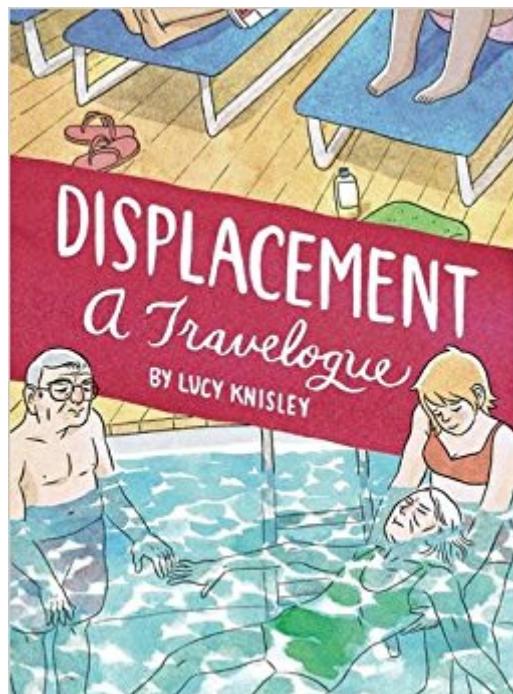


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# Displacement



## Synopsis

In the latest volume of her graphic travelogue series, New York Times-best selling cartoonist Lucy Knisley must care for her grandparents on a cruise. In her graphic memoirs, New York Times-best selling cartoonist Lucy Knisley paints a warts-and-all portrait of contemporary, twentysomething womanhood, like writer Lena Dunham (*Girls*). In the next installment of her graphic travelogue series, *Displacement*, Knisley volunteers to watch over her ailing grandparents on a cruise. (The book's watercolors evoke the ocean that surrounds them.) In a book that is part graphic memoir, part travelogue, and part family history, Knisley not only tries to connect with her grandparents, but to reconcile their younger and older selves. She is aided in her quest by her grandfather's WWII memoir, which is excerpted. Readers will identify with Knisley's frustration, her fears, her compassion, and her attempts to come to terms with mortality, as she copes with the stress of travel complicated by her grandparents' frailty. Full color

## Book Information

Paperback: 168 pages

Publisher: Fantagraphics; 1 edition (February 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1606998102

ISBN-13: 978-1606998106

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.5 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #517,168 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Senior Travel #126 in Books > Travel > Food, Lodging & Transportation > Cruises #153 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Contemporary Women

## Customer Reviews

“In this sensitive graphic memoir, Knisley finds both the humor and the sadness in her grandparents' condition while also pointing out the loneliness of being the only one responsible for caregiving and the frustration she feels for how the elderly are feared and ignored in modern America. ...*Displacement* is a timely and mature work that pairs perfectly with other elder-care titles, such as Roz Chast's *Can We Talk about Something More Pleasant?* - Snow Wildsmith, Booklist “A perfect memoir comic.” - Penn

State University Librariesâ€”“This is going alongside A Supposedly Fun Thing I’ll Never Do Again as required reading ahead of a cruise. Knisley celebrates the lives of her grandparents and grapples with her own mortality aboard the deck of a vacation cruise ship.” - Brian Heater, Tech Times

“This is the struggle of caregivers all over the world, walking the fine line to balance their own needs and those of their charges, and Knisley gracefully investigates her own emotions and the aching sense of helplessness in the face of time and age. She does it without robbing herself or her grandparents of dignity or ignoring the depth of their love for one another. It’s a must read for anyone with aging family members, perfectly capturing the sense of loneliness and helping to lessen it at the same time.” - Caitlin Rosberg, The A.V.

Club” “[Knisley’s] art is terrific and getting even better. ...[H]er craft and heart keep this volume from turning into a bummer and a disaster like her trip.” - Richard Pachter, The Miami Herald

“A cruise with your elderly grandparents is probably not the most appealing prospect for a typical 20-something. But cartoonist Lucy Knisley turns this potentially joy-sapping experience into the funny and heartfelt graphic memoir *Displacement*. | There’s a sunniness to her sarcasm, even as she faces the reality of her grandparents’ declining health.” - Nora Krug, The Washington Post

“In her fourth book, Lucy Knisley deftly conveys the frustration of managing her ailing ‘grands’ during a maritime excursion, inducing pangs of recognition in any reader who’s been around the decaying bodies and psyches of loved ones. What really sets the book apart, however, is Knisley’s sparing artwork: Her unhurried lines and gentle watercolors create a show-don’t-tell buffet of melancholy.” - Abraham Riesman, Vulture

“Knisley’s able to achieve an impressive balance between humor and poignancy, juxtaposing observations on the bizarre line-up of nighttime entertainment and the strangeness of her fellow passengers with thoughtful observations on aging and excerpts from her grandfather’s World War II journals.” - Brian Heater, Paper

“...[T]he quality that made Knisley a great storyteller — her ability to recall nuanced encounters with a blend of wit and compassion — allows her to craft a compelling and complicated account of this time spent with her grandparents. ...[A] must-read...” - Tim O’Shea, Robot 6

“Knisley has a great eye for what makes travel fun: what’s different, what’s delicious, cool museums, cute kitties, history, even the strange inconveniences.” - Gene Ambaum, Unshelved

“Knisley volunteers to chaperone her ninety-year-old grandparents on their Caribbean cruise and ends up on another transformative journey, this time headlong into her fears about aging and death. I’m a fan of her work. ... Knisley moves rapidly between love, sorrow, and worry every day of the cruise.” - Sarah

Hunt, Unshelved

“Knisley is extraordinarily talented at journal comics, with clean-line, attractive figures and a good eye for summing up moments in scattered illustrations.

The overall message, that caretaking for others is an incredibly difficult, exhausting task, should not be surprising, but Knisley’s well-selected details brings it home in sympathetic pain, fatigue, and loneliness. It’s horrific but important.

- Johanna Draper Carlson, Comics Worth Reading

“Each of Lucy Knisley’s memoirs has been stronger than the last, and *Displacement* continues that rising arc.

As Roz Chast did with her parents in *Can We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*, Knisley paints a true portrait of old age, never denying the unpleasant realities of illness and dementia but never letting her grandparents dwindle to just that. ...Knisley pays tribute to them by telling their story as well as her own.

- Brigid Alverson, *Robot 6*

“...[T]he book [transforms from] a chronicle of the humorous-in-retrospect hardships she faced into a sort of meditation on aging, of life as a whole thing incorporating past as well as present and Knisley’s family story. ... Despite the many travails she faced on her travels, it ends up being a pretty positive experience for all involved

including, of course, the reader.

- J. Caleb Mozzocco, *Robot 6*

Lucy Knisley is a cartoonist and occasional puppeteer, ukulele player, and food/travel writer living in Chicago, IL. She is a graduate of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Center for Cartoon Studies.

Knisley is one of my favorite cartoonists, and I love that her travelogues have taken off. I remember first finding French Milk in my library’s graphic novel section and wondering what it was all about. Since then, I’ve followed all her work and own all her books. I preordered this book almost a year in advance, but when it finally arrived, I wasn’t able to read it due to my grandma’s decline and sudden death. It hit too close to home, unfortunately. Today, I preordered her next book, *Something New: Tales from a Makeshift Bride*, due to be released in May. That prompted me to finally read *Displacement*. What a treat it ended up being! Lucy decides to accompany her 90-year-old grandparents on a Caribbean cruise. Getting from point A to point B is only the beginning of Lucy’s concerns, as her grandparents’ health has taken a drastic decline in the last five years. While on the ship, Lucy gets an eyeful of how difficult it can be to be a caregiver and see your loved ones’ health deteriorate. But it’s not all doom and gloom. Knisley’s grandfather is a WWII veteran and she expertly weaves in segments of

his war memoir along with memories of her grandparents when they were younger. She just keeps getting better and better! I hope she never stops drawing and writing. She takes periods of her life and creates a graphic scrapbook for the public to look in on. I wish I was that talented. Also, how amazing to create such vivid memories? If you haven't yet read any of her graphic novels, you are in for a treat!

Displacement is definitely challenging to read if you're someone who's experienced caring for older relatives in any capacity. Once you've experienced it, you just know. Lucy and her grandparents had my sympathy through the trip whilst I read this comic. My own grandparents are starting to slowly change as age settles over them and it can be very scary at points to see such vivacious people start to fade. The water colored illustrations within this book are lovely and lively in equal measure. You really get a strong feeling of people's personalities and feelings from Lucy's work. I strongly recommend this book to people who enjoy travelogues, a bit of humor and delving into mortality in a light hearted manner. For those expecting a very structured comic with panel after panel leading you into the action - you'll be disappointed. Lucy's work in Displacement is very much looser and more about highlighting stronger moments than keeping a overly structured narrative. There is definitely a strong through line of Lucy's feelings, her grandfather's story and events on the cruise, but don't expect every moment to be in traditional comic panels. Displacement is very much about leaving you with a strong feeling than a strong 'story' akin to other comics I've read.

I am a huge fan and this book was just another wonderful drop in the Lucy Knisley bucket. Bittersweet and quite sad, but that is to be attributed to the subject matter and the gravity with which she handled it. Beautiful and not sugar coated. I truly enjoyed this book and it hit home for me after losing my grandparents this year (in their 90s).

A knowledgeable reflection on cruise travel. The inter generational mix was delightful, representing the generation likes and differences. A family caring for one another as they move through time. The pictorial representation is easy on the eye and enhanced the the journey. The author Lucy Knisley did a wonderful job of letting us into the world of family cruising. A quick read and thoughtful reflection.

Subset snippets from this 20-something's enthusiastic travel adventure with her grand(parent)s weave interesting, funny, heart-warming, whimsical and tres observational bittersweetness of life

together. Wise-beyond-her-years-Lucy, rare human being. Superbly expressive both in her cartoons and often confessional concepts. Self-effacing. Self-aware. Glad a friend heard NPR author interview and shared. Will be reading more of Lucy The "K" is silent Knisley.P. S. Her alma mater needs to add her to her wikipedia entry as notable alumni. Just saying'.

Having cared for my mom during an illness that left her in a similarly dependent state, I identified so personally with this story. She captured so well the feeling of helplessness and sadness that comes with seeing your loved ones degenerate. I read Knisley's book French Milk which was very cute - but this book is so much better - so much more personal and you can really see the growth she's undergone between the two.

I read this graphic novel while on a cruise with an elderly relative. While my own experiences were much better, there was enough similarity to make me grimace while I laughed. Displacement is thoughtful, rueful, funny and heart wrenching, frequently all at once. It asks all the great questions about life and death and love and meaning, and is comfortable with a complete lack of pat answers. Lucy the heroine is spunky, temperamental and young, making me want to get to know, high five, and comfort the author simultaneously. Highly recommended.

Touching thoughts about dealing with aging. Having had a similar experience, I can relate to the experiences shared in this travelogue.

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