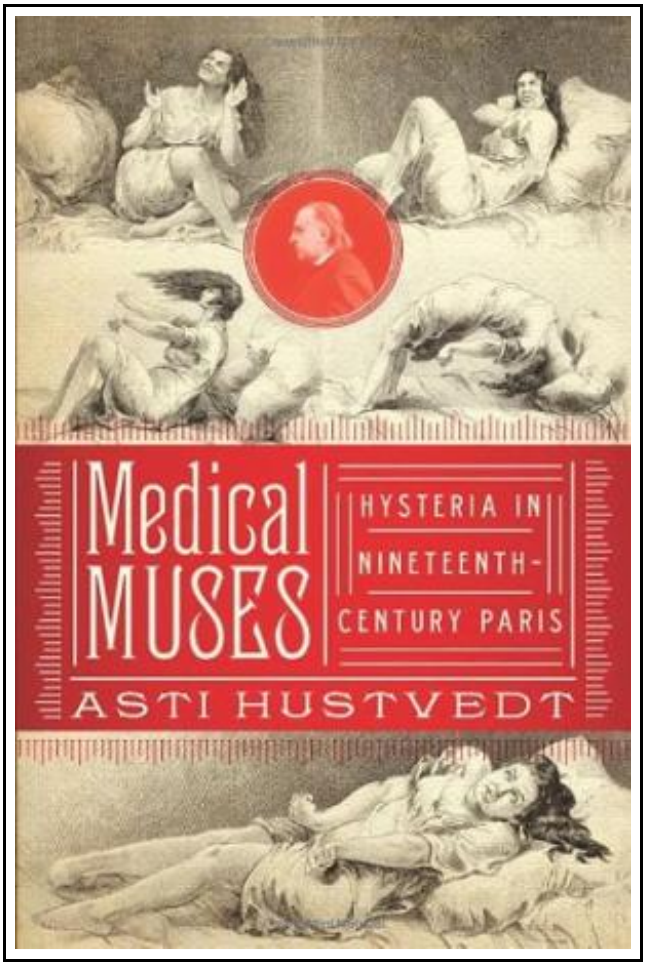
Medical Muses: Hysteria in Nineteenth-Century Paris



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Absolutely among the finest pdf I have got possibly read. I am quite late in start reading this one, but better then never. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.
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MEDICAL MUSES: HYSTERIA IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY PARIS

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Norton. 1 Cloth(s), 2011. hard. Book Condition: New. Blanche, Augustine, and Geneviève were each admitted to the hysteria ward of the Salpêtrière Hospital in 1870s Paris, where their care was directed by the prominent neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot. They became medical celebrities, attracting crowds to the hospital to observe their symptoms, and they were photographed, sculpted, painted, and transformed into characters in novels. But who were Blanche, Augustine, and Geneviève, asks French literature scholar Asti Hustvedt, and what role did they play in their own peculiar form of stardom? "Hysteria" may be an illness of the past, and a symptom of its era, Hustvedt notes, but the notions of femininity that lie behind it offer insights into disorders of the present. "Before she entered Salpêtrière Hospital in 1877, Blanche Wittmann was just another damaged child from a poor neighborhood of Paris. Raped by an employer, angry and seizure-prone, the 17-year-old girl almost inevitably became a charity patient of the hospital's mental wards. Once there, however, she came to the attention of one of France's most famous scientists, the neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot. Acclaimed for his work in diseases of the nervous system (he was the first physician to recognize that ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, was a disease of motor neurons), Charcot had developed a keen interest in the kind of neurotic fits exhibited by the teenage Blanche. Under his care andcritics would claimhis manipulation, she became not just a patient but a star performer known as 'the queen of hysterics.' As Hustvedt details in this compassionate history, the doctor not only studied patients like Blanche, he turned them into public exhibits. Charcot and his colleagues, experimenting with treatment by hypnosis, often held theatrical demonstrations of their power over these troubled women: 'Once hypnotized, Blanche became a smoothly running woman-machine.' These performances have...

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