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Synopsis: Poetry and stories about illness address more than just the symptoms of disease. Narratives and poems are the pathways for people to make sense of and discover meaning in life's difficult events. This anthology connects the world of medicine with patients' experience. The lyrical power of patients' voices and the metaphors they use offer insight, empathy, and compassion into the heart of the medical conversation.

What others are saying about
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This anthology will be of particular use to people who want to write about illness and healthcare but are having trouble getting started. These poems and short stories show how writing teaches observation, observation precipitates understanding, and understanding can be a form of healing.


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—Dr. Jennifer Lapum, Associate Professor, RN, PhD
Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing – Ryerson University

"Inside every patient there's a poet trying to get out," literary critic Anatole Broyard once wrote. Not only patients, as it turns out, but physicians, loved ones, and anyone whose life is touched by life-threatening or life-altering illness, as James Borton's anthology, The Art of Medicine in Metaphors so poignantly demonstrates. The prose and poems that make up this book provide compelling testimony of the power of metaphor to communicate the experience of illness and in ways that touch the heart.

—Sharon Bray, Ed.D., author of When Words Heal: Writing Through Cancer.