

Welcome My Country Lauren Slater

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Disability and/in Prose
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lauren slater a brilliant writer who is a young therapist takes us on a mesmerizing personal and professional journey in this remarkable memoir about her work with mental and emotional illness the territory of the mind and of madness can seem a foreign even frightening place until you read welcome to my country writing in a powerful and original voice lauren slater closes the distance between us and them transporting us into the country of lenny moxi oscar and marie she lets us watch as she interacts with and strives to understand patients suffering from mental and emotional distress the schizophrenic the depressed the suicidal as the young psychologist responds to reflects on and re creates her interactions with the inner realities of the dispossessed she moves us to a deeper understanding of the complexities of the human mind and spirit and then in a stunning final chapter the psychologist confronts herself when she is asked to treat a young woman bulimic and suicidal who is on the same ward where slater herself was once such a patient like an unquiet mind listening to prozac and girl interrupted welcome to my country is a beautifully written captivating and revealing book an unusual personal and professional memoir that brings us closer to understanding ourselves one another and the human condition

for more than half a century thomas szasz has devoted much of his career to a radical critique of psychiatry his latest work psychiatry the science of lies is a culmination of his life s work to portray the integral role of deception in the history and practice of psychiatry szasz argues that the diagnosis and treatment of

mental illness stands in the same relationship to the diagnosis and treatment of bodily illness that the forgery of a painting does to the original masterpiece art historians and the legal system seek to distinguish forgeries from originals those concerned with medicine on the other hand physicians patients politicians health insurance providers and legal professionals take the opposite stance when faced with the challenge of distinguishing everyday problems in living from bodily diseases systematically authenticating nondiseases as diseases the boundary between disease and nondisease genuine and imitation truth and falsehood thus becomes arbitrary and uncertain there is neither glory nor profit in correctly demarcating what counts as medical illness and medical healing from what does not individuals and families wishing to protect themselves from medically and politically authenticated charlatany are left to their own intellectual and moral resources to make critical decisions about human dilemmas miscategorized as mental diseases and about medicalized responses misidentified as psychiatric treatments delivering his sophisticated analysis in lucid prose and with a sharp wit szasz continues to engage and challenge readers of all backgrounds

unfitting stories narrative approaches to disease disability and trauma illustrates how stories about ill health and suffering have been produced and received from a variety of perspectives bringing together the work of canadian researchers health professionals and people with lived experiences of disease disability or trauma it addresses central issues about authority in medical and personal narratives and the value of cross or interdisciplinary research in understanding such experiences the book considers the aesthetic dimensions of health related stories with literary readings that look at how personal accounts of disease disability and trauma are crafted by writers and filmmakers into published works topics range from psychiatric hospitalization and aestheticizing cancer to father daughter incest in film the collection also deals with the therapeutic or transformative effect of stories with essays about men sport and spinal cord injury narrative teaching at l arche a faith based network of communities inclusive of people with developmental disabilities and the construction of a schizophrenic identity a final section examines the polemical functions of narrative directing attention to the professional and political contexts within which stories are constructed and exchanged topics include ableist limits on self narration drug addiction and the disease model and narratives of trauma and aboriginal post secondary students unfitting stories is essential reading for researchers using narrative methods or materials for teachers students and professionals working in the field of health services and for concerned consumers of the health care system it deals with practical problems relevant to policy makers as well as theoretical issues of interest to specialists in bioethics gender analysis and narrative theory read the chapter social trauma and serial autobiography healing and beyond by bina freiwald on the concordia university library spectrum research repository website

through a series of critical essays this book concerns the relationships and possibilities in and between prose and disability it covers a diverse range from the role of the disability memoir the effect of disablement on soldiers phantom limb syndrome and the suspicion of faking it that sometimes surrounds

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

an account of the emergence of creative nonfiction written by the godfather of the genre when gutkind stops to look back on his own evolving perspective and reflects upon his writing career the choices he made he puts himself and us right back in the moment and the results are vivid ambiguous emotionally resonant fascinating lucas mann washington post in the 1970s lee gutkind a leather clad hippie motorcyclist and former public relations writer fought his way into the academy then he took on his colleagues his goal to make creative nonfiction an accepted academic discipline one as vital as poetry drama and fiction in this book gutkind tells the true story of how creative nonfiction became a leading genre for both readers and writers creative nonfiction true stories enriched by relevant ideas insights and intimacies offered liberation to writers allowing them to push their work in freewheeling directions the genre also opened doors to outsiders doctors lawyers construction workers who felt they had stories to tell about their lives and experiences gutkind documents the evolution of the genre discussing the lives and work of such practitioners as joan didion tom wolfe norman mailer james baldwin zora neale hurston rachel carson orton sinclair janet malcolm and vivian gornick gutkind also highlights the ethics of writing creative nonfiction including how writers handle the distinctions between fact and fiction gutkind's book narrates the story not just of a genre but of the person who brought it to the forefront of the literary and journalistic world

the literature of reality also known as creative nonfiction is the fastest growing literary genre in the country today expressed in the form of essays memoirs articles documentary drama literary journalism and narrative history it dramatizes the truth as accurately as reportage yet is as compelling and personal as the best fiction to celebrate this art form tarcher inauguates a series of anthologies that will contain the best of published and yet to be discovered writers highlighting events that proved to be turning points or memorable moments of catharsis and personal growth the stories in surviving crisis provide nuggets of insight from which all readers will gather wisdom and from which practicing writers will gain the courage to put pen to paper culling the essence of story from their own lives book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

the most honored literary series in america begins its third decade of continuous publication reviewing last year's edition of the pushcart prize booklist commented if you buy one best of anthology this year make it the pushcart prize the chicago tribune recently raved when it comes to contemporary american literature the small press is where the action is of all anthologies pushcart's is the most rewarding to read straight through in pushcart prize xxi over sixty selections of short stories essays and poetry have been picked from thousands of nominations by pushcart press staff contributing editors and hundreds of small presses this year patricia strachan and william matthews served as poetry editors the result is an introduction to a literary world that few readers have access to where much of today's important new writing is published far from the commercial influence of the conglomerates the pushcart prize has been chosen for two

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