



Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors

By Susan Sontag

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In 1978 Susan Sontag wrote *Illness as Metaphor*, a classic work described by *Newsweek* as "one of the most liberating books of its time." A cancer patient herself when she was writing the book, Sontag shows how the metaphors and myths surrounding certain illnesses, especially cancer, add greatly to the suffering of patients and often inhibit them from seeking proper treatment. By demystifying the fantasies surrounding cancer, Sontag shows cancer for what it is--just a disease. Cancer, she argues, is not a curse, not a punishment, certainly not an embarrassment and, it is highly curable, if good treatment is followed.

Almost a decade later, with the outbreak of a new, stigmatized disease replete with mystifications and punitive metaphors, Sontag wrote a sequel to *Illness as Metaphor*, extending the argument of the earlier book to the AIDS pandemic.

These two essays now published together, *Illness as Metaphor* and *AIDS and Its Metaphors*, have been translated into many languages and continue to have an enormous influence on the thinking of medical professionals and, above all, on the lives of many thousands of patients and caregivers.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"In *Illness as Metaphor* , Sontag argues that the myths and metaphors surrounding disease can kill by instilling shame and guilt in the sick, thus delaying them from seeking treatment," wrote PW. She sees, and discusses provocatively, a similar process at work in the case of AIDS.

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Review

"Susan Sontag's *Illness as Metaphor* was the first to point out the accusatory side of the metaphors of empowerment that seek to enlist the patient's will to resist disease. It is largely as a result of her work that the how-to health books avoid the blame-ridden term 'cancer personality' and speak more soothingly of 'disease-producing lifestyles' . . . *AIDS and Its Metaphors* extends her critique of cancer metaphors to the metaphors of dread surrounding the AIDS virus. Taken together, the two essays are an exemplary demonstration of the power of the intellect in the face of the lethal metaphors of fear." *Michael Ignatieff, The New Republic*

From the Publisher

Brimming with humane and original ideas about a disease and the modern condition, this classic essay and its sequel -- written 10 years later -- are compassionate exhortations and a liberating event. "Taken together, the two essays are an exemplary demonstration of the power of the intellect in the face of the lethal metaphors of fear." -- *The Nation*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Eaton:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider while those information which is within the former life are challenging be find than now is taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen within you if you take *Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors* as your daily resource information.

Robert Shaw:

The book *untitled Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors* contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was authored by famous author. The author gives you in the new time of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice read.

Natalie Renz:

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Gary Campbell:

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