

kay redfield jamison touched with fire

****Kay Redfield Jamison Touched with Fire: Exploring the Intersection of Creativity and Bipolar Disorder****

kay redfield jamison touched with fire is a phrase that resonates deeply within the realms of psychology, mental health, and creativity. This phrase references the groundbreaking work of Kay Redfield Jamison, a prominent clinical psychologist and researcher who has dedicated much of her life to understanding bipolar disorder, especially as it relates to creativity and the human spirit. Her book, **Touched with Fire: Manic-Depressive Illness and the Artistic Temperament**, stands as a seminal text that explores the complex relationship between mood disorders and exceptional artistic achievement.

If you've ever been curious about how mood disorders like bipolar disorder influence creativity, or how individuals grapple with the dual nature of genius and mental illness, Jamison's **Touched with Fire** provides a profound and empathetic exploration. Let's dive into the essence of this work, its significance, and what it teaches us about the human experience.

Who Is Kay Redfield Jamison?

Kay Redfield Jamison is not just an author and researcher; she is a living example of the issues she studies. Diagnosed with bipolar disorder herself, Jamison has combined her clinical expertise with personal experience to offer insights that are both academically rigorous and deeply human. Her career spans decades of research, teaching, and clinical practice, with a focus on mood disorders, suicide prevention, and the links between mental illness and creativity.

Her unique perspective as both a clinician and a patient gives her work an authenticity that resonates with readers and professionals alike. **Touched with Fire** is one of her most influential contributions, shedding light on the enigmatic connection between manic-depressive illness and artistic genius.

Understanding **Touched with Fire**: The Book's Core Themes

At its heart, **Touched with Fire** explores the idea that bipolar disorder and creativity are often intertwined. Jamison examines historical examples of famous artists, writers, and musicians who likely suffered from manic-depressive illness, suggesting that their extraordinary creative outputs were, at least in part, influenced by their mood swings.

The Link Between Bipolar Disorder and Creativity

Jamison's research suggests that the intense emotional highs (mania or hypomania) and lows (depression) in bipolar disorder can fuel creative thinking. During manic phases, individuals may experience heightened energy, rapid thought processes, and a flood of ideas—conditions that can spur artistic production. Conversely, depressive episodes often bring profound introspection and emotional depth, which can also enrich creative expression.

This duality—being “touched with fire”—symbolizes the passionate, sometimes destructive, yet profoundly creative force of bipolar disorder. Jamison argues that understanding this connection can help destigmatize mental illness by highlighting how these conditions contribute to cultural and artistic advancements.

Historical Figures Explored in **Touched with Fire**

The book profiles numerous historical figures believed to have had bipolar disorder. These include luminaries like Vincent van Gogh, Virginia Woolf, Edgar Allan Poe, and Ludwig van Beethoven. By examining their lives and works through the lens of mood disorders, Jamison reveals how their struggles with mental illness influenced their art, often in tragic yet inspiring ways.

The Impact of Kay Redfield Jamison's Work on Mental Health Awareness

Jamison's **Touched with Fire** has had a significant influence on public and academic perceptions of bipolar disorder. It has contributed to a shift in how society views mood disorders—not just as debilitating illnesses but as complex conditions that can coexist with brilliance and creativity.

Breaking the Stigma Around Bipolar Disorder

One of the key contributions of Jamison's work is its compassionate portrayal of people with bipolar disorder. Rather than focusing solely on the challenges and symptoms, she highlights the humanity and potential within those affected. This approach encourages empathy and reduces stigma, which is crucial for encouraging individuals to seek help and support.

Influence on Mental Health Treatment and Research

Jamison's insights have informed clinical approaches to bipolar disorder, emphasizing the importance of recognizing the creative and emotional aspects of the illness. Her work underscores the need for personalized treatment plans that consider the patient's identity and talents, not just their symptoms.

Kay Redfield Jamison's Personal Journey and Its Role in

****Touched with Fire****

Jamison's personal experience with bipolar disorder adds a powerful dimension to her writing. She openly discusses her own manic and depressive episodes, the challenges of living with the illness, and

the ongoing process of managing it. This transparency provides hope and validation to others facing similar struggles.

The Power of Storytelling in Mental Health

By sharing her story, Jamison bridges the gap between clinical knowledge and lived experience. This storytelling approach makes **Touched with Fire** more than just an academic text—it becomes a source of inspiration and understanding for anyone touched by mood disorders.

Why **Touched with Fire Remains Relevant Today**

More than three decades after its initial publication, **Touched with Fire** continues to be a vital resource. Its exploration of the intricate dance between creativity and mental illness remains relevant as society increasingly values mental health awareness and destigmatization.

Applications in Modern Psychology and the Arts

The book informs modern discussions on how artists and creators can be supported in managing mental health challenges. It also influences educational programs and therapeutic methods aimed at harnessing creativity while addressing mood instability.

Encouraging a Balanced Perspective

Jamison's work encourages us to see bipolar disorder not merely as a disorder to be eradicated but as a condition with complexities that may include unique strengths. This balanced perspective fosters more compassionate treatment and appreciation for neurodiversity.

Exploring Related Topics: Creativity, Mental Health, and Society

If **Touched with Fire** sparks your curiosity, there are several related areas worth exploring.

Understanding the broader context helps deepen one's appreciation of Jamison's contributions.

- **Artistic Temperament and Mental Illness:** Investigate how various mental health conditions influence artistic expression across different cultures and time periods.
- **The Neuroscience of Creativity:** Learn about brain function during creative processes, especially in individuals with mood disorders.
- **Mental Health Advocacy:** Explore how figures like Jamison have shaped advocacy efforts to improve mental health care and reduce stigma worldwide.

Final Thoughts on Kay Redfield Jamison and **Touched with Fire**

Kay Redfield Jamison's **Touched with Fire** is more than just a study of bipolar disorder; it is a tribute to the resilience of the human spirit and the fiery passion that drives creativity. By weaving together science, history, and personal narrative, Jamison offers a nuanced understanding of how mood disorders and artistic brilliance can coexist.

Her work challenges us to rethink our perceptions of mental illness and creativity, inspiring both professionals and the general public to approach these topics with greater empathy and insight.

Whether you are a mental health professional, an artist, or simply someone interested in the complexities of the mind, **Touched with Fire** remains a compelling and enlightening read.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Touched with Fire' by Kay Redfield Jamison about?

Touched with Fire is a book by Kay Redfield Jamison that explores the connection between bipolar disorder and artistic creativity, drawing on historical examples of famous artists and writers who experienced mood disorders.

Who is Kay Redfield Jamison?

Kay Redfield Jamison is a clinical psychologist and professor known for her work on mood disorders, particularly bipolar disorder. She is also an author and a person with bipolar disorder herself.

How does 'Touched with Fire' link bipolar disorder and creativity?

In *'Touched with Fire'*, Jamison argues that the intense emotional states associated with bipolar disorder, such as mania and depression, can enhance creative expression and artistic insight, though they also come with significant challenges.

Is 'Touched with Fire' based on scientific research or personal experience?

The book combines scientific research, clinical insights, and Jamison's personal experiences with bipolar disorder to provide a comprehensive view of the relationship between mood disorders and creativity.

What impact has 'Touched with Fire' had on the understanding of mental illness and creativity?

Touched with Fire has helped increase awareness and reduce stigma by highlighting the complex link between mental illness and creativity, encouraging a more nuanced appreciation of artists with mood disorders.

Additional Resources

Kay Redfield Jamison *Touched with Fire: A Profound Exploration of Bipolar Disorder and Creativity*

kay redfield jamison touched with fire is a phrase that resonates deeply within the fields of psychiatry and psychology, largely due to Jamison's influential work both as a clinician and a person living with bipolar disorder. Her groundbreaking book **Touched with Fire: Manic-Depressive Illness and the Artistic Temperament** delves into the intricate relationship between mood disorders and creativity, offering a compelling, research-driven perspective that has shaped contemporary understanding of mental illness and its complex manifestations.

Understanding Kay Redfield Jamison and **Touched with Fire**

Kay Redfield Jamison, a clinical psychologist and professor of psychiatry, is renowned for her candid and scholarly approach to bipolar disorder. In **Touched with Fire**, first published in 1993, Jamison examines historical and contemporary figures who demonstrated extraordinary creativity alongside their struggles with manic-depressive illness. The book synthesizes clinical research with biographical studies, positioning Jamison not only as a researcher but also as an insightful narrator who bridges the gap between the scientific community and the general public.

At its core, **Touched with Fire** explores the hypothesis that bipolar disorder, characterized by alternating episodes of mania and depression, may be linked to heightened creativity and artistic

achievement. Jamison's work draws on extensive case studies of poets, writers, musicians, and painters, including luminaries such as Vincent van Gogh, Sylvia Plath, and Robert Schumann. Through meticulous research, she argues that the emotional intensity and cognitive shifts inherent in bipolar disorder can enhance creative output, albeit often at great personal cost.

The Intersection of Bipolar Disorder and Creativity

One of the most intriguing aspects of **Touched with Fire** is its exploration of how bipolar disorder influences creative processes. Mania, marked by elevated mood, increased energy, and rapid thought patterns, can foster a surge of ideas and productivity. Conversely, depressive episodes may bring profound emotional depth and introspection, which many artists channel into their work.

Jamison's analysis suggests that the volatility of mood in bipolar disorder can create a fertile environment for artistic innovation, but this link is neither simple nor universally positive. She emphasizes that the "touched with fire" metaphor captures the double-edged nature of the disorder: while it can ignite brilliance, it can also lead to devastating consequences such as suicide, addiction, and social isolation.

Critical Reception and Impact on Mental Health Discourse

Since its release, **Touched with Fire** has been widely acclaimed for its empathetic yet rigorous approach to mental illness. The book has significantly influenced both clinical psychiatry and popular perceptions of bipolar disorder, challenging stigmas and prompting more nuanced conversations about mental health and creativity.

Mental health professionals often cite Jamison's work when discussing the diagnostic complexities and treatment challenges of mood disorders. The book's integration of scientific data with human stories helps destigmatize bipolar disorder and encourages a more compassionate understanding of those affected. Moreover, Jamison's dual identity as a clinician and someone living with bipolar disorder

lends authenticity to her analysis.

Pros and Cons of Jamison's Thesis

- **Pros:**

- Provides a well-researched link between bipolar disorder and creativity, supported by historical and clinical evidence.
- Humanizes mental illness through personal anecdotes and biographies.
- Encourages a less stigmatized view of mood disorders.
- Stimulates further research into the neurobiological and psychological mechanisms connecting mood and creativity.

- **Cons:**

- Some critics argue that the emphasis on creativity risks romanticizing a serious and often debilitating illness.
- The correlation between bipolar disorder and creativity is complex and may not apply universally.
- Focus on famous individuals might overlook the experiences of those with bipolar disorder who do not exhibit creative talents.

Kay Redfield Jamison's Personal Narrative and Professional Contributions

What sets **Touched with Fire** apart is Jamison's willingness to share her own experiences with bipolar disorder. This personal narrative enriches the book's credibility and emotional resonance. Jamison's openness about her diagnosis and treatment highlights the challenges of managing bipolar disorder, including medication adherence, mood stabilization, and the social implications of mental illness.

Her contributions extend beyond this seminal work, as she has authored numerous books and articles that blend clinical expertise with lived experience. Jamison's advocacy for mental health awareness and research funding has had a lasting impact on both patients and providers.

Comparison with Other Works on Bipolar Disorder

When compared with other literature on bipolar disorder, **Touched with Fire** stands out due to its unique focus on creativity. While many medical texts prioritize symptomatology and pharmacological treatment, Jamison's interdisciplinary approach incorporates psychology, history, and art. Books such as Andrew Solomon's **The Noonday Demon** and Ellen Forney's graphic memoir **Marbles** also explore bipolar disorder but with varying emphases on personal narrative and cultural critique.

In the broader landscape of mental health literature, Jamison's work remains a cornerstone for those seeking to understand the nuanced interplay between mental illness and human potential.

The Legacy of **Touched with Fire** in Contemporary Psychiatry and Culture

More than two decades after its publication, **Touched with Fire** continues to influence how bipolar disorder is perceived in clinical and cultural contexts. The book's insights have encouraged mental health professionals to consider the strengths and vulnerabilities of their patients holistically. The idea that mood disorders can coexist with exceptional creativity has helped reform educational, therapeutic, and occupational approaches.

In popular culture, **Touched with Fire** has inspired documentaries, lectures, and artistic projects that explore the theme of mental illness and creativity. The phrase "touched with fire" itself has entered the lexicon as a metaphor for the fierce brilliance and fragility that characterize bipolar disorder.

Relevance for Today's Readers and Mental Health Advocates

In an era of increasing mental health awareness, Kay Redfield Jamison's **Touched with Fire** offers timeless insights. For individuals grappling with bipolar disorder, the book provides validation and hope by acknowledging the complexity of their experiences. For clinicians and researchers, it serves as a reminder of the importance of empathy and the need to balance symptom management with recognition of patients' talents and aspirations.

The ongoing dialogue sparked by Jamison's work underscores the necessity of viewing mental health through a multidimensional lens—one that respects both the scientific and humanistic aspects of psychiatric disorders.

Kay Redfield Jamison's **Touched with Fire** remains a seminal text that challenges simplistic narratives about mental illness. By weaving together clinical research, historical biography, and

personal memoir, Jamison invites readers to reconsider the boundaries between madness and genius, tragedy and triumph. Her work stands as a testament to the enduring complexity of the human mind and the indelible connection between suffering and creativity.

Kay Redfield Jamison Touched With Fire

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Touched with Fire Kay R. Jamison, 1994 From the author of the New York Times bestseller, *An Unquiet Mind*, *Touched with Fire* is an authoritative look at the relationship between manic-depressive illness and the artistic temperament. Psychiatrist Jamison advocates a restrained, humanistic approach to treatment that does not cure the disorder at the expense of artistic inspiration.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Touched With Fire Kay Redfield Jamison, 1996-10-18 The definitive work on the profound and surprising links between manic-depression and creativity, from the bestselling psychologist of bipolar disorders who wrote *An Unquiet Mind*. One of the foremost psychologists in America, “Kay Jamison is plainly among the few who have a profound understanding of the relationship that exists between art and madness” (William Styron). The anguished and volatile intensity associated with the artistic temperament was once thought to be a symptom of genius or eccentricity peculiar to artists, writers, and musicians. Her work, based on her study as a clinical psychologist and researcher in mood disorders, reveals that many artists subject to exalted highs and despairing lows were in fact engaged in a struggle with clinically identifiable manic-depressive illness. Jamison presents proof of the biological foundations of this disease and applies what is known about the illness to the lives and works of some of the world's greatest artists including Lord Byron, Vincent Van Gogh, and Virginia Woolf.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: An Unquiet Mind Kay Redfield Jamison, 2009-01-21 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A deeply powerful memoir about bipolar illness that has both transformed and saved lives—with a new preface by the author. Dr. Jamison is one of the foremost authorities on manic-depressive (bipolar) illness; she has also experienced it firsthand. For even while she was pursuing her career in academic medicine, Jamison found herself succumbing to the same exhilarating highs and catastrophic depressions that afflicted many of her patients, as her disorder launched her into ruinous spending sprees, episodes of violence, and an attempted suicide. Here Jamison examines bipolar illness from the dual perspectives of the healer and the healed, revealing both its terrors and the cruel allure that at times prompted her to resist taking medication.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Exuberance Kay Redfield Jamison, 2004-09-28 A national bestselling author examines one of the mind's most exalted states—one that is crucially important to learning, risk-taking, social cohesiveness, and survival itself. “[Jamison is] that rare writer who can offer a kind of unified field theory of science and art.” —The Washington Post Book World With the same grace and breadth of learning she brought to her studies of the mind's pathologies, Kay Redfield Jamison examines one of its most exalted states: exuberance. This “abounding, ebullient, effervescent emotion” manifests itself everywhere from child's play to scientific breakthrough. *Exuberance: The Passion for Life* introduces us to such notably irrepressible types as Teddy Roosevelt, John Muir, and Richard Feynman, as well as Peter Pan, dancing porcupines, and Charles Schulz's Snoopy. It explores whether exuberance can be inherited, parses its neurochemical grammar, and documents the methods people have used to stimulate it. The resulting book is an irresistible fusion of science and soul.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Robert Lowell, Setting the River on Fire Kay Redfield Jamison, 2018-02-06 PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • In this magisterial study of the

relationship between illness and art, the best-selling author of *An Unquiet Mind*, Kay Redfield Jamison, brings an entirely fresh understanding to the work and life of Robert Lowell (1917-1977), whose intense, complex, and personal verse left a lasting mark on the English language and changed the public discourse about private matters. In his poetry, Lowell put his manic-depressive illness (now known as bipolar disorder) into the public domain, and in the process created a new and arresting language for madness. Here Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison brings her expertise in mood disorders to bear on Lowell's story, illuminating not only the relationships between mania, depression, and creativity but also how Lowell's illness and treatment influenced his work (and often became its subject). A bold, sympathetic account of a poet who was—both despite and because of mental illness—a passionate, original observer of the human condition.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Nothing Was the Same Kay Redfield Jamison, 2009-09-15 A penetrating psychological study of grief viewed from deep inside the experience itself—from the national bestselling author of *Unquiet Mind*. Kay Redfield Jamison, award-winning professor and writer, changed the way we think about moods and madness. Now Jamison uses her characteristic honesty, wit and eloquence to look back at her relationship with her husband, Richard Wyatt, a renowned scientist who died of cancer.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Kierkegaard's The Sickness Unto Death Jeffrey Hanson, Sharon Krishek, 2022-07-21 Presents new approaches to one of Kierkegaard's most important texts, shedding light on themes such as selfhood, despair, and sin.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Fires in the Dark Kay Redfield Jamison, 2024-05-14 The acclaimed author of *An Unquiet Mind* considers the age-old quest for relief from psychological pain and the role of the exceptional healer in the journey back to health. "To treat, even to cure, is not always to heal." In this expansive cultural history of the treatment and healing of mental suffering, Kay Jamison writes about psychotherapy, what makes a great healer, and the role of imagination and memory in regenerating the mind. From the trauma of the battlefields of the twentieth century, to those who are grieving, depressed, or with otherwise unquiet minds, to her own experience with bipolar illness, Jamison demonstrates how remarkable psychotherapy and other treatments can be when done well. She argues that not only patients but doctors must be healed. She draws on the example of W.H.R. Rivers, the renowned psychiatrist who treated poet Siegfried Sassoon and other World War I soldiers, and discusses the long history of physical treatments for mental illness, as well as the ancient and modern importance of religion, ritual, and myth in healing the mind. She looks at the vital role of artists and writers, as well as exemplary figures, such as Paul Robeson, who have helped to heal us as a people. *Fires in the Dark* is a beautiful meditation on the quest and adventure of healing the mind, on the power of accompaniment, and the necessity for knowledge.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: The Emotion Machine Marvin Minsky, 2007-11-13 In this mind-expanding book, scientific pioneer Marvin Minsky continues his groundbreaking research, offering a fascinating new model for how our minds work. He argues persuasively that emotions, intuitions, and feelings are not distinct things, but different ways of thinking. By examining these different forms of mind activity, Minsky says, we can explain why our thought sometimes takes the form of carefully reasoned analysis and at other times turns to emotion. He shows how our minds progress from simple, instinctive kinds of thought to more complex forms, such as consciousness or self-awareness. And he argues that because we tend to see our thinking as fragmented, we fail to appreciate what powerful thinkers we really are. Indeed, says Minsky, if thinking can be understood as the step-by-step process that it is, then we can build machines -- artificial intelligences -- that not only can assist with our thinking by thinking as we do but have the potential to be as conscious as we are. Eloquently written, *The Emotion Machine* is an intriguing look into a future where more powerful artificial intelligences await.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Suffering in Silence Timothy Mulder, 2023-03-10 Mental illness affects millions of Americans. Often, those afflicted will develop substance abuse problems or will die from suicide. Surely, there must be something the church can do to help.

Timothy Mulder explores how to effectively minister to those with mental illness in *Suffering in Silence*. He considers questions such as: How can you recognize someone who may potentially be struggling with mental illness? Why are those who suffer from mental illness so often misunderstood? Why are churches well positioned to help people struggling with mental illness? How can you best minister to those with mental illness? Join the author as he explores how to better understand mental illness, so you may better minister to those who suffer from it.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: *Hearts of Darkness* Bertram Wyatt-Brown, 2002-10-01 From Edgar Allan Poe's "dark forebodings" to Kate Chopin's lifelong struggle with sorrow and loss, depression has shadowed southern letters. This beautifully realized study explores the defining role of melancholy in southern literature from the early nineteenth century to the early twentieth, when it evolved into modernist alienation. While creativity and depression have been linked throughout Western history, Bertram Wyatt-Brown argues that nineteenth-century southern culture was hospitable to a distinctive melancholy that impelled literary production. Deeply marked by high death rates, social dread, and bitter defeat, white southerners imposed a climate of parochial pride, stifling conventions of masculinity, social condescension, and mistrust of intellectualism. Many writers experienced a conscious or unconscious alienation from the prevailing social currents. And they expressed emotional turmoil in and through their writing. *Hearts of Darkness* develops original insights into the lives and creative impulses of both major and more obscure writers. Discussing individuals as diverse as William Gilmore Simms, Mark Twain, Constance Fenimore Woolson, Sidney Lanier, and Ellen Glasgow, Wyatt-Brown identifies a close association between creativity and psychological distress. This connection helps to explain southern literary engrossment with defeat and violence—together with a disposition for the romantic, gothic, and grotesque styles—well before William Faulkner and the male Southern Renaissance. Wyatt-Brown also finds that the first authors to break away from the sentimental modes to explore new psychological terrain were women whose depression ironically furnished them with critical dispassion. Imaginative detachment in writers such as Willa Cather enabled them to create luminous characters and settings while heralding literary modernism. A major reinterpretation of the South's fertile literary culture, *Hearts of Darkness* intensifies our regard for both southern writers and the fruits of pen and paper.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: *The Descent of Madness* Jonathan Burns, 2007-03-12 Drawing on evidence from across the behavioural and natural sciences, this book advances a radical new hypothesis: that madness exists as a costly consequence of the evolution of a sophisticated social brain in *Homo sapiens*. Having explained the rationale for an evolutionary approach to psychosis, the author makes a case for psychotic illness in our living ape relatives, as well as in human ancestors. He then reviews existing evolutionary theories of psychosis, before introducing his own thesis: that the same genes causing madness are responsible for the evolution of our highly social brain. Jonathan Burns' novel Darwinian analysis of the importance of psychosis for human survival provides some meaning for this form of suffering. It also spurs us to a renewed commitment to changing our societies in a way that allows the mentally ill the opportunity of living. *The Descent of Madness* will be of interest to those in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, sociology and anthropology, and is also accessible to the general reader.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: *Byron's Ghosts* Gavin Hopps, 2013-10-11 The first book-length examination of spectrality in Byron's work, this critical collection questions the popular image of Byron as a sceptical or 'anti-Romantic' poet and in so doing reveals a great deal about his work.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: *The Power of Different* Gail Saltz, 2017-03-07 A powerful and inspiring examination of the connection between the potential for great talent and conditions commonly thought to be "disabilities," revealing how the source of our struggles can be the origin of our greatest strengths. In *The Power of Different*, psychiatrist and bestselling author Gail Saltz examines the latest scientific discoveries, profiles famous geniuses who have been diagnosed with all manner of brain "problems"—including learning disabilities, ADD, anxiety,

Depression, Bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and Autism—and tells the stories of lay individuals to demonstrate how specific deficits in certain areas of the brain are directly associated with the potential for great talent. Saltz shows how the very conditions that cause people to experience difficulty at school, in social situations, at home, or at work, are inextricably bound to creative, disciplinary, artistic, empathetic, and cognitive abilities. In this pioneering work, readers will find engaging scientific research and stories from historical geniuses and everyday individuals who have not only made the most of their conditions, but who have flourished because of them. They are leaning into their brain differences to:

- *Identify areas of interest and expertise
- *Develop work arounds
- *Create the environments that best foster their talents
- *Forge rewarding interpersonal relationships

Enlightening and inspiring, *The Power of Different* proves that the unique wiring of every brain can be a source of strength and productivity, and contributes to the richness of our world.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Haunted Heart Linda Dahl, 2008-03-28 Beginning as a disciple of Billie Holiday, Susannah McCorkle carefully crafted her own unique singing style, performing in New York and venues around the world. However, she struggled with bipolar disorder. Unable to overcome crippling bouts of depression, McCorkle committed suicide in 2001. Author Linda Dahl offers a revealing portrait of one of America's greatest yet misunderstood singers. 8 page photo insert.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: The Bipolar Express David Coleman, 2014-07-08 In the past few decades, awareness of bipolar disorder has significantly increased, but understanding of the condition remains vague for most of the general public. Though the term itself is relatively recent, the condition has affected individuals for centuries—and no more profoundly than in the arts. The historical connections among manic depression and such fields as literature, music, and painting have been previously documented. However, the impact of bipolar disorder on movie makers and its depiction on the screen has yet to be thoroughly examined. In *The Bipolar Express: Manic Depression and the Movies*, David Coleman provides an in-depth examination of the entwined natures of mood disorders and moviemaking. In this volume, Coleman looks at the writers, directors, and actors who have faced the mood swings and behavior that are hallmarks of this condition—from Greta Garbo and Orson Welles to Marilyn Monroe and Jonathan Winters. In addition to recognizing the cinematic contributions of manic depressive filmmakers, the author also looks at movies that have portrayed bipolar disorder—with varying degrees of accuracy—including *Citizen Kane*, *Rebel without a Cause*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Hannah and Her Sisters*, *The Aviator*, and *Silver Linings Playbook*. From early silents of the twentieth century through critically acclaimed films of today, this book compares depictions of mood swings on screen with clinical examples of actual manic depression, carefully distinguishing real from stereotypical portrayals. This fascinating study is augmented by a concise filmography of more than 400 feature-length films from around the world with themes or characters relating to manic depressive illness. Though aimed at film fans and anyone interested in manic depression, mental illness, or related medical studies, this book will also prove valuable to medical and mental health professionals.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Gilbert Stuart and the Impact of Manic Depression Dorinda Evans, 2017-07-05 Early American painter Gilbert Stuart has long been mistakenly represented as a hard-drinking rogue, habitual liar, and inexplicable financial failure. To explain his stylistic unevenness as an artist, he is assumed to have had an inferior assistant, but the documentary evidence for an assistant who painted on his portraits is non-existent—in fact, there is evidence to the contrary. This ground-breaking study demonstrates that Stuart suffered from a hereditary form of manic depression, leading him to create pictures that contain peculiar lapses characteristic of a manic-depressive, or bipolar, artist. Using documentary and empirical evidence—from diaries and letters to x-radiographs of paintings—this book fills important gaps in our knowledge of Stuart, and connects the strange visual effects in some of Stuart's paintings with cognitive deficits attendant with the disorder. In addition to Stuart, other bipolar artists, including George Romney, Raphaelle Peale, Gilbert Stuart Newton, and William Rimmer, are discussed in

relation to these deficits, revealing patterns which carry broader implications for all manic-depressive artists. This volume is a significant contribution not only to studies of Stuart and the four other painters but also to our understanding of the mind of a manic-depressive artist. It bridges the broad disciplines of art history and psychopathology.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Ancestor Trouble Maud Newton, 2022-03-29
"Extraordinary and wide-ranging . . . a literary feat that simultaneously builds and excavates identity."—The New York Times Book Review (Editors' Choice) Roxane Gay's Audacious Book Club Pick • Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard Prize • An acclaimed writer goes searching for the truth about her complicated Southern family—and finds that our obsession with ancestors opens up new ways of seeing ourselves—in this "brilliant mix of personal memoir and cultural observation" (The Boston Globe). ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The New Yorker, NPR, Time, Entertainment Weekly, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Esquire, Garden & Gun Maud Newton's ancestors have fascinated her since she was a girl. Her mother's father was said to have married thirteen times. Her mother's grandfather killed a man with a hay hook. Mental illness and religious fanaticism percolated Maud's maternal lines back to an ancestor accused of being a witch in Puritan-era Massachusetts. Newton's family inspired in her a desire to understand family patterns: what we are destined to replicate and what we can leave behind. She set out to research her genealogy—her grandfather's marriages, the accused witch, her ancestors' roles in slavery and other harms. Her journey took her into the realms of genetics, epigenetics, and debates over intergenerational trauma. She mulled over modernity's dismissal of ancestors along with psychoanalytic and spiritual traditions that center them. Searching and inspiring, Ancestor Trouble is one writer's attempt to use genealogy—a once-niche hobby that has grown into a multi-billion-dollar industry—to make peace with the secrets and contradictions of her family's past and face its reverberations in the present, and to argue for the transformational possibilities that reckoning with our ancestors offers all of us.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: Manic-Depressive Illness Frederick K. Goodwin, Kay Redfield Jamison, 2007-03-22 This long-awaited second edition of Manic-Depressive Illness will exhaustively review the biological and genetic literature that has dominated the field in recent years, and incorporate cutting-edge research conducted since publication of the first edition. Drs. Frederick Goodwin and Kay Redfield Jamison have updated their surveys of psychological and epidemiological evidence, as well as that pertaining to diagnostic issues, course, and outcome, and they offer practical guidelines for differential diagnosis and clinical management. This book will be a valuable addition to the libraries of psychiatrists and other physicians, psychologists, clinical social workers, neuroscientists, pharmacologists, and the patients and families who live with manic-depressive illness.

kay redfield jamison touched with fire: When Life Goes Dark Richard Winter, 2012-04-25 Psychiatrist and theologian Richard Winter explores the complex issues surrounding depression. He sorts through scientific research, dispels common misunderstandings and looks at how biblical characters experienced despair. Here is help for all those who find themselves, loved ones or those they counsel vulnerable to depression.

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