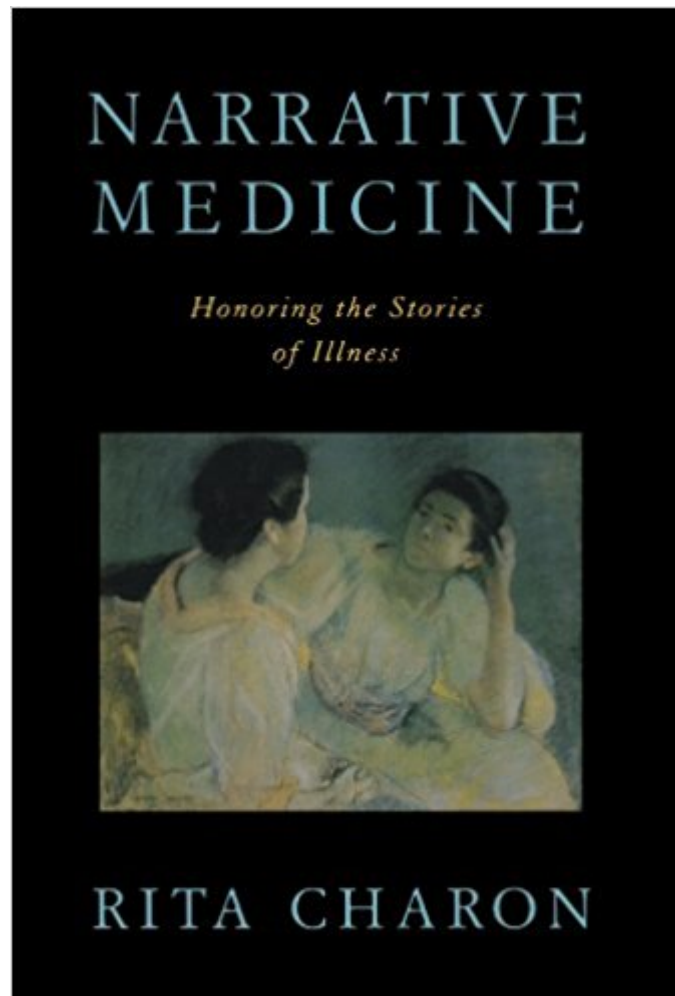




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# Narrative Medicine: Honoring The Stories Of Illness



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"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

Rita Charon is at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I picked up this book because I'm interested in using stories to change the way that people with chronic illness look at themselves and their situation based on story. I had also seen a very inspiring TED talk by Rita a few months ago. While the content in this book is brilliant, however I found it difficult to read. The author uses a lot of language that I'm just not familiar with, so I stopped reading it after a few dozen pages. That said, if you're a medical practitioner, you'll probably love it.

It was the book for my Spanish Medical Narration class. This is a good read to better understand how to treat patients through this author Dr. Rita Charon.

The first chapters I thought that this was a very theoretical book which only upheld the dichotomy between qualitative and quantitative thought. But then she started describing how narrative medicine can be done in practice, and it was very inspiring. Will try this when I start my internship in 2 weeks.

A textbook for my most recent course. Very deep and detailed.

First rate! The stories illustrate the power of personal experience to teach health care providers about the importance of seeing the whole person, and to help each of us understand the impact of illness on our very beings.

Dr. Charon's perception of how medicine should be practiced should be read by everyone involved

in health care delivery. I particularly recommend it to medical students and young doctors

Boring

Found it very dense and not terribly reader-friendly. Despite finishing medical school this year, I couldn't make it more than 2 paragraphs at a time before needing a break.

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