



Narrative Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness

By Rita Charon

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Narrative medicine has emerged in response to a commodified health care system that places corporate and bureaucratic concerns over the needs of the patient. Generated from a confluence of sources including humanities and medicine, primary care medicine, narratology, and the study of doctor-patient relationships, narrative medicine is medicine practiced with the competence to recognize, absorb, interpret, and be moved by the stories of illness. By placing events in temporal order, with beginnings, middles, and ends, and by establishing connections among things using metaphor and figural language, narrative medicine helps doctors to recognize patients and diseases, convey knowledge, accompany patients through the ordeals of illness--and according to Rita Charon, can ultimately lead to more humane, ethical, and effective health care. Trained in medicine and in literary studies, Rita Charon is a pioneer of and authority on the emerging field of narrative medicine. In this important and long-awaited book she provides a comprehensive and systematic introduction to the conceptual principles underlying narrative medicine, as well as a practical guide for implementing narrative methods in health care. A true milestone in the field, it will interest general readers, and experts in medicine and humanities, and literary theory.

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Narrative Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness By Rita Charon Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #77689 in Books
- Published on: 2008-01-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.10" h x .80" w x 9.20" l, .91 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"*Narrative Medicine* is practical enough to be beneficial to the clinician, yet sufficiently theoretical to serve as a seminal text in the field. Even master clinicians can gain from the knowledge and skills presented here. Charon has written an inspired and inspiring book; and, in her stories of patients and students, she is a role model for us all."--*Perspectives*

"This is a great book...Well done."--*Doody's, a 5 star review*

"Rita Charon addresses such issues in her most-welcome book, *Narrative Medicine: Honoring Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness*, a "primer," as she calls it, for the emergent field of "narrative medicine" that she has helped define. The book combines theory-drawn from literary studies, philosophy, anthropology, psychotherapy- and rich narratives from her own patients' and students' lives. It is a compelling mix, backed by the unusual authority of a physician who is also a literary scholar."--*Perspectives*

"A compelling mix, backed by the unusual authority of a physician who is also a literary scholar."--*Lancet*

About the Author

Rita Charon is at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lila Dixon:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As we know that book is very important for us. The book *Narrative Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness* has been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The publication *Narrative Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness* is not only giving you far more new information but also to be your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship using the book *Narrative Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness*. You never experience lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Sandra Gregory:

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Vanessa Gibson:

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