PATHOGRAPHIES OF MENTAL ILLNESS

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Abstract: This Element is a survey of the field of pathographies of mental illness. It explores classic texts in the field as well as other selected contemporary memoirs. In doing so, the reader is introduced to psychiatric information about various mental illnesses through a narrative lens, emphasizing experience. Because clinical research is evidenced based and aims to produce generalizable knowledge (i.e., trends), the reading of pathographies can complement these findings with practical experiential insights. By pairing psychiatric information with pathographies, certain personal themes become apparent that are different from the empirical trends identified by scientific and medical researchers. Based on the survey presented here, this Element identifies seven such themes, laying the foundation for future research, inquiry, practice, and policy.

Keywords: memoir, pathography, mental illness, narrative
Contents

1 Introduction 1
2 What Is Pathography? 2
3 Depression 5
4 Bipolar Disorder 8
5 Schizophrenia 12
6 Addiction 16
7 Borderline Personality Disorder 21
8 Conduct Disorder 25
9 Antisocial Personality Disorder 29
10 Autism Spectrum Disorder 33
11 Eating Disorders 37
12 Key Personal Themes in Pathographies of Mental Illness 40

Appendix: Further Reading 45
Notes 47
References 52