Fiction that takes a hard edge to illness

“These edgy, heartfelt, wryly humorous stories, told from the authentic viewpoints of both young doctors and a wide canvas of patients, are wonderfully engrossing. They tell us what it’s really like to doctor, to patient, to suffer and to redeem. A joy to read.”

SAMUEL SHEM, author of The House of God and Mount Misery

“Plunging into one of Jay Baruch’s stories is like finding yourself in a busy Emergency Room at two in the morning—here you will meet characters whose lives are urgent and not always what they seem on the surface. Like his characters, Baruch’s writing is vibrant and intense, and his vision is prismatic.”

CORTNEY DAVIS, author of I Knew a Woman: Four Women Patients and Their Female Caregiver and Leopold’s Maneuvers

An emergency physician and faculty member at Brown Medical School, Jay Baruch has long been fascinated by how illness can make people strangers to their own bodies, how we all struggle to maintain control as the body decays and life slowly becomes unrecognizable, and how health professionals discover and struggle with the limits of their own competence and compassion. In Fourteen Stories, Baruch doesn’t present a series of clinically based essays but a rich collection of short fiction that gives voice to a variety of people who, faced with difficult moral choices, find themselves making disturbing self-discoveries.

JAY BARUCH holds a medical degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His fiction has been published in numerous magazines, including Other Voices, Inkwell, The Salt River Review, and Ars Medica.

LITERATURE AND MEDICINE SERIES #9

The Kent State University Press
Kent, Ohio 44242
www.kentstateuniversitypress.com