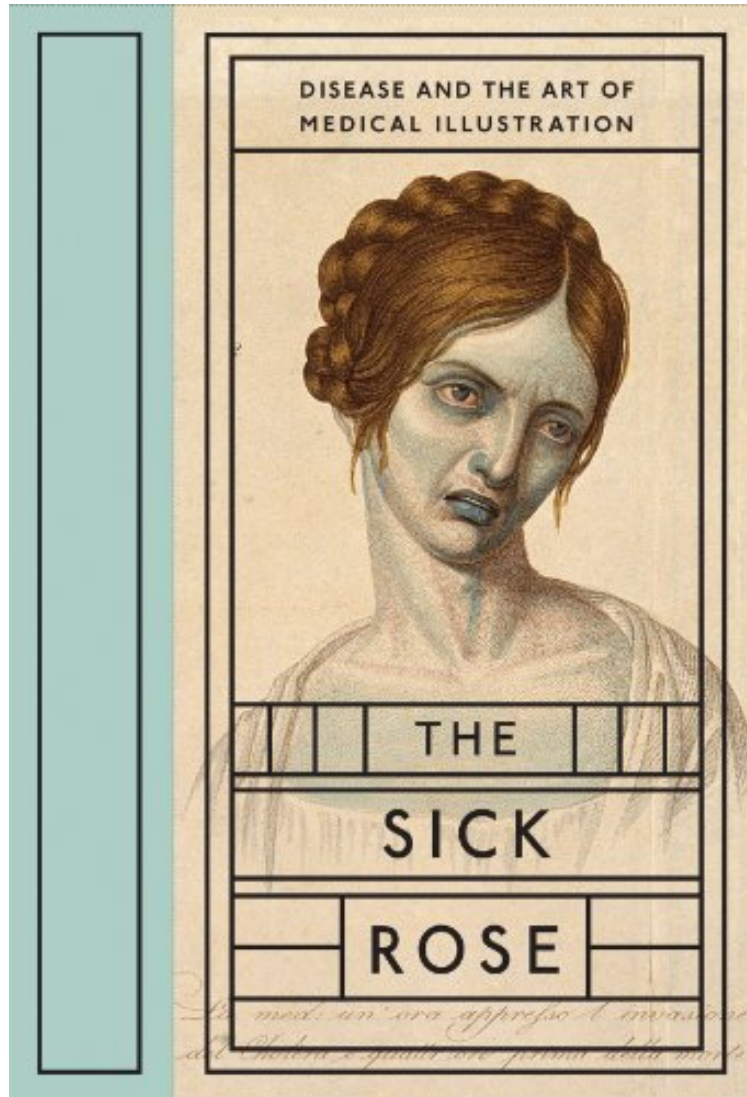


[Mobile book] The Sick Rose: Disease and the Art of Medical Illustration

The Sick Rose: Disease and the Art of Medical Illustration

Richard Barnett

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Richard Barnett : The Sick Rose: Disease and the Art of Medical Illustration before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sick Rose: Disease and the Art of Medical Illustration:

53 of 53 people found the following review helpful. The Woman Behind The Leprosy - The Man Behind The Syphilis By EisNinE This gorgeously designed little 7" x 10" book, 'little' being relative to typically oversized art monographs, is one of the most paradoxically appealing and revolting releases of the year. I have long admired D.A.P.'s commitment to utilizing the highest-quality materials and binding in every book they publish, and The Sick

Rose is no exception. The writing is informative and impeccably researched, delving into the gruesome history of anatomical research in a professional manner that walks the tightrope between sensationalistic indulgence of morbid fascination on the one side, and overly clinical jargon designed to emotionally distance the reader on the other. The earliest years of what would become modern medicine were remarkable in the lengths these 'Resurrectionists' went to in obtaining corpses for study. For a time, condemned criminals were routinely sentenced to death and public dissection, their bodies donated to the Medical Institutes. This practice was ended in the early 19th Century, but parliament allowed that any person found dead without identification and/or someone willing to claim their body would be fair game for anatomical research. This amounted to depriving the poorest classes of any guarantee that they would be given a decent burial, and many were outraged that poverty alone meant they might be dissected publicly like criminals. 'Burial Insurance' became a popular method of avoiding the indignities that might have been inflicted on their bodies. As test subjects became scarce, members of the nascent medical community were complicit in murder, paying money to the 'Ghoulies' that stalked the harbors for departing ships, where they would kill drunken sailors not likely to be missed and deliver them to the Anatomists. This Black Market trade in lives was rooted in an upper class arrogance that saw the poor as a drain on society. This arrogance also extended to their belief in the supreme importance of their research. A worthless beggar or drunk was far more valuable dead, perhaps providing them with the knowledge of how to end smallpox, syphilis, cancer, even death itself (Hence the term 'Resurrectionist'). As fascinating as the history of medicine is, the artwork, used to document and compare ailments in the age before cameras, is truly stunning; first, because the level of technical ability is of a very high order, and second, because many of the symptoms depicted are horrifying, disfiguring the subjects to a point that is near monstrous. The fact that the artists rarely depersonalize their subjects, but instead make us see and feel for their suffering, forcing us to wonder who these poor people were, makes *The Sick Rose* one of the most powerful and poignant artbooks I've read. Once again, I have to comment on the design and layout, which is some of the best work I've seen. The cover image, the turquoise cloth spine and paint-embossed titles, the color endpapers which turn a blown-up detail of a torso covered in lesions into a random design element -- everything offers proof of the thought, labor and expense that went into all 260 pages of this fine volume. Not for the squeamish, but that should be obvious. Highest Recommendations.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy SacheverelleFabulous illustrations of common pre-antibiotic-age maladies such as syphilis, advanced gout, sepsis, various types of pox, etc. Morbidly fascinating and quite thought-provoking. How awful it must have been for human beings before the development of modern medicine and sanitary standards. How different everyday life must have been with people walking around emblazoned with the tell-tale signs of tertiary syphilis, people you probably knew. This book definitely restored in me a greater sense of gratitude for being born in modern times with our cures for..stuff.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy -rbthe 2 nurses (Trauma/ER and ICU) were entranced and rolled through it for hours.

The Sick Rose is a visual tour through the golden age of medical illustration. The nineteenth century experienced an explosion of epidemics such as cholera and diphtheria, driven by industrialization, urbanization and poor hygiene. In this pre-color-photography era, accurate images were relied upon to teach students and aid diagnosis. The best examples, featured here, are remarkable pieces of art that attempted to elucidate the mysteries of the body, and the successive onset of each affliction. Bizarre and captivating images, including close-up details and revealing cross-sections, make all too clear the fascinations of both doctors and artists of the time. Barnett illuminates the fears and obsessions of a society gripped by disease, yet slowly coming to understand and combat it. The age also saw the acceptance of vaccination and the germ theory, and notable diagrams that transformed public health, such as John Snow's cholera map and Florence Nightingale's pioneering histograms, are included and explained. Organized by disease, *The Sick Rose* ranges from little-known ailments now all but forgotten to the epidemics that shaped the modern age. It is a fascinating Wunderkammer of a book that will enthrall artists, students, designers, scientists and the incurably curious everywhere.

If you're able to detach yourself from the knee-jerk reaction of: 'Oh my f**king god what's wrong with that dude's face?', these illustrations are really neat to look at. (Jonathan Smith Vice.com)A memento of a remarkable genre ... the excellent choice of image, high production standards, and formidable scholarship of *The Sick Rose* suggest that it is a book that will endure. I would recommend it to anyone with an interest in art, medicine, history or, simply, the difficult and exhausting business of having and maintaining a body. (Niall Boyce The Lancet)The strange, symbiotic relationship between medicine and social oppression is here given full-colour form: not only by anatomical illustrations of paupers' and criminals' corpses, but also by what - were they not so disfigured - would be regarded as straightforward portraits of the leprous and the syphilitic, the tubercular and the cancerous ... Richard Barnett's superbly erudite and lucid accompanying text would really suffice in itself as an introduction to the history of western medical science. (Will Self The Guardian)Although *The Sick Rose* includes photographs of a leper's crutches, prosthetic noses, and a "medicated balsamic chest protector," it is for the most part a treasury of the most handsome and curious lithographic prints found in nineteenth-century clinical textbooks...Richard Barnett serves up fascinating

synopses of the cardinal diseases of the period, each chapter dotted with grisly factoids- even acknowledging the role of state power, imperialism, and abjection in the manufacture of these images. (Andrew Bourne BOMB Magazine)A squirm-inducing illustrated tour through a kaleidoscope of 19th-century diseases.... over 350 strangely fascinating images from the worlds rarest medical books. (Hannah Lack AnOther Mag)If you think youre squeamish and medical drawings arent for you dont be put off. This incredible book transcends that. (Helen Rumbelow The Times)The old lithographs that fill page after page of Barnett's THE SICK ROSE are of people and the diseases they suffer from commonplace ailments like eczema to gout to cancer. And the pictures are...horrible. And beautiful. And horrible. They are skillfully and carefullyalmost lovinglydone by anonymous artists. (Lucas Peterson Flaunt)