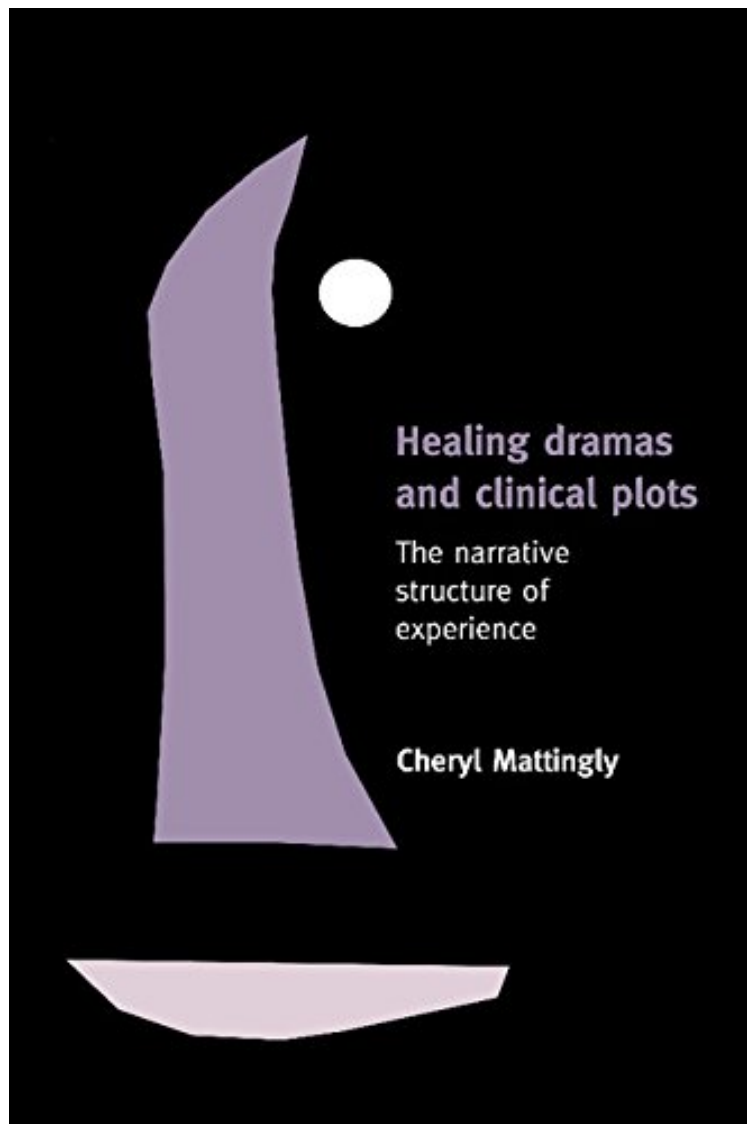


[Read free] Healing Dramas and Clinical Plots: The Narrative Structure of Experience (Cambridge Studies in Medical Anthropology)

Healing Dramas and Clinical Plots: The Narrative Structure of Experience (Cambridge Studies in Medical Anthropology)

Cheryl Mattingly

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Cheryl Mattingly : Healing Dramas and Clinical Plots: The Narrative Structure of Experience (Cambridge Studies in Medical Anthropology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Healing Dramas and Clinical Plots: The Narrative Structure of Experience (Cambridge Studies in Medical Anthropology):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is simultaneously a dense and highly accessible book that ...By Josephine Ensign This is simultaneously a dense and highly accessible book that deepens notions of illness narratives within health care. I especially appreciated Mattingly's weaving in of 'real life' stories of therapeutic interactions between occupational therapists and rehabilitation patients who are negotiating their way to some sort of healing. What I found somewhat irritating and forced in places was Mattingly's insistence on drawing parallels between these healthcare setting clinical narrative dramas/rituals and those of 'primitive' exotic (to us) communities in remote areas of the world. I realize that Mattingly is a medical anthropologist and probably feels compelled to honor her scholarly lineage, but I felt it detracted from the strength of her arguments. 8 of 11 people found the following review helpful. a great effort By Marie Oden I had polio in 1947. Subsequently, I spent years in physical therapy and medical community services. This is a book clearly written by an author who has very little experience in the area of physical suffering or disability. Yet her clear and precise understanding of what denigrates and also what boosts the morale of patients dealing with severe trauma shines forth. I applaud this effort. The constant push toward compassion found in her book and the call to carefully listen to the stories of individual patients astounds someone like me who grew up in the confines of a rather harsh and unfeeling medical community where listening to the patient was unheard of. This is for me a glorious breakthrough. And yet, the most crucial and pivotal assistance ever imparted in my estimation is a spiritual understanding of how we come to terms with faith in our Maker and God during times of tragedy and loss. Personally, I don't know how anyone survives severe disability apart from the grace and compassion of the Almighty Who can and will enter into our place of suffering and bestow spiritual strength to press on. Learning that God is a very present Help in trouble enables and fosters triumph in times of darkness.

There is growing interest in "therapeutic narratives" and the relation between narrative and healing. Cheryl Mattingly's ethnography of the practice of occupational therapy in a North American hospital investigates the complex interconnections between narrative and experience in clinical work. Viewing the world of disability as a socially constructed experience, it presents fascinatingly detailed case studies of clinical interactions between occupational therapists and patients, many of them severely injured and disabled, and illustrates the diverse ways in which an ordinary clinical interchange is transformed into a dramatic experience governed by a narrative plot. Drawing on a wide range of sources, including anthropological studies of narrative and ritual, literary theory, phenomenology and hermeneutics, this book develops a narrative theory of social action and experience. While most contemporary theories of narrative presume that narratives impose an artificial coherence upon lived experience, Mattingly argues for a revision of the classic mimetic position. If narrative offers a correspondence to lived experience, she contends, the dominant formal feature which connects the two is not narrative coherence but narrative drama. Moving and sophisticated, this book is an innovative contribution to the study of modern institutions and to anthropological theory.

"Cheryl Mattingly has produced a little masterpiece. Her book brings anthropological theory to bear in a most subtle and knowledgeable way on how occupational therapists help patients who are so severely disabled that they are no longer able to live their lives with the ordinariness and banality to which we all become accustomed. Her focus is principally upon how therapists and patients together create a new and workable life narrative that restores meaning and order to a shattered life. She manages this task with a combination of anthropological astuteness and human compassion that is gripping. And along the way she succeeds in shedding fresh light on such ancient riddles as how life imitates (narrative) art while such art remains in some respects an imitation of life. This is a book not just for the medical anthropologist or the occupational therapist but for human scientists at large!" Jerome Bruner "Mattingly provides the richest discussion to date of the relevance of narrative theory for many of the most crucial issues of contemporary studies of culture. Plot, motive, desire, sufferance, reversal and transformation are all found to be features of therapeutic 'rituals of the everyday' - and by extension of the achievement of 'significant experience' in the most ordinary social routines. Exquisite reflections on philosophical and literary texts, juxtaposed with captivating stories from the clinic, this is a work of maturity and great importance." Byron Good and Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good "Mattingly has clearly moved the conversation about narrative in clinical settings forward. Her accounts and analysis are often so subtle and sensitive that the text moves us in ways that go beyond 'purely' academic writing to experiences that enrich our lives as well as our understandings. Surely this is the most important work we can do in this field." Barbara A. Sherman Heifferon, *Literature and Medicine* "...this is an impressive book in terms of the critique of existing theory and the deep analysis narrative can provide.... This book encourages reflection into personal practice as well as to listening to the narratives of patients.... an excellent text to use as part of an advanced clinical reasoning course." *Occupational Theory in Health Care*