



Ill Feelings

Original title:

Publisher: Fitzcarraldo Editions , 2021

Genre: Narrative non-fiction

Pages: 360 pages

Full English



Alice Hatrick

Ill Feelings

In 1995 Alice's mother collapsed with pneumonia. She never fully recovered and was eventually diagnosed with ME, or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Then Alice got ill. Their symptoms mirrored their mother's and appeared to have no physical cause; they received the same diagnosis a few years later. *Ill Feelings* blends memoir, medical history, biography and literary non-fiction to uncover both of their case histories, and branches out into the records of ill health that women have written about in diaries and letters. Their cast of characters includes Virginia Woolf and Alice James, the poets Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Emily Dickinson, John Ruskin's lost love Rose la Touche, the artist Louise Bourgeois and the nurse Florence Nightingale. Suffused with a generative, transcendent rage, Alice Hatrick's genre-bending debut is a moving and defiant exploration of life with a medically unexplained illness.

Read more: <https://fitzcarraldoeditions.com/books/ill-feelings/>

'Ill Feelings is a deeply personal and deeply political reckoning with the nature of illness, inheritance, time, silence, bodies and invisibility. Alice Hatrick offers both a radical redefinition of the dominant narratives surrounding health and pain, and the knowledge we need in order to name, understand and resist them. Hatrick has found a voice and form which open up new and exciting possibilities for writing the self and making sense of the collective past: I read this remarkable book with outrage, fascination and immense admiration.'

Francesca Wade, author of *Square Haunting*

'I read Ill Feelings with a sense of wonder at the courage required not just to live with a medically unexplained illness, but to write about it with such descriptive clarity and probing intelligence. Alice Hatrick's book is a powerful cure for ignorance or indifference about a complex form of suffering.'

Edmund Gordon, author of *The Invention of Angela Carter*

'Ill Feelings offers spellbinding reality unlike anything I have ever read. It conquers the sense of grief that we have to learn to live with; this deep guttural fear in humanity is addressed compassionately.'

Billie Ingram Sofokleous, *Buzz Magazine*

Alice Hatrick

Alice Hatrick's criticism and interviews have appeared in publications such as *frieze* magazine, *ArtReview* and *The White Review*. Alice's work has most

recently been included in Whitechapel Documents of Contemporary Art: HEALTH (ed. Bárbara Rodríguez Muñoz, 2020) and Mine Searching Yours (Forma, 2020). They are the co-producer of Access Docs for Artists, a resource for disabled and/or chronically ill artists, curators and writers, made in collaboration with artists Leah Clements and Lizzy Rose. In 2016, they were shortlisted for the Fitzcarraldo Essay Prize. Ill Feelings is their first book.