



Microcosm Publishing
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Sick: A Compilation Zine on Physical Illness

edited by Ben Holtzman



SUBJECT CATEGORY: Health

RELEASE: 10/01/09

PRICE: Retail: \$6 Direct: \$4 Wholesale: \$3.60

ISBN: 978-1934620489

FORMAT: paperback 1/2 size, 87 pgs

MARKETING NOTES:

Advertised regularly in *Maximum Rock n Roll*, *Give Me Back*, *Zine World*, Google AdSense, and *Razorcake*
20,000 postcards distributed to stores and individuals featuring book

Has been doing workshops and promotional appearances at conferences around Country
Promotional booktour on east and west coasts

COMPARATIVE TITLES:

10 Excellent Reasons for National Health Care, Mary O'Brien (Editor), Martha Livingston (Editor), John Conyers, 176 pages, New Press, August 28, 2008, ISBN-13: 978-1595583284, \$13.95

Sick: The Untold Story of America's Health Care Crisis--and the People Who Pay the Price, Johnathan, Cohn, 320 pages, Harper Collins, April 10, 2007, ISBN-10: 0060580453, \$27.95

Sick collects peoples' experiences with illness to help establish a collective voice of those impacted within radical/left/DIY communities. Says *Sick* editor Ben Holtzman, "Too often those of us who are living with illness have felt that our experiences are not welcome in conversation, even within radical/alternative communities. Illness is considered taboo; it's seen by many as awkward, if not depressing, to bring up. This zine collects peoples' experiences with illness to help establish and further a personal and collective voice of those impacted by illness."

The zine is meant to be a resource for those who are living with illness as well as those who have not directly experienced it themselves. Contributors discuss personal experiences as well as topics such as receiving support, providing support, and being an informed patient. These writings are meant to increase understandings of illness and further discussion as well as action towards building communities of care.

Holtzman continues, "This collection is meant for several audiences. It is intended to be a document of experiences with illness that others in similar circumstances can relate to and hopefully take something from and thereby ease some of the isolating aspects of illness. It is also meant for those within our communities who have not directly experienced illness themselves. While no one piece – or even any one collection of pieces – can come close to encapsulating all experiences with and perspectives on living with illness, these writings are meant to increase understandings of illness and expand opportunities for dialogue."

ABOUT THE EDITOR: Ben Holtzman's work has appeared in *Clamor Magazine*, *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, *Left History*, *Maximumrocknroll*, *Popular Music and Society*, *Radical Society* and the collections *Constituent Imagination* (AK Press) and *In The Middle of a Whirlwind* (JOAAP). He is the co-director of the documentary, *Between Resistance and Community*. He has wanted to do a zine since *Maximumrocknroll* first made his fingers black at age twelve, but never would have guessed it'd be on this topic.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER:

Microcosm Publishing is an independent publisher and distributor based in Portland, OR and Bloomington, IN. Our titles attempt to teach self empowerment to disenfranchised people and to nurture their creative side.



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