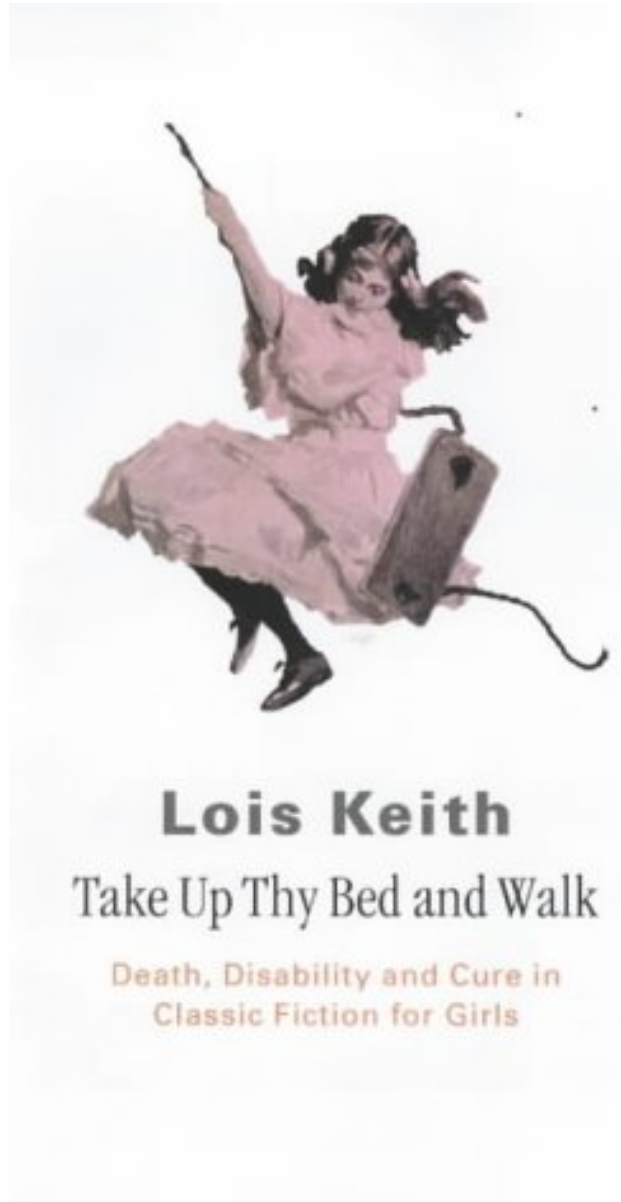


(Free pdf) Take Up Thy Bed and Walk: Death, Disability and Cure in Classic Fiction for Girls

Take Up Thy Bed and Walk: Death, Disability and Cure in Classic Fiction for Girls

Lois Keith

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Lois Keith : Take Up Thy Bed and Walk: Death, Disability and Cure in Classic Fiction for Girls before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Take Up Thy Bed and Walk: Death, Disability and Cure in Classic Fiction for Girls:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. revelatory
By Fly on the Wall
I found this book very accessible, yet thorough, and an enjoyable read. Most of the novels discussed were familiar (although not the Australian book). I recall my own ambivalent feelings about Katy's fall and back injury in *What Katy Did* - and yet I loved the books as a girl! I was never a fan of Heidi, though... It was a pleasure to read essays that made sense of what was going on with these Victorian and early 20th century stories for girls. Pretty much: behave and learn to be good (a little mother) or something nasty will befall you. You can be a tomboy till the age of 14 but after that behave and be feminine!
I especially recommend the final chapter where Keith considers contemporary children's fiction where much more positive stories are evolving and being published, and where disability (temporary or permanent) does not have to be used as a punishment or 'lesson'.
1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. a heavy handed criticism
By Customer
This book was interesting and infuriating. the author focuses on the miracle cure more than she focuses on portrayal of disability in children's books. Her indulgence of Louisa May Alcott's writing was almost more than I could bear. It was not her handling of the sanctimonious Beth that bugged me so much as it was her own disappointment. At the ending that made that chapter read like she booked no argument. Mostly this book felt angry. The author lashing out at the world. also if leg problems are the only ones addressed the author should say so in the summary.

"The Secret Garden" is a classic story of a miracle cure. Such stories contain an implicit morality: that disability is a punishment, and can be cured by moral improvement and "mind over matter". This study explores the representation of disabled characters in children's fiction.

About the Author
Lois Keith is a freelance writer, teacher, and civil rights activist in England. She is the editor of *Musn't Grumble: Writing by Disabled Women*, and the author of *A Different Life*, and *Think About People Who Use Wheelchairs*. She is the recipient of Great Britain's MIND Book of the Year Award, Book Trust's 100 Best Books of the Year, and was shortlisted for Great Britain's Nasen Special Education Award.