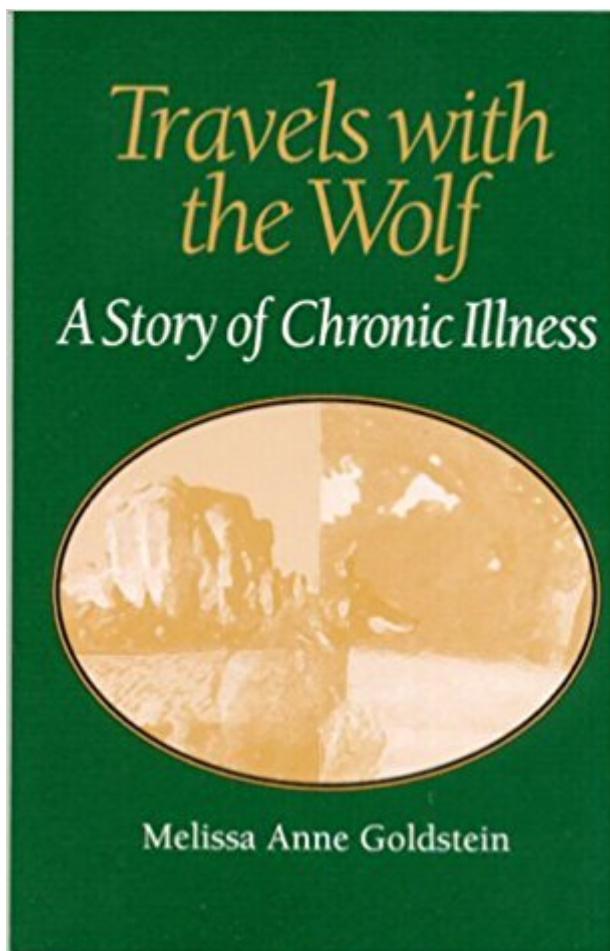


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TRAVELS WITH THE WOLF: A STORY OF CHRONIC ILLNESS (WOMEN & HEALTH C&S PERSPECTIVE)



Synopsis

The Lupus Foundation of America estimates that between .5 and 1.5 million people have been diagnosed with lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease that can attack any part of the body. The elusive nature of the illness often becomes a source of overwhelming helplessness and frustration to its victims, their loved ones, and the physicians who treat it. Narrated through both poetry and prose, *Travels with the Wolf* is an autobiographical account of Melissa Anne Goldstein's experiences with lupus. It is her story of becoming a young woman, writer, and teacher in the presence of severe, often debilitating disease. It is an exploration of her relationships with her family and friends as the illness steals into their lives, and the record of her struggle to maintain her independence and identity despite disease. Finally, it is an author's journey to find her spiritual core. This book is not just about lupus. Goldstein uses her experience of the illness as well as sociological, literary, and historical research, to portray and understand the dilemmas faced by the chronically ill person in our society. In her conclusion, she calls for reform of today's health care system, which does not meet the needs of the chronically ill or their physicians.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Amazingly descriptive accounts of how the medical profession both helped and failed the author. Every physician should read this and think long and hard about her or his own place in the profession. But also an amazing coming-of-age story. I have never had chronic illness, but I could

relate to so much of the narrative. It is a wonderful account for anyone who remembers struggling to assert one's independence and define oneself as an adult while maintaining and redefining relationships with friends and family. Wonderfully written.

Professor Melissa Goldstein writes with clarity, grace, and emotion. The combination of prose and poetry flow seamlessly. Chronic Illness can often be attributed to psychological illness, even when there are physical explanations. Melissa Goldstein writes of the struggles associated with belief in oneself, one's physicians, and one's present life without fear of the future. Her story is one of hope and determination and is inspiring to all people; she reaches out to us through our most basic emotional connections.

The book is a beautiful and lyrical account of Ms. Goldstein's illness and her struggle with a chronic condition. A must reading for all, and particularly for those involved in health professions.

Extremely inspiring

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