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Paradoxes in nurses' identity, culture and image: the shadow side of

nursing // Margaret McAllister and Donna Lee Brien

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Introduction: Disquieting images of nurses -- Transgressive texts Nota di contenuto

about nursing -- Nursing's dark past and secret knowledge -- Objects of desire -- Nursing and the abject -- Apparitions, lost souls and healing spaces -- Mighty, mean and monstrous nurses -- Murdering nurses -- Nurses and sick health care systems -- Growing from adversity -- Conclusion: Out of the shadows, into the light -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

This book examines some of the more disturbing representations of nurses in popular culture, to understand nursing's complex identities, challenges and future directions. It critically analyses disquieting representations of nurses who dont care, who kill, who inspire fear or who do not comply with laws and policies. Also addressed are stories about how power is used, as well as supernatural experiences in nursing. Using a series of examples taken from popular culture ranging from film, television and novels to memoirs and true crime podcasts, it interrogates the meaning of the shadow side of nursing and the underlying paradoxes that influence professional identity. Iconic nursing figures are still powerful today. Decades after they were first created, Ratched and Annie Wilkes continue to make readers and viewers shudder at the prospect of ever being ill. Modern storytelling modes are bringing to audiences the grim reality that some nurses are members of the working poor, like Cath Hardacre in Trust Me, and others can be dangerous con artists, like the nurse inDirty John. This book is important reading for all those interested in understanding the

links between nursing's image and the profession's potential as an agent for change.