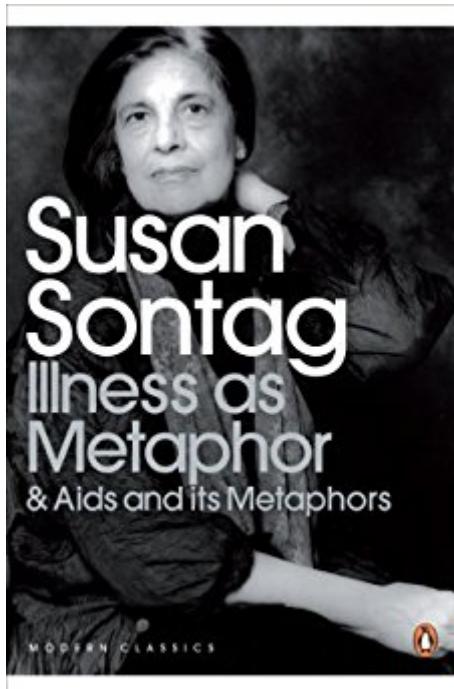


The book was found

Illness As Metaphor And AIDS And Its Metaphors (Penguin Modern Classics)



Synopsis

In 1978 Sontag wrote *Illness As Metaphor*. A cancer patient herself at the time, she shows how the metaphors and myths surrounding certain illnesses, especially cancer, add greatly to the suffering of the 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 is not a curse, not a punishment, certainly not an embarrassment, and highly curable, if good treatment is found early enough. Almost a decade later, with the outbreak of a new, stigmatised disease replete with mystifications and punitive metaphors, Sontag wrote *Aids and its Metaphors*, extending the argument of the earlier book to the AIDS pandemic.

Book Information

File Size: 826 KB

Print Length: 194 pages

Publisher: Penguin (January 31, 2013)

Publication Date: January 31, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00ADXE046

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #751,909 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #37 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > AIDS #190 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > AIDS #1268 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Essays & Correspondence > Essays

Customer Reviews

This is a quote from the book that I would consider its thesis statement: 'Theories that diseases are caused by mental states and can be cured by will power are always an index of how much is not understood about a disease. Moreover, there is a peculiarly modern predilection for psychological explanations of disease...Psychologizing seems to provide control...over which people have no control. Psychological understanding undermines the 'reality' of a disease.' Sontag traces, historically, the ways different diseases and the people who contracted them have been viewed.

She spends time discussing tuberculars--waif-like, pale, romantic--and cancer patients--repressed, the 'cancer personality,' shame--then goes on to debunk these notions by stating that once the cause, cure, inoculation is found, the 'myth' or popular psychology of the disease no longer holds. In this edition, in the final chapter about AIDS and its metaphors Sontag writes that she'd written the first part of the book (all but the AIDS chapter) while a cancer patient and in response to reactions she saw in fellow patients. She saw guilt and shame; and she saw these as impediments to people's treatments. For she knew she had an illness and she set about to cure it medically, in the best possible way, while others passively accepted the 'metaphor' handed to them and, thus, did less to help themselves best. She felt frustrated or saddened by their psychologizing and self-blame and wished to write to others that their physical illness is a physical illness and the best route to recovery is to think only of how to find the best medical treatment.

Photography, probably more than any other medium, is emblematic of the nature of modern Western society. Photographs are concerned chiefly with appearances, they are deceptively nuanced but essentially narrow, yet somehow they find great breadth in their mechanization and ubiquity. And, like our society, they tend towards an ultimate reduction of the dimensionality of time. Through photographs the past blends into the present, flattening into an omni-present "now" in which history loses its philosophical weight as it increases in familiarity. In a sense photographs are the ultimate invention of a humanist-capitalist society: they provide the commodification of memory itself! And like the society which originated them, they provide equal portions of help and harm, of truth and of fiction; they have undeniable value, but they also result in a certain loss of innocence, and of deeper values. The six essays in this book (all of which were originally published in the New York Times Review of Books) provide a critical evaluation of these themes. Ms. Sontag is concerned with what she sees as the cheapening of experience that the proliferation of photographs in our society has caused. She argues that photography has enshrined a superficiality of experience and contributed to the overvaluation of appearances to a point where image has (subconsciously) replaced reality as reality. In many ways this shift in our modes of cultural perception is shattering; it is also completely inevitable and irreversible. As an example: who after seeing Ansel Adams's stunning photographs of Yosemite could help feeling slightly underwhelmed when experiencing the real thing?

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors (Penguin Modern Classics) Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors Living With HIV: The Essential Guide to Managing and Healing HIV &

AIDS Symptoms (HIV essentials, AIDS research, HIV research, HIV test, AIDS virus, HIV ... HIV infection, HIV AIDS, AIDS HIV Book 1) I Never Metaphor I Didn't Like: A Comprehensive Compilation of Historyâ™s Greatest Analogies, Metaphors, and Similes MENTAL ILLNESS: Learn the Early Signs of Mental Illness in Teens (Teen mental illness, teen mental health, teen issues, peer issues, treatment) Modern Classics Journeys End (Modern Classics (Penguin)) Modern Classics Selected Poetry (Penguin Modern Classics) Sande's HIV/AIDS Medicine: Medical Management of AIDS 2013, 2e Complete Guide to Symptoms, Illness & Surgery: Updated and Revised 6th Edition (Complete Guidel to Symptoms, Illness and Surgery) Childhood Illness and the Allergy Connection: A Nutritional Approach to Overcoming and Preventing Childhood Illness Lubkin's Chronic Illness: Impact and Intervention (Lubkin, Chronic Illness) Chronic Illness: Impact And Intervention (Lubkin, Chronic Illness) Mental Illness: PTSD: Learn How To Handle PTSD Triggers (Bipolar Trauma Depression) (Self Help Mental Illness Dysfunctional Relationships) Lubkin's Chronic Illness (Lubkin, Chronic Illness) The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects Eating in the Light of the Moon: How Women Can Transform Their Relationship with Food Through Myths, Metaphors, and Storytelling Callaloo Nation: Metaphors of Race and Religious Identity among South Asians in Trinidad (Latin America Otherwise) You're Toast and Other Metaphors We Adore (Ways to Say It) Judaism, Physics and God: Searching for Sacred Metaphors in a Post-Einstein World Metaphors & Analogies: Power Tools for Teaching Any Subject

[Dmca](#)