



Illness narratives and credibility

Roxana Delbene

Drew University

<rdelbene@drew.edu>



The Widening Circle

- ▶ They were unable to find a physical cause for my complaints. He then looked at me and said: 'You know, Mrs. Murray, sometimes people subconsciously want to be sick.' I asked him what he was implying, and he went on to say that sometimes psychiatric problems manifested themselves with physical symptoms. 'That isn't the case here,' I replied. 'I just know this isn't a psychosomatic illness.... He insisted that I was depressed, suggested that I see a psychiatrist at the hospital for an interview that afternoon, and then went on his way. I felt very alone and defeated (Murray 1996, 35-36).