MAKES COMICS IDEAL TO SHARE COMPLEX OR SENSITIVE INFORMATION IN AN ACCESSIBLE WAY.

THIS IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL WHEN THINKING ABOUT BEREAVEMENT BECAUSE GRIEF CAN AFFECT NOT ONLY HOW WE RELATE TO OTHERS, BUT ALSO HOW WE GO ABOUT OUR DAILY LIVES.

FOR THIS PROJECT ON BEREAVEMENT, IT IS THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE THE EXPERTS, AND THEY GENEROUSLY VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO CREATE THE SCENARIOS, STORIES, AND TIPS YOU'RE ABOUT TO READ.

WE THANK THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO TOOK PART IN THIS PROJECT, AND THE ARTISTS WHO COLLABORATED WITH THE PARTICIPANTS TO CREATE RESPONSES TO EACH STORY.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY READING AND SHARING THIS COMIC!
Mummy! Where’s Brodie?

Brodie died.

Why did this happen to Brodie?

I really don’t know. But just because he isn’t here doesn’t mean we are going to forget.

Okay?

You can’t say bye bye to him, but we can let balloons go into the sky.

So I can’t even say bye bye?

Mummy! Is Brodie okay up there?

Brodie is perfectly fine, because he knows we love him.

Look! There he is!
Tips for Parents

Story: Hannah Bradley   Art: Monica Burns

Parents should tell their child about death and inform them about it—just like the birds & bees. Rules of life.

Do you know about death and what happens?

A wee bit.

Inform them about what happens when someone dies. If you are religious, tell them about heaven.

When grandpa dies, we'll have a funeral.

Do you know what a funeral is?

No.

He will go to heaven.

We will see him soon.

He will be happy.

His spirit might visit.

Heaven sounds nice.

Tell them not to be scared of death. Tell them the good sides of death.
SOMEONE JUST DIED
STORY: HANNAH BRADLEY  ART: GARRY MAC

HELPFUL

Someone just died
I'm close to just died
That happened to me
I know what that feels like

UNHELPFUL

Someone just died
Just move on
You'll get over it

Open up to someone
Are you 1 in 4?
Want to talk?

Don't bottle up your feelings
Say I'm nervous
Scream if you get startled

I just need some space
No problem, I'll be here if you want to talk

What's wrong with you?
Why you crying?
Look, they're crying!
DEALING WITH GRIEVE

First of all, don't tell people your feelings. Inform them that you feel like what you don't feel at all. The pain will go away.

Don't worry, the pain will go away.

From family and friends, they will get it. You're not alone.

Guys, what should I do?

Well, you should talk to somebody about your feelings. This is important in order to feel better.

Hello, my name is Klein. Today, I'm going to be giving you tips on how to deal with grief. I've experienced grief, so I know what it's like.
Hannah's Tips

Art: Rebecca Horner

11

Saying “Move on”

Saying “Oh it’s fine”

Crowding them if they are crying

Forcing someone to give every detail about what happened

Not talking about what you’re going through

Suggesting help (Richmond's Hope)

Letting them talk about what’s going on

If you have gone through something similar, giving them advice that helped you

Letting them be alone if they wanna be alone

If someone doesn’t wanna talk about it, don’t force them
CHILD'S POINT OF VIEW
BY ABBIE GUNN

I feel so lost, alone, and angry. I just keep asking why.
Should I be feeling this way?
I don't know what's wrong with me.

It's sunny outside, but I don't feel so sunny.

I can't enjoy the little things anymore.

I need to put on a smile for my family.

I'm scared that if I'm not strong they won't be.

But I feel like holding it in makes it worse.

I don't let myself think about it because I don't like being sad.

I miss him, but I need to get over it.

It's been a year, I shouldn't care anymore.
• Allow children and young people to have control because they didn’t when their person died. For example: Would they like to go to the funeral? Would they like to see their person’s body?

• Give them informed choices - A child may not know what happens at a funeral. Explain to them what is going to happen.

• Be prepared to answer questions over and over: A child is trying to understand and process the death and needs your help. If you don’t know how to answer then tell them you don’t know rather than making something up. Tell them you will do your best to answer their questions and seek support and advice from bereavement practitioners.

• Really listen to a child. Don’t rush in to try and ‘fix things’. They just want you to hear how they are feeling. You help them heal by listening with empathy.

• Do not hide your feelings when you are grieving. Children need to see your expression of grief. You can model how to grieve and young people will be less likely to hold their feelings in when they see adults expressing themselves in healthy ways.

• Be open and honest about the death and how you feel, even when the death has been under traumatic circumstances. This will let the child know that you are trusted and safe. This will encourage them to open up to you.

• Reassure a child that you can cope with their feelings. Often children try and protect their adults from how they are feeling and keep their own feelings inside.

• If you cry, tell the child that crying helps get the sad feelings out.

• If a child’s behaviour gets worse after a death, explore with them how they might be feeling, and why they are behaving that way. Acknowledge with them that the feeling is okay but the behaviour is not, and explore with them ways they can express their feelings differently.
1) Papa Passed Away

Mum
Sister

Why is this?

Papa

Grumpy songs on

Still where she left her this morning

Just BK from school

Put at my gaff once time Mums happy now or days

Till next day BK on couch

Why can't I understand why she feels like that a loved him two a Dant feel like that

Mum
PAPA’S PASSED AWAY

JUST BK FROM SCHOOL

GRANDPA’S SONG’S ON

MUM’S STILL WHERE AH LEFT HER THIS MORNING

PARTY AT MA CAFE ONLY TIME MUM’S HAPPY THESE DAYS

TILL NEXT DAY, BK ON THE COUCH

WHY CAN’T I UNDERSTAND WHY SHE FEELS LIKE THAT? AH LOVED HIM TOO. AH DON’T FEEL LIKE THAT

MUM

ART: GARRY MAC
IT’S OK TO NOT BE OK
BY EMILY GUNN

2:30
What happened?
Mum said sleep...

Flashback...
He’s gone...

ANNoyed
Guilt
Depression
Anger
Sadness
Stress

Sometimes you just need to talk...
You might not want to now but that’s the best thing you can do right now...
even talk to friends or just me as long as you get it out...

It’s OK not to be OK
2:30 AM... WHAT'S HAPPENED?

MUM, I CAN'T SLEEP

He's Gone

STRESS GUILT ANNOYED ANGER DEPRESSION SADNESS ANXIETY WORRY

SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED TO TALK. YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO RIGHT NOW, BUT IT'S THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO EVEN TALK TO FRIENDS, OR JUST TO ME, AS LONG AS YOU GET IT OUT.

It's OK to not be OK

ART: KATIE QUINN
YOUNG PERSON TELLING FRIENDS A PET HAS DIED
BY ABBIE GUNN

Guy, my dog died last night.

Oh, it's just a dog. Why are you so upset?

I'm sorry. I'm here for you.

I guess she's right.

No! Losing a pet is a big thing. Let yourself cry!

I'm sorry for crying.

Please never apologize for being sad.

You shouldn't have said that to her. Now she may not feel allowed to grieve.

Oh no! You're right!

You're supposed to be her friend.

I should apologize.

Hey, I'm sorry about earlier.

You have every right to be sad.

I really am sorry.

We couldn't bring your dog back, but we drew him for you.

We're here for you.

Always.

Thank you guys.
Losing a pet is a big thing. You can't bring them back, but there's always some way to remember them!
When I was 8 my dad sadly past away it was the hardest thing to handle in my life. And also my gran gave away my pet penny but when I saw my dad lying on the ground I started to get really angry...

In 2016 that was when he died and he was 28 years old. My dad birthday was last week and I can't say how much I miss him. For 3 years now I haven't seen and I love you dad.

One Love, one heart. Let's get together and feel all right. Hear the children crying (one love) hear the children crying (one heart).

... Dad...

If I could write a story I would be the greatest ever told of a kind and loving dad who had a heart of gold. I could write a million pages but still be unable to say just how much I love and miss him. Every Single day I will remember all he taught me. I'm hurt but I still love you because you will always be my first.”

DAD...

I love you.
When I was 9 my dad passed away. It was the hardest thing for me to handle in my life and also, my gran gave my pet penny away. But when I saw my dad lying on the ground, I started to get really angry...

In 2016 that was when he died, and he was 30 years of age and his birthday was last week. I can’t say how much I miss him, it’s been 3 years since I last saw him.

RIP DAD
One love — one heart. Let’s get together and feel alright. Hear the children crying — one love.

If I could write a story it would be the greatest ever told of a kind and loving dad who had a heart of gold. I could write a million pages but still be unable to say just how much I love and miss him. Every single day. I will remember all he taught me. I’m hurt but I still love you because you were my dad.

I love you dad and miss you so much.

Art: Katie Quinn
GRIEVING CHILD TALKING TO A TEACHER
BY ABBIE GUNN

Can I talk to you?
Of course!

I don't know how to say this, but my brother died.
I'm sorry.

I can't fully understand what you're going through.
But I can try.

I'm struggling.
I can't think straight.

Why aren't you talking?

Why am I in trouble for something I can't control?

I wish it would go away.

I just want to do well.

I promise you're still going to do well. You just need to take the time to grieve and look after yourself.
GRIEVING CHILD TALKING TO A TEACHER

ART: MONICA BURNS

CAN I TALK TO YOU?

OF COURSE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT... MY BROTHER DIED.

I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.

BUT I CAN TRY.

WHY AREN'T YOU WORKING?

HELP.

I'M STRUGGLING.

I'M STRUGGLING.

I CAN'T DO IT.

WHY AM I GETTING IN TROUBLE FOR SOMETHING THAT I CAN'T CONTROL?!

I JUST WANT TO DO WELL!

I WISH IT WOULD GO AWAY!

I PROMISE YOU'RE STILL GOING TO DO WELL...

YOU JUST NEED TO TAKE THE TIME TO GRIEVE AND LOOK AFTER YOURSELF.
I lost my Gran at 13 who was ill with cancer. I had been looking after her, I still remember holding her as she passed.

She always looked after me and always spoiled me.

I loved getting time to spend with her, it was my chance to look after her.

I couldn’t have lost a nicer person and I never used to speak about it because it made me full of emotions, but it’s the best thing you can do.
Unhelpful

Try to get information out of me about what I've been through.

Constantly asking if I'm okay in front of others - it draws attention to me.

Saying you'll check up on me and then not following through.

Why were you off school?

Emma, why are you crying?

It will be fine!

Just go back to class.

What was wrong with her?

How did she die?

Helpful

Listen up Teachers!
Here's how you can help!

Some schools offer a pass to let grieving pupils leave class and go to the guidance room whenever they need to.

Teach PSE classes on death, mental health, loss and how it can affect people and common disabilities.

Understanding that it'll not just 'get over it' quickly and some days will be worse than others.

Offering me time out of class if I need it.

Quick Tips

Listen to me. Let me speak. Don't put words in my mouth.

Don't say things like "she's in a better place."

Don't brush it off!

Remember, everyone reacts differently to grief.

Being understanding

Checking up on me often in person - once a month is a good amount.

Making sure other pupils are behaving appropriately around the subject.
YOUNG PERSON IS SAD AT NIGHT OVER A DEATH JUST BEFORE BED

BY ABBIE GUNN

I miss him so much.
I don’t want to talk to anyone about it.
Maybe I should just get over it.

WHY WHY WHY
WHY WHY WHY
WHY WHY WHY
WHY WHY WHY

(bed of worries)

* tossing, turning *

12 AM

Maybe I should find ways to remember him.

I miss him so much it hurts.

Or maybe I should write him a letter.

There we go. I got all of my feelings out and now my mind is clearer.

It didn’t take away the hurt but it made it more bearable for tonight.
THINKING ABOUT DEATH AT NIGHT

What should you do if you are awake at night thinking about death?

Make a list of your thoughts and look over them. It might take the weight off your shoulders.

DIARY
Nightly thoughts:
- how do I cope?
- how do I sleep?

Here are my thoughts:

I can help.

ART: GARRY MAC
Abbie’s Thoughts
Art: Rebecca Horner

• Just LISTEN to the grieving person. If you don’t understand then don’t pretend to.

• Just let the young person know you’re there for them; be understanding but not forceful.

• Never make the young person feel like a burden / invalid emotions.

• Make them feel comfortable. Tell them it’s okay to cry / grieve.

IT’S OKAY
NOT TO
BE OKAY
Imagine a tunnel in front of you. You’re driving a cargo truck with loads of boxes and crates.

On the side you’re on it’s dark, sad, scary, and lonely.

Every day, week, or month you can drop a box or break it.

You keep breaking the boxes so you can fit through to the other side, where there’s happiness and normality.

You CAN get to the other side.
Having someone, especially someone you’re close with, pass away can cause all sorts of things. It can bring down so much confidence and it can lower your self esteem.

Let them talk about the person who passed, and how they made them happy.

Don’t let them feel embarrassed or guilty about being sad or depressed.

Tell them it’s not bad to cry. Sometimes that’s the only thing that helps or can get your feelings and emotions out.

Be there for them even if it’s just to let them complain, because it can mean so much to know someone is there to listen...

Just telling someone you’re there for them can help so much. Make sure they can trust you.

The small things can go a long way.
I got therapy, which helped and made me mentally healthy. I can talk to family and friends. I've found fun things to do in my life to distract me.

I'm developing my skills to be able to be comfortable to talk about certain things. I can find things to make me laugh and cheer me up.

I can think positively most of the time. I'm developing my skills around avoiding personal questions. I can maturely explain it to most people, like friends.

I have been given advice and ways to cope with the pain that I've felt. I've found fun things to do in my life to distract me.

DEALING WITH GRIEVE 101

It gave me depression and anxiety. Thinking about how they died feels painful and uncomfortable.

It made me feel alone. I sometimes have emotional breakdowns in public, or when I'm alone.

Sometimes people ask me a little too much about the situation. I don't feel comfortable talking about it.

I made me feel guilty. Sometimes I have to lie about it. Sometimes I think negatively.

It gave me horrible dreams of how they died, which is the truth.
EMILY’S ESCAPE PLACES
ART: REBECCA HORNER
Barnardo’s Scotland
www.barnardos.org.uk/scotland

Child Bereavement UK
www.childbereavementuk.org

Children’s Grief Awareness Week
www.childrensgriefawarenessweek.com

Children’s Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS)
www.chas.org.uk

Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief
www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk

Richmond’s Hope: Supporting Bereaved Families Since 2003
www.richmondshope.org.uk

Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice
www.cycj.org.uk

Dundee Comics Creative Space
dundeecomicscreativespace.com
TIPS FOR PARENTS

Do you know about death and what happens?

inform them about what will happen when someone dies

Parents should tell their child about death and inform them what it just like the birds and bees, noise of life.

Tell them not to be scared. If you are religious just tell them when the dead go to heaven. Tell them where your sisters at death.

THINKING ABOUT DEATH AT NIGHT

What should you do if you wake up at night thinking about death?

-Write down your thoughts and look over them. It might ease the weight of your shoulders.

Tell someone your thoughts and maybe they can help you cope or give you advice.

EMMA’S TIPS

If you need to talk or take a time out I’m here.

You’ll be fine.

Don’t go back to class.

Why did she die?

Why were you off school?

Emma why are you crying?
DILLON HIPSON'S DRAWINGS
THINGS TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE
ORIGINAL DRAWING AND TIPS BY EMILY GUNN

The small things go a long way so even just telling someone you’re there for them and give them a hug can help so much.

2. Letting them know that you can get help... it’s ok to not be ok. Don’t let them feel embarrassed, ashamed, or guilty about being sad or depressed.

3. It’s ok to cry! Tell them it’s not bad to cry. Sometimes that’s the only thing that helps or can get your feelings and emotions out.

4. Something to help you:
   - Imagine a tunnel in front of you.
   - Imagine driving a cargo truck with loads of boxes.
   - Every day, week or month you can drop the boxes off so you can fit through to the other side of happiness, and normality. You CAN get to the other side.

SADNESS vs DARKNESS
Imagine a tunnel in front of you. You’re driving a large truck with loads of buses and crates.

Every day, week, or month, you can drop a box on the road.

You keep breaking the boxes so you can fit through to the other side, where there’s happiness and normalcy.

You can get to the other side.

Happy Town Ahead!

---

Page 2: Further Tips by Emily Gunn, Digital Sketch by Rebecca Horner

1. Ask them for help if it helps them understand that you care as much as they do.
2. Make sure they know they can trust you.
3. Talk to them about how the person that passed away is happier and things they did that.
4. Having someone—especially someone you care about—can ease all sorts of things it can bring down to where confidence and it can lower your self-esteem so much.
5. Sometimes, helping them by telling them they can get help, it’s OK.

The end.

Note: This page contains a digital sketch and a comic-style illustration by Rebecca Horner. It includes advice on dealing with the loss of a loved one and maintaining emotional health. The comic-style page features a tunnel and a truck as metaphors for the journey through grief and the search for happiness and normalcy.
Hi, I am Abbie Gunn and I am 18 years old. I was 16 when my little brother died and I have felt very alone for the majority of the past 2 years as there was never any resources for grieving teens my age and I just hope that with this comic I can help people in similar positions.

Hi, I’m Hannah Bradley, I am 16 years old and interested in drama and art. I love making videos for social media and I would like to become an actor. I also enjoy photography and creative art (making a headpiece for higher art). I lost a close relative 2 years ago to cancer and I felt confused and isolated from my friends who often did not know what to say to me. I have enjoyed working on this project and I hope that the comic book will help everyone who reads it to understand the emotions of someone who is grieving and how best to help them.

Hi. I am Emily Gunn and I am 13. Sadly my little brother died at just nine months old when I was 11. I am grateful to be part of this project in the hope that I can maybe help other young people who have also lost someone they love.

My name is Dillon Hipson I am 12 years old. I like playing football and going out with my friends. I attended Lynsey’s session at Richmond’s Hope and was asked to take part in this project and thought it would be a good idea.

My name is Steven Kerr. I am 12 years old. I love to play football with my friends. I decided to take part in the comic book project as I wanted to share my story with other kids.

I’m Emma Moore and I’m 13 years old. I love drama and music. I really enjoy musical theatre like going to see shows and volunteering to help younger people in their drama groups. I wanted to take part in this comic book project because since I lost my sister Isla I want to help other people who have lost someone special to them. I think that everyone should have access to help and support and this is a way of showing others how they can support someone suffering bereavement.

Hello, my name is Kian Taylor. I am 13 years old and I love music and theatre. Ever since I was young, I’ve always wanted to sing and act. I also love art, which is what inspired me to participate in this comic.

Hello, my name is Amy Maloy and I’ve worked at Richmond’s Hope Glasgow for 2 years. Working here allows me to meet lots of people and to be present as children and young people develop their own ways of managing their grief. One of the things that I love about my job is the fact that I am constantly reminded of how resilient and resourceful people can be, even if they don’t always realise it themselves.

Hi I am Janet O’Connor. I am a social worker with Children’s Hospices Across Scotland. It is an honour to support children and young people in my role. Supporting the young people with this project has been a truly inspirational experience for me.

I’m Lynsey Semple and I work at Richmond’s hope in Glasgow supporting bereaved Children and Young People for over 3 years. What I love about my job is building a trusting safe space with young people and seeing them manage better with what has happened to them through their support.

We would like to say a special thank you to all of the participants from Polmont, who shared their stories over two workshop sessions. Our work at Polmont would not have been possible without the support of Michelle Anderton, Youth Worker with Barnardo’s Scotland and Polmont, so many thanks to her. A very special thank you to Damon Herd and Elliot Balson, who worked as artist facilitators for the two workshop session at Polmont.
Professor Divya Jindal-Snape is Chair of Education, Inclusion and Life Transitions in the School of Education and Social Work. She is Director of the Transformative Change: Educational and Life Transitions (TCELT) Research Centre. She does research on life transitions, including the impact of life limiting conditions and bereavement.

Professor Chris Murray is Chair of Comics Studies at the School of Humanities, University of Dundee and he leads the MLitt in Comics Studies and Graphic Novels course. He is Director of the Scottish Centre for Comics Studies and Dundee Comics Creative Space, co-editor of Studies in Comics (Intellect) and UniVerse Comics, and has produced several public information comics for research and engagement purposes.

Dr Golnar Nabizadeh is Lecturer in Comics Studies at the University of Dundee. Her research focuses on comics and visual studies and particularly on representations of trauma, migration, and memory in these fields. She is the author of Representation and Memory in Graphic Novels (2019), published by Routledge.

Sally Paul is a Lecturer in the School of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Strathclyde. Previously, she worked for 10 years as a professional social worker in the statutory and voluntary sectors, both in Scotland and the USA. She is actively engaged in a number of research projects and knowledge exchange activities with specific interests in: death, dying and bereavement; loss; public health approaches to palliative care (including compassionate communities); children and young people, among others.

Dr Susan Rasmussen is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Strathclyde. Her research focusses on understanding suicide and self-harm, and the experience of being bereaved by suicide.

Nina Vaswani is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice, an independent centre hosted by the University of Strathclyde. She has worked at Glasgow City Council, helping to develop the city’s evidence-based approach to youth justice policy, practice and service development and also managing the Youth Justice Research and Development Team. Her key research interests are the experiences and impact of bereavement and loss in young people as well as the vulnerability of young men.

Mark Brown graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, then moved to London where he cut his teeth creating content across various platforms such as digital TV, games consoles, mobile phones, newspapers and magazines. He is now focussing on illustration which has always been his true passion. markbrown.online

Monica Burns is an artist at Ink Pot Studio, and a graduate of the MLitt in Comics and Graphic Novels at Dundee University. Their special interest is in adapting Scottish literature into comics, and they are currently working on James Hogg’s Confessions of a Justified Sinner. @monicaburns_art

Rebecca Horner is a cartoonist, colourist, and creative educator. She is Workshop Lead at Dundee Comics Creative Space and has done production on many books, including this one. rebeccahorner.com

Garry Mac is a writer and artist from Glasgow. Recent work includes The Sea of Paperwork with Maryhill Integration Network and ConFAB, a commission for queer times school with GoMA Glasgow, and a short film, We Were Always Here, for BBC Scotland and LUX Scotland, co-directed with Michael Richardson. He is currently a PhD Researcher at the University of Dundee.

Norrie Millar is a Scottish comics artist based in Dundee. He self-publishes his own work and is also a freelance illustrator, providing work for numerous companies and publishers. behance.net/norriemillar

Katie Quinn is an illustrator and comic book artist based in Edinburgh. Her work has been exhibited and sold around the UK and published in the likes of Counterpoint Magazine and Wilma, Ink Pot Studio’s anthology of girls’ comics. Her illustration clients include Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and Cranachan Publishing. oohkatieq.co.uk