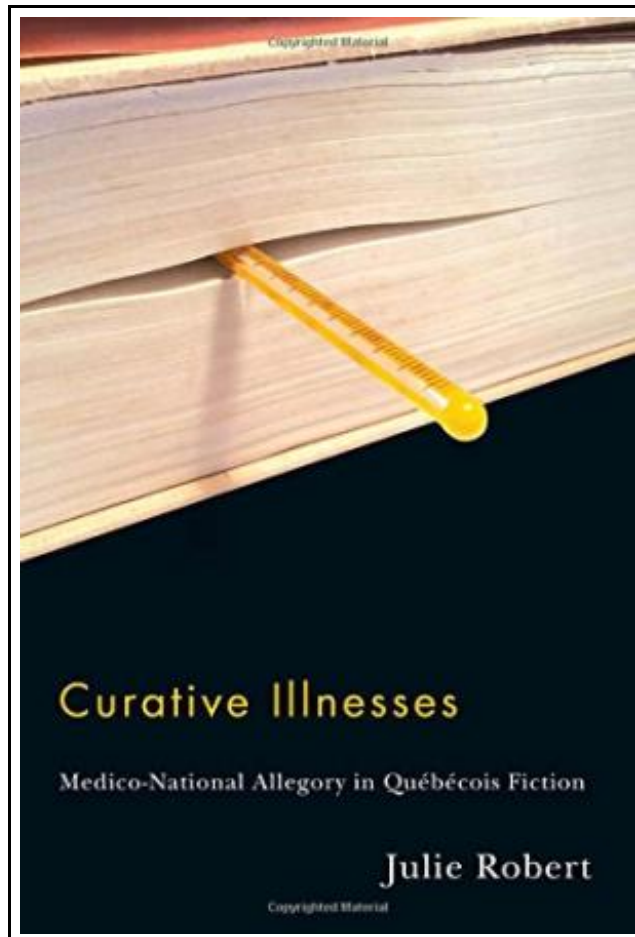


Curative Illnesses: Medico-National Allegory in Quebecois Fiction (Hardback)



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Reviews

It is one of the best books. Indeed, it really is play, nevertheless an amazing and interesting literature. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.
(Sofia Yundt)

CURATIVE ILLNESSES: MEDICO-NATIONAL ALLEGORY IN QUEBECOIS FICTION (HARDBACK)

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McGill-Queen's University Press, Canada, 2016. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 661 x 231 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. During a time of uncertainty over collective identity and social transformation, Quebec novels started getting sick - after 1940, the number of narratives about illness, disease, and sick characters intensified. For the last seventy years, generations of authors have turned to medically oriented stories to represent day to day life and political turmoil. In *Curative Illnesses*, Julie Robert investigates how the theme of sickness is woven into literature and gauges its effect on depictions of Quebec's national identity. Challenging the legitimacy of illness as a metaphor for the nation, Robert contests interpretations of illness-related literature that have presented Quebec itself as ailing. Through re-examinations of Quebec novels, *Curative Illnesses* shatters the illusion of congruency between the nation and the body, countering assumptions about nationwide weakness and victimization. For Quebec in particular, these assumptions have greater implications, because the separatist movement, policies of interculturalism, and majority language rights revolve around protecting and defending Quebecois society and its cultural values. Robert skilfully demonstrates a more nuanced view of illness through a series of analyses focusing on works of literature from some of Quebec's most renowned novelists, including Gabrielle Roy, Andre Langevin, Denis Lord, Hubert Aquin, Jacques Godbout, Pierre Billon, and Anne Bernard. Using an interdisciplinary approach that engages with nationalism, postcolonial studies, literature, rhetoric, and the medical humanities, *Curative Illnesses* explores how moving beyond earlier diagnoses offers new insights into nationhood.



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