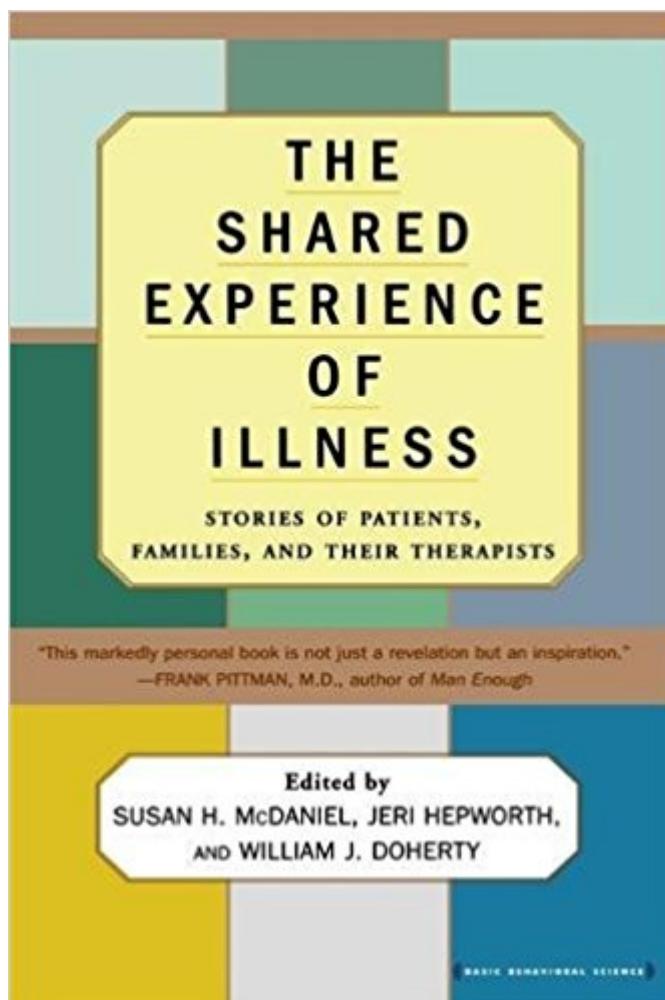


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# The Shared Experience Of Illness: Stories Of Patients, Families, And Their Therapists



## **Synopsis**

In the narrative of every human life and family, illness is a prominent character. Even if we have avoided serious illness ourselves, we cannot escape its reach into our circle of family and friends. Illness brings us closer to one another through caregiving and separates us through disability and death, yet little attention has been paid to personal and family illness in psychotherapy. Rather, therapists tend to focus on the psychosocial realm, leaving the biological realm to other physicians and nurses. Susan H. McDaniel, Jeri Hepworth, and William J. Doherty invited therapists who work with individuals and families experiencing chronic illness and disability to describe clinical cases that illustrate their approach to medical family therapy. Contributors then were asked to share a personal story about their experiences with illness, and to explain how those experiences affect the way they work with their clients. Vivid case studies dealing with a range of illnesses, including cancer infertility, schizophrenia, AIDS, heart disease, diabetes, asthma, and multiple sclerosis, show how the therapists' own experiences of illness are relevant to their care of others-and how these experiences can be used to form a healing bond in therapy. Poignant, honest, and illuminating, *The Shared Experience of Illness* allows us to understand more fully the relationship between the personal and the professional.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Susan H. McDaniel, Ph.D., is professor and director of the Division of Family Programs in Psychiatry and co-director of Psychosocial Programs in Family Medicine at the University of

Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She lives in Rochester, New York. Jeri Hepworth, Ph.D., is professor, associate residency director, and director of Behavioral Sciences in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center. She lives in Willington, Connecticut. William J. Doherty, Ph.D., is professor of Family Social Science and director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at the University of Minnesota. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Great book for future therapist! I think it could even be helpful for just patients and their families.

This should be in the library of every therapist who works with families experiencing illness. Well-written, it is engaging and provides insight into the personal experiences of living with disease.

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