

Author and artist Cece Bell tells a charming and powerful story of her childhood hearing loss. Here we see how she imagines herself as a classroom hero—with her hearing device strapped to her chest.

From **El Deafo**

Cece Bell, 2014

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Front Cover from Marbles: Mania,

Courtesy Ellen Forney

Depression, Michelangelo, and Me Ellen Forney, 2012



The National Library of Medicine produced this exhibition.

Guest curator: Ellen Forney Designer: HealyKohler Design



ILL-CONCEIVED & WELL-DRAWN!

Graphic medicine is the use of comics to tell stories of illness and health.

Graphic medicine communicates the author's experience of illness and health and the art work adds subjective, emotional impact.

> For other patients who share that health issue, it's a way to have company and share information.

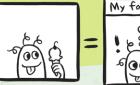
Comics combine the explicit meaning of words ····

My favorite!

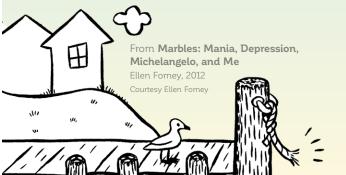
and symbols

...with the abstract expressiveness of art

·to create the unique, multi-layered language of comics.









But what about the issue we do not talk about enough: How the reality of being a black woman in America can wear away at even the most privileged of us?

A few months ago, amid struggling with my own anxiety, I learned of three well-known black women who died by suicide in the past year.



Titi Branch Co-Founder of natural hair care line Miss Jessie's



Karyn Washington Blogger, forbrowngirls.com



Simone Battle Singer/performer, X-Factor



Marchetto, 2006 Courtesy Marisa Acocella Marchetto and Penguin

Cancer Vixen

Marisa Acocella

THERE IS AN ABNORMALITY



From "The Myth of the Strong Black Woman" The Nib, Whitney Taylor, March 8, 2015 Courtesy Whitney Taylor



The Bad Doctor: The **Troubled Life and Times** of Dr. Iwan James

Ian Williams, 2015



Brian Fies, 2006

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