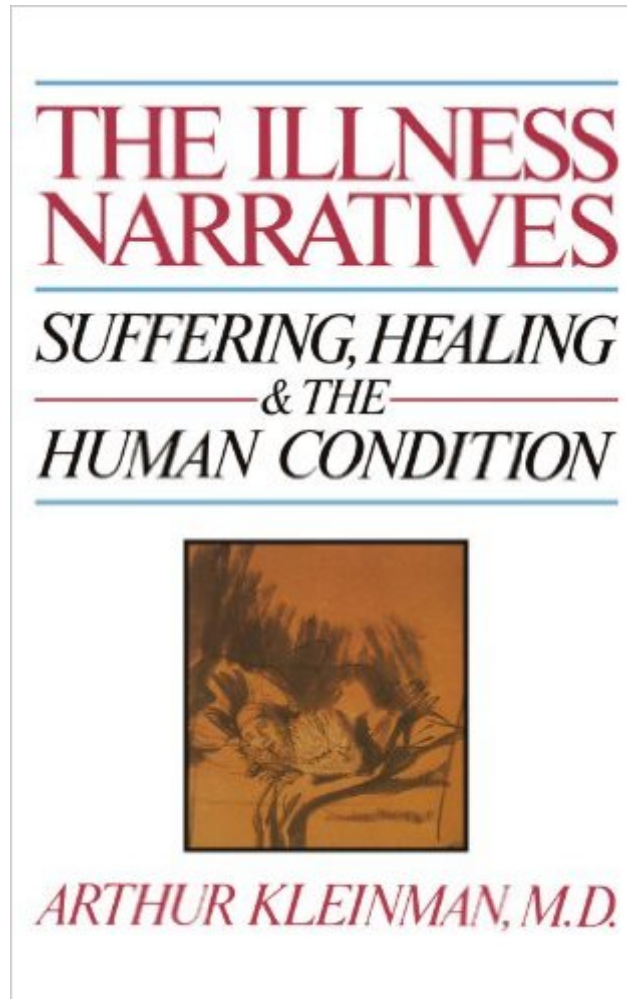


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# The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing, And The Human Condition



## Synopsis

Based on twenty years of clinical experience studying and treating chronic illness, a Harvard psychiatrist and anthropologist argues that diagnosing illness is an art tragically neglected by modern medical training, and presents a compelling case for bridging the gap between patient and doctor.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have been a physician for the past three decades and have taught physicians in training for the last ten years. Although written in 1986, Kleinman remains applicable to the present time. I suppose this is not terribly surprising--Kleinman's approach to the patient is essentially humanistic. He understands the patient narrative as an integral whole along with his environmental, familial, social, and economic milieu. This approach transcends the "industrial medicine" approach taught in medical schools and residency programs today wherein patient care has been reduced to shift-work and patients are regarded more as "inputs" rather than human beings. I wish I had read this book 30 years ago. I hope more physician training programs will require it.

Harvard professor Arthur Kleinman has prepared and presented an excellent collection of case studies and analysis on the topic of suffering and dealing with chronic pain. This book is perfect for a physician who is trying to understand his patients or a patient who is trying to deal with a life of pain. Either way the book is a fascinating study of how to live life.

I found this book to be too academic and abstract for the general reader. I kept thinking, What are you trying to say? I think the author may be sympathetic to patients and be arguing for improvements in medical care but it isn't clear exactly what he means. Academics tend to have their own language. Good books and other information on health care can be found here: [mwir-improvinghealth.blogspot.com/](http://mwir-improvinghealth.blogspot.com/)Midwest Independent Research

Highly recommended for health care and social workers or those interested in going into health care or social work. Really nice read. Another great piece of writing by Kleinman

It is a must read for all health care givers!

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