

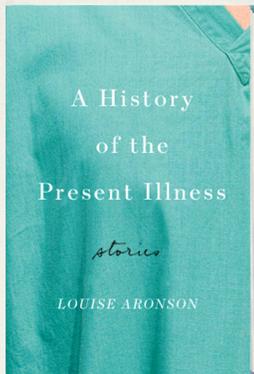
A SELECTION OF EXCERPTS FROM

A History of the Present Illness

by Louise Aronson

BUY THE BOOK

The book is forthcoming from Bloomsbury in January 2013 and is available for pre-order at Amazon, IndieBound, Barnes & Noble and Powell's Books.



About the Book

A History of the Present Illness takes readers into the lives of doctors, patients and families in the neighborhoods, hospitals and nursing homes of San Francisco. It introduces a striking new literary voice and offers a deeply humane and incisive portrait of health and illness in America today.

An elderly Chinese immigrant sacrifices his demented wife's well-being to his son's authority. A young veteran's injuries become a metaphor for the rest of his life. A gay doctor learns very different lessons about family from his life and his work. A psychiatrist who advocates for the underserved may herself be crazy. A busy doctor juggles an errant teenage daughter and a seriously ill father.

Together, these honest and compassionate stories provide a view of what it means to be a doctor and a patient—unlike anything we've read before. Readers are taken "behind the curtain" into the anxieties, elation and exhaustion of the physician experience. At the same time, the book illustrates the challenges faced by patients from varying socioeconomic backgrounds battling sudden and chronic diseases and compassionately illustrates the psychological toll illness and caregiving take on patients and the people, family and professionals who care for them.

About Louise Aronson

Louise Aronson is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). A geriatrician and medical educator, Louise cares for frail older adults, directs the Northern California Geriatrics Education Center, the UCSF reflective learning curriculum, and the Pathways to Discovery Program, and serves as associate editor for the *JAMA Care of the Aging Patient* series and director of Public Medical Communication for the Program for the Aging Century. She is the recipient of the California Homecare Physician of the Year award, a Geriatric Academic Career Award, the Cooke Award for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, the Lieberman Scholar Award, and the AOA Edward D. Harris Professionalism Award.

Dr. Aronson also holds an M.F.A. from the Warren Wilson Program for Writers, and her fiction has appeared in both literary and medical journals including *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Northwest Review*, *Fourteen Hills*, *The Literary Review*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and *the Journal of General Internal Medicine*. She has won the Sonora Review Prize, the New Millennium Short Fiction Award, multiple writer's residency fellowships, and three Pushcart nominations. *A History of the Present Illness* is her first book.

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