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# Reconstructing Illness Studies In Pathography

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Chronic Illness, Spirituality, and Healing  
A History of English Autobiography  
My Breast  
Illness and Culture in the Postmodern Age  
Mending Bodies, Saving Souls  
Recovering Bodies  
The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine  
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The Shaking Woman or A History of My Nerves  
Reconstructing Illness  
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**ERICK CLINTON**

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**Chronic Illness,  
Spirituality, and  
Healing** Univ of

Wisconsin Press  
Updated second  
edition: "A bold and  
imaginative book which  
moves our thinking  
about narratives of  
illness in new

directions.” —Sociology of Heath and Illness  
Since it was first published in 1995, *The Wounded Storyteller* has occupied a unique place in the body of work on illness. A collective portrait of a so-called “remission society” of those who suffer from illness or disability, as well as a cogent analysis of their stories within a larger framework of narrative theory, Arthur W. Frank’s book has reached a large and diverse readership including the ill, medical professionals, and scholars of literary theory. Drawing on the work of such authors as Oliver Sacks, Anatole Broyard, Norman Cousins, and Audre Lorde, as well as from people he met during the years he spent among different

illness groups, Frank recounts a stirring collection of illness stories, ranging from the well-known—Gilda Radner’s battle with ovarian cancer—to the private testimonials of people with cancer, chronic fatigue syndrome, and disabilities. Their stories are more than accounts of personal suffering: They abound with moral choices and point to a social ethic. In this new edition Frank adds a preface describing the personal and cultural times when the first edition was written. His new afterword extends the book’s argument significantly, discussing storytelling and experience, other modes of illness narration, and a version of hope that is both realistic and

aspirational. Reflecting on his own life during the creation of the first edition and the conclusions of the book itself, he reminds us of the power of storytelling as way to understand our own suffering. "Arthur W. Frank's second edition of *The Wounded Storyteller* provides instructions for use of this now-classic text in the study of illness narratives." —Rita Charon, author of *Narrative Medicine*

"Frank sees the value of illness narratives not so much in solving clinical conundrums as in addressing the question of how to live a good life."

—Christianity Today

*A History of English Autobiography* Vernon Press

For many doctors, their role as powerful healer

precludes thoughts of ever getting sick themselves. When they do, it initiates a profound shift of awareness-- not only in their sense of their selves, which is invariably bound up with the "invincible doctor" role, but in the way that they view their patients and the doctor-patient relationship. While some books have been written from first-person perspectives on doctors who get sick-- by Oliver Sacks among them-- and TV shows like "House" touch on the topic, never has there been a "systematic, integrated look" at what the experience is like for doctors who get sick, and what it can teach us about our current health care system and more broadly, the

experience of becoming ill. The psychiatrist Robert Klitzman here weaves together gripping first-person accounts of the experience of doctors who fall ill and see the other side of the coin, as a patient. The accounts reveal how dramatic this transformation can be-- a spiritual journey for some, a radical change of identity for others, and for some a new way of looking at the risks and benefits of treatment options. For most however it forever changes the way they treat their own patients. These questions are important not just on a human interest level, but for what they teach us about medicine in America today. While medical technology advances, the health

care system itself has become more complex and frustrating, and physician-patient trust is at an all-time low. The experiences offered here are unique resource that point the way to a more humane future.

### **My Breast**

Bloomsbury Publishing  
Fusing the disciplines of health care, spiritual care, and social services, this book examines the relationship between chronic illness and spirituality.

Contributors include professionals working in traditional, holistic and integrative clinical settings, as well as religious studies scholars and spiritual practitioners.

Illness and Culture in the Postmodern Age

Routledge

On April 13, 1992, New

York magazine published Joyce Wadler's cover story, "My Breast". During the next 48 hours, an entire city responded to Wadler's courage in confronting her fear of breast cancer. This book is the expanded, full-length version of Joyce Wadler's story. (Addison Wesley)

*Mending Bodies, Saving Souls* CRC Press

Preceded by Textbook of family medicine / Ian R. McWhinney, Thomas Freeman. 3rd edition. 2009.

*Recovering Bodies*

Springer

Focuses on a shift away from traditional clinical preoccupations towards new priorities of supporting the patient.

**The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine** Henry Holt and Company

Serious illness and mortality, those most universal, unavoidable, and frightening of human experiences, are the focus of this pioneering study which has been hailed as a telling and provocative commentary on our times. As modern medicine has become more scientific and dispassionate, a new literary genre has emerged: pathography, the personal narrative concerning illness, treatment, and sometimes death.

Hawkins's sensitive reading of numerous pathographies highlights the assumptions, attitudes, and myths that people bring to the medical encounter. One factor emerges again and again in these case studies: the tendency in contemporary

medical practice to focus primarily not on the needs of the individual who is sick but on the condition that we call disease. Pathography allows the individual person a voice—one that asserts the importance of the experiential side of illness, and thus restores the feeling, thinking, experiencing human being to the center of the medical enterprise. Recommended for medical practitioners, the clergy, caregivers, students of popular culture, and the general reader, *Reconstructing Illness* demonstrates that only when we hear both the doctor's and the patient's voice will we have a medicine that is truly human.

**When Doctors  
Become Patients**

Routledge  
Many of the well-respected scholarly studies of autobiographical writing have little or nothing to say about mental illness. This book uncovers the mysterious relationship between mood disorders and creativity through the lives of seven writers, demonstrating how mental illness is sometimes the driving force behind creativity. **Mad Muse** Oxford University Press  
In this unique neurological memoir Siri Hustvedt attempts to solve her own mysterious condition. While speaking at a memorial event for her father in 2006, Siri Hustvedt suffered a violent seizure from the neck down. Despite her flapping arms and

shaking legs, she continued to speak clearly and was able to finish her speech. It was as if she had suddenly become two people: a calm orator and a shuddering wreck. Then the seizures happened again and again. The *Shaking Woman or A History of My Nerves* tracks Hustvedt's search for a diagnosis, one that takes her inside the thought processes of several scientific disciplines, each one of which offers a distinct perspective on her paroxysms but no ready solution. In the process, she finds herself entangled in fundamental questions: What is the relationship between brain and mind? How do we remember? What is the self?

During her investigations, Hustvedt joins a discussion group in which neurologists, psychiatrists, psychoanalysts, and brain scientists trade ideas to develop a new field: neuropsychanalysis. She volunteers as a writing teacher for psychiatric in-patients at the Payne Whitney clinic in New York City and unearths precedents in medical history that illuminate the origins of and shifts in our theories about the mind-body problem. In *The Shaking Woman*, Hustvedt synthesizes her experience and research into a compelling mystery: Who is the shaking woman? In the end, the story she tells becomes, in the words



of George Makari, author of *Revolution in Mind*, "a brilliant illumination for us all."

**Self-Narratives**

Thorndike Striving  
Reader

Framed by Wayson Choy's two brushes with death, *Not Yet* is an intimate and insightful study of one man's reasons for living. In 2001, Wayson Choy suffered a combined asthma-heart attack. As he lay in his hospital bed, slipping in and out of consciousness, his days punctuated by the beeps of the machines that were keeping him alive, Choy heard the voices of his ancestors warning him that without a wife, he would one day die alone. And yet through his ordeal Choy was never alone; men and

women, young and old, from all cultures and ethnicities, stayed by Choy's side until he was well. When his heart failed him a second time, four years later, it was the strength of his bonds with these people, forged through countless acts of kindness, that pulled Choy back to his life. *Not Yet* is a passionate, sensitive, and beautiful exploration of the importance of family, which in Choy's case is constituted not through blood but through love. It is also a quiet manifesto for embracing life, not blind to our mortality, but knowing how lucky we are for each day that comes.

*Claire's Head*

Ballantine Books

This sensitive and imaginative study

explores the phenomenon of conversion in three major religious autobiographies: the Confessions of Saint Augustine, Grace Abounding by John Bunyan, and Thomas Merton's *The Seven Storey Mountain*. These three religious figures could hardly be more different, and yet, as Hawkins shows, their conversion narratives are remarkably similar in patterns of theme, figure, and action. This archetypal approach is particularly appropriate to spiritual autobiography, which is less concerned with "self" than with "soul" and which seeks to relate the individual to a divine reality that is universal and timeless. Hawkins' approach to these texts is sophisticated, yet free

of jargon and doctrinaire psychologizing. Here, archetypal analysis becomes not an end in itself, but also a means to investigate the complexity of the individual text. Hawkins' archetypal analysis serves not only to discern continuities, but also to explore cultural, ideological, and psychological variations. Adapting William James's distinction between crisis and lysis conversion, Hawkins shows that the conversion paradigm central to each autobiography determines its religious meaning, its formal structure, and its archetypal emphases. The author approaches the phenomena of conversion with a

blend of critical detachment and imaginative sympathy. She is always careful to honor the authenticity of religious experience, and for this reason her commentary succeeds in illuminating it. The result is an interdisciplinary study that will appeal to the psychologist and literary critic as well as the student of religion. But these narratives of conversion offer paradigms that apply to any deeply significant change, for they are of interest and concern to all readers seeking to find meaning in their lives. Hawkins makes us feel both the immediacy and the permanence of these texts, for "What is human in them speaks to what is human in us."

*The Portrait of an Artist*

*as a Pathographer: On Writing Illnesses and Illnesses in Writing*  
Cambridge Scholars Publishing

This is a provocative look at writing by and about people with illness or disability—in particular HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, deafness, and paralysis—who challenge the stigmas attached to their conditions by telling their lives in their own ways and on their own terms. Discussing memoirs, diaries, collaborative narratives, photo documentaries, essays, and other forms of life writing, G. Thomas Couser shows that these books are not primarily records of medical conditions; they are a means for individuals to recover their bodies (or those

of loved ones) from marginalization and impersonal medical discourse. Responding to the recent growth of illness and disability narratives in the United States—such works as Juliet Wittman’s *Breast Cancer Journal*, John Hockenberry’s *Moving Violations*, Paul Monette’s *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir*, and Lou Ann Walker’s *A Loss for Words: The Story of Deafness in a Family*—Couser addresses questions of both poetics and politics. He examines why and under what circumstances individuals choose to write about illness or disability; what role plot plays in such narratives; how and whether closure is achieved; who assumes the prerogative of

narration; which conditions are most often represented; and which literary conventions lend themselves to representing particular conditions. By tracing the development of new subgenres of personal narrative in our time, this book explores how explicit consideration of illness and disability has enriched the repertoire of life writing. In addition, Couser’s discussion of medical discourse joins the current debate about whether the biomedical model is entirely conducive to humane care for ill and disabled people. With its sympathetic critique of the testimony of those most affected by these conditions, *Recovering Bodies* contributes to an understanding of

the relations among bodily dysfunction, cultural conventions, and identity in contemporary America.

Bed Number Ten

University of Chicago Press

Large Print ♦s

increased font size and wider line spacing maximizes reading legibility, and has been proven to advance comprehension, improve fluency, reduce eye fatigue, and boost engagement in young readers of all abilities, especially struggling, reluctant, and striving readers.

*Healers* Oxford

University Press

Playwright, author and activist Eve Ensler has devoted her life to the female body—how to talk about it, how to protect and value it. Yet she spent much of her life disassociated

from her own body—a disconnection brought on by her father's sexual abuse and her mother's remoteness. "Because I did not, could not, inhabit my body or the Earth," she writes, "I could not feel or know their pain." But Ensler is shocked out of her distance. While working in the Congo, she is shattered to encounter the horrific rape and violence inflicted on the women there. Soon after, she is diagnosed with uterine cancer and, through months of harrowing treatment, she is forced to become first and foremost a body—pricked, punctured, cut, scanned. It is then that all distance is erased. As she connects her own illness to the devastation of the

Earth, her life force to the resilience of humanity, she is finally, fully—and gratefully—joined to the body of the world. Unflinching, generous and inspiring, Ensler calls on us all to embody our connection to and responsibility for the world.

*The Wounded Storyteller* Guilford Press

We become ill in ways our parents and grandparents did not, with diseases unheard of and treatments undreamed of by them. Illness has changed in the postmodern era—roughly the period since World War II—as dramatically as technology, transportation, and the texture of everyday life. Exploring these changes, David B. Morris tells the

fascinating story, or stories, of what goes into making the postmodern experience of illness different, perhaps unique. Even as he decries the overuse and misuse of the term "postmodern," Morris shows how brightly ideas of illness, health, and postmodernism illuminate one another in late-twentieth-century culture. Modern medicine traditionally separates disease—an objectively verified disorder—from illness—a patient's subjective experience. Postmodern medicine, Morris says, can make no such clean distinction; instead, it demands a biocultural model, situating illness at the crossroads of biology and culture. Maladies such as chronic fatigue

syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder signal our awareness that there are biocultural ways of being sick. The biocultural vision of illness not only blurs old boundaries but also offers a new and infinitely promising arena for investigating both biology and culture. In many ways *Illness and Culture in the Postmodern Age* leads us to understand our experience of the world differently.

*McWhinney's Textbook of Family Medicine*  
BRILL

The book tackles the challenging theme of death as seen through the lens of literature and its connections with history, the visual arts, anthropology, philosophy and other fields in humanities. It searches for answers

to three questions: what can we know about death; how is death socialised; and how and for which purposes is death aesthetically shaped? Unlike many other publications, the volume does not endorse the fallacy of over-simplifying death by seeing it either in an exclusively positive light or by reducing it to a purely literary figure. Using literature's potential to stimulate critical thinking, many contemporary stereotypical configurations of death and dying are debunked, and many hitherto unforeseen ways in which death functions as a complex trigger of meaning-making are revealed. The book proves that death is an

inexhaustible source of meanings which should be understood as peremptorily plural, discontinuous, problematic, competitive, and often conflictual. It offers original contributions to the field of death studies and also to literary and cultural studies.

*The Shaking Woman or A History of My Nerves*  
Oxford University Press  
This ground-breaking study examines visual and literary responses to, and representations of, illness, dying and death from the perspective of the chronically ill, their families and carers, medics, artists, photographers, authors, and academics. It encourages a re-examination of cultural taboos and visual and

literary practices that engage with illness and death. Focusing upon a wide range of creative and critical engagements, this book makes a significant contribution to the medical humanities via its exploration of medical practice, literature and film, digital media studies, graphic design, and both contemporary and historical attitudes towards illness, death (including infant mortality), mourning and bereavement. For some, the experience of illness provokes feelings of exile, crisis or social critique, whilst for others it instigates utopian discourses predicated upon personal reflection, communication or connectivity, wherein the “self” is redefined



beyond the parameters and constraints of the “body”.

Reconstructing Illness  
Cambridge University Press

Since the previous edition of Ian McWhinney's text was published in 1989, family medicine has assumed an increasingly important role in the modern health care system. The growth of managed care in The United States and of similar movements in other countries has made it more important than ever to define and conceptualize the discipline and to synthesize its body of knowledge and skills. The author brings to this task a lifetime's experience in family practice and academic family medicine. The

first edition was widely acclaimed for its originality, depth of analysis, and elegant style. The book has now been extensively revised, while retaining its original structure. The first ten chapters are devoted, as before, to a conceptualization and description of the field. Much new material has been added on the patient-centered clinical method, illness narratives, the biological basis of family medicine, health promotion, the concept of risk, and the contribution of evidence-based medicine. Chapter 9 now includes an authoritative review of evidence-based preventive strategies. The five clinical chapters exemplify the application of basic

principles in practice. These have all been updated with the results of new research. The chapters on the practice of family medicine cover such topics as home care, records and practiced management. The revisions of these reflect many changes that have occurred since the first edition. A new chapter on alternative (complementary) medicine fills the need for reliable information on this topic. The book has been designed to be read as a whole, with fundamental ideas forming a continuous

thread which runs through all its sections.

**Death within the Text** Routledge

This book offers accounts of scholarly interdisciplinary practices and perspectives that examine and discuss the positive potential of attending to the voices and stories of those who live and work with illness in real world settings.

Edinburgh Companion to the Critical Medical Humanities Emerald Group Publishing

This History explores the genealogy of autobiographical writing in England from the medieval period to the digital era.

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