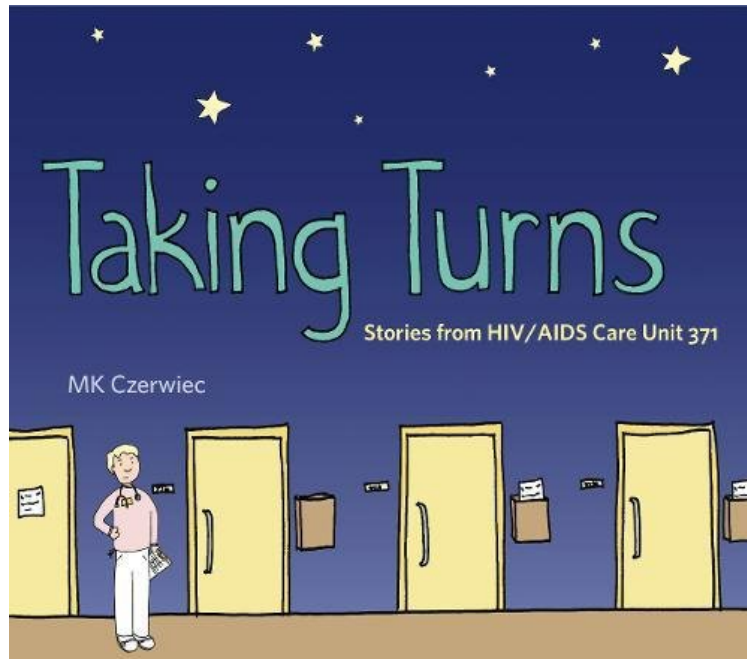


(Read ebook) Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371 (Graphic Medicine)

Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371 (Graphic Medicine)

MK Czerwiec

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MK Czerwiec : Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371 (Graphic Medicine) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371 (Graphic Medicine):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully written and extremely movingBy ALSBeautifully written and extremely moving. The story centers on a nurse's experience on an AIDS ward at the height of the AIDS epidemic. But the story reaches beyond these specific circumstances and explores how caregivers, friends, family, confront the death and dying of loved ones with a terminal diagnosis (which HIV was at that time), the different ways we grieve and how such experiences alter us forever.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant medical/nursing history - looking forward to more from this author.By Anne FawcettThis is a beautiful graphic novel about a very challenging period in history. It documents the experience of patients, doctors and nurses before the advent of effective retroviral therapy, when HIV/AIDS patients were treated like lepers. The illustrations are amazing, the oral histories documented profound. and the experience of the author - from student nurse to experienced nurse processing trauma and loss - is moving. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of medicine and nursing, anyone studying or working in medicine and nursing, and anyone interested in pathographies. I just purchased another copy for a nurse in our family, But even if you have no specific interest in the subject matter of this book, it touches on themes that relate to any human being, like loss, compassion, community, discrimination, grief, coping, self-care and hope.And if you've never read a graphic novel before, this is such a great way to learn about huge

histories and experiences. It surely must have taken years of work to put together something like this and the author deserves a rest, but I am really looking forward to seeing MK Czerwiec's other work!^{0 of 0} people found the following review helpful. I lived those amazing experiences as a volunteer on 371By Loretta S. DownsThis morning between 3:30 AM and 5:30 AM I read the book. I marked pages. I lived those amazing experiences as a volunteer on 371, and am grateful I don't have to live them again. MK tells a painful, sad story with grace and wisdom and even humor. Everyone who will take their turn with death--and that means everyone-- will benefit from the stories of the living and loving that unfolded on Unit 371. They changed my life, too. Thank you, thank you, thank you for saying so much in a few powerful drawings.

In 1994, at the height of the AIDS epidemic in the United States, MK Czerwiec took her first nursing job, at Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago, as part of the caregiving staff of HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371. *Taking Turns* pulls back the curtain on life in the ward. A shining example of excellence in the treatment and care of patients, Unit 371 was a community for thousands of patients and families affected by HIV and AIDS and the people who cared for them. This graphic novel combines Czerwiec's memories with the oral histories of patients, family members, and staff. It depicts life and death in the ward, the ways the unit affected and informed those who passed through it, and how many look back on their time there today. Czerwiec joined Unit 371 at a pivotal time in the history of AIDS: deaths from the syndrome in the Midwest peaked in 1995 and then dropped drastically in the following years, with the release of antiretroviral protease inhibitors. This positive turn of events led to a decline in patient populations and, ultimately, to the closure of Unit 371. Czerwiec's restrained, inviting drawing style and carefully considered narrative examine individual, institutional, and community responses to the AIDS epidemic—as well as the role that art can play in the grieving process. Deeply personal yet made up of many voices, this history of daily life in a unique AIDS care unit is an open, honest look at suffering, grief, and hope among a community of medical professionals and patients at the heart of the epidemic.

“MK Czerwiec's tales of her nursing work on an AIDS unit chart a remarkable episode in the history of medicine. It's a time of staggering loss but also remarkable change. Through the lives and deaths of individual patients, written and drawn in documentary detail, we see the power dynamic between doctor and patient begin to shift. When cure is not an option, care takes on a new meaning.”—Alison Bechdel, author of *Fun Home* “*Taking Turns* is an important work that takes the field of graphic medicine in new directions, both in terms of its object—the philosophy and practices of a clinical unit dedicated to the care of people with AIDS in a particular place and historical moment—and its approach—drawing on the comic artist's own experience as a nurse on the unit as well as her interviews with other practitioners and patients.”—Lisa Diedrich, author of *Indirect Action: Schizophrenia, Epilepsy, AIDS, and the Course of Health Activism* “*Taking Turns* bears important witness to a specific moment in the history of HIV/AIDS through the testimony of caregivers, patients, and volunteers. MK Czerwiec's story also issues a gracious challenge: knowing that we all live in vulnerable bodies, knowing that we will all ‘take turns’ needing others and being needed, how can we make this one life we have meaningful? This luminous graphic novel models how we can start: through creativity, community, generosity, and vulnerability.”—Ann Fox, Davidson College “The emotional honesty of the comic book is quintessential to the visceral experience of *Taking Turns*—funny, terrifying and heartbreaking. As much as it informs the reader about the devastation of HIV/AIDS, the book allows the reader to see the disease through the eyes of a person who is literally on the front lines.”—Gretchen Rachel Hammond, *Windy City Times* “[Czerwiec's] chronicle reminds us that the era was marked as much by courage and compassion as it was by the tragedy of lives lost too soon.”—Gordon Flagg, *Booklist* “For health care providers, the years that followed [the first official reporting of what would become the AIDS epidemic] were a time of tremendous loss, requiring a new type of caregiving in the face of a disease with no cure. MK Czerwiec, a nurse and the artist-in-residence at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, captures this tragic time with great reverence and attention to detail.”—Jessica Bylander, *Health Affairs* “*Taking Turns* chronicles [Czerwiec's] experiences on the evening shift at Unit 371 with patients and other caregivers, often told through voices other than her own, some of the stories funny, some very touching, especially the stories about patients with whom she became close before they died.”—Hank Trout, *AU Magazine: America's AIDS Magazine* “The author's deft handling of the multiplicity of relationships involved in patient care is the strength of the book, and they are all represented throughout the narrative. Czerwiec does an excellent job of showing how Unit 371's commitment to care facilitated a depth of intimacy between provider and patient not often found in today's productivity-driven medical care.”—Dr. Devlyn McCreight, *Graphic Medicine* “Among the takeaways one has after reading MK Czerwiec's graphic novel *Taking Turns* is that even in the form of sequential art, the story of the early days of the HIV epidemic is a visceral and heart wrenching experience.”—Savas Abadsidis, *Advocate / HIV Plus* About the Author MK Czerwiec is a nurse who uses comics to contemplate the complexities of illness and caregiving. She is the artist-in-residence at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, co-curator of *GraphicMedicine.org*, and co-author of *Graphic Medicine Manifesto* (Penn State, 2015).