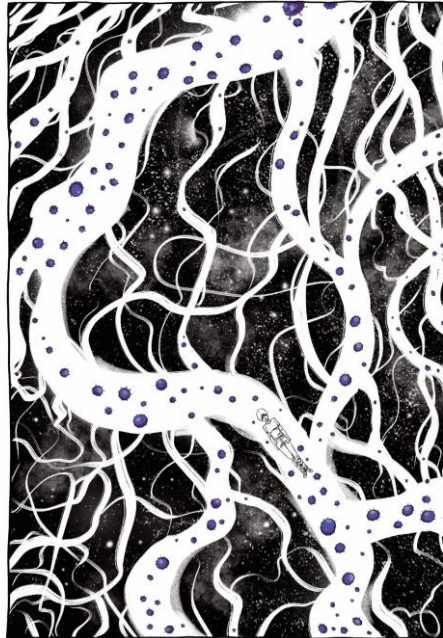
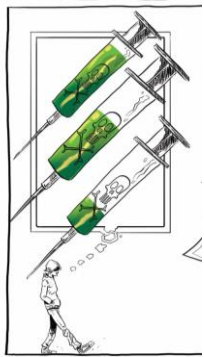


"But a spoon is not
equipment":
Risk Behaviour and
Knowledge Seeking
Among HCV-infected
PWID

Aleksandra Bartoszko



"But we never shared
equipment!"



“Don't share needles!”
“We were terrified”
“You knew you could die of HIV”



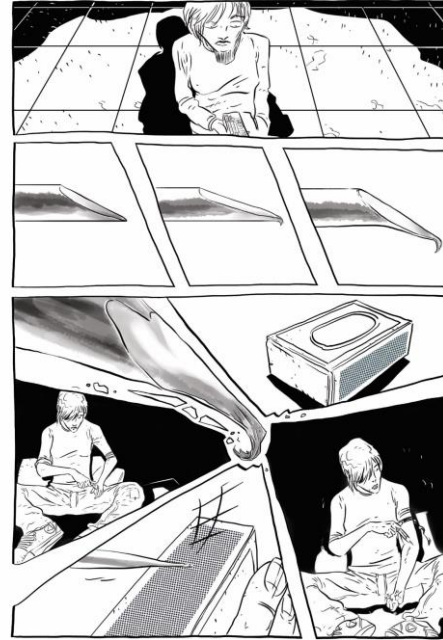
“Everybody was really scared
and careful”
“We had our own needles”

“We said no”



"I used the needle bus a lot"

"We DID NOT share"



"I recycled a lot"

"We did strange things to avoid HIV. To not share needles."

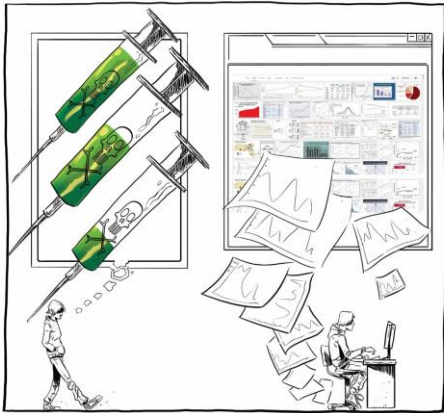


“Nobody had HIV and I had the best veins so I was the last one [to use the needle]”



“I took loads of HIV tests. Everybody was talking about HIV. But nobody took hepatitis C test”

“Nobody talked about hepatitis C”

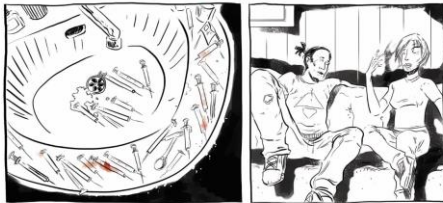


“We sat and shot up together. And you put the glass of water at the table. So everybody could get some. But needles... nope, we didn't share”

“I'm not sure if people still share water”



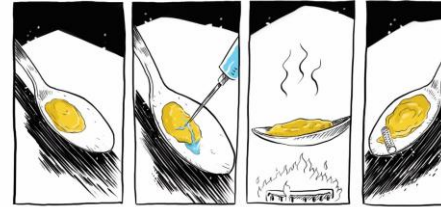
"I was very careful to have my own stash. I just thought eh, big deal. I'll just wash it"



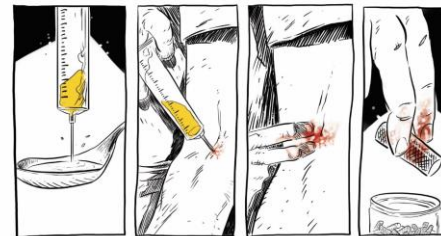
"But then we had all this spare equipment around the sink. You know, needles, syringes, blood..."



"Anything could happen"



"Think about the cotton pads... Dope. Dope in the spoon. Needle in the dope. Blood. Wipe blood. Take the pad. Put it in a container. Saving for a rainy day."





“You are sitting there, got your dope, just want to get better... you don't give a shit [if you get infected]”

“In the heat of the moment. Everything can happen [right before you shoot up]. Very physical thing. Expectations, longing, joy, peace of soul and salvation. And a bitter sweet sensation. Knowledge slips slightly in such situations. For those who have it [the knowledge].”



“We had no idea, no knowledge, nada.”

“It crept inside us through the pads, the cooker, the water...”

“I never thought of spoons as equipment. Not at all.”