The daughter of a lithographer and an operating-room nurse, I was exposed at a tender age to different systems of representations for understanding the human body. However, it was only when I moved to the United States as an adult and had my first close encounters with a healthcare system that is substantially different from the one to which I was accustomed in Europe that the interpretive nature of medicine was revealed most vividly to me. A narrative-theory enthusiast, I felt the urge to chart that territory with my critical tools in order to parse it. It takes a village, and, indeed, I am grateful to many colleagues, mentors, and friends.

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