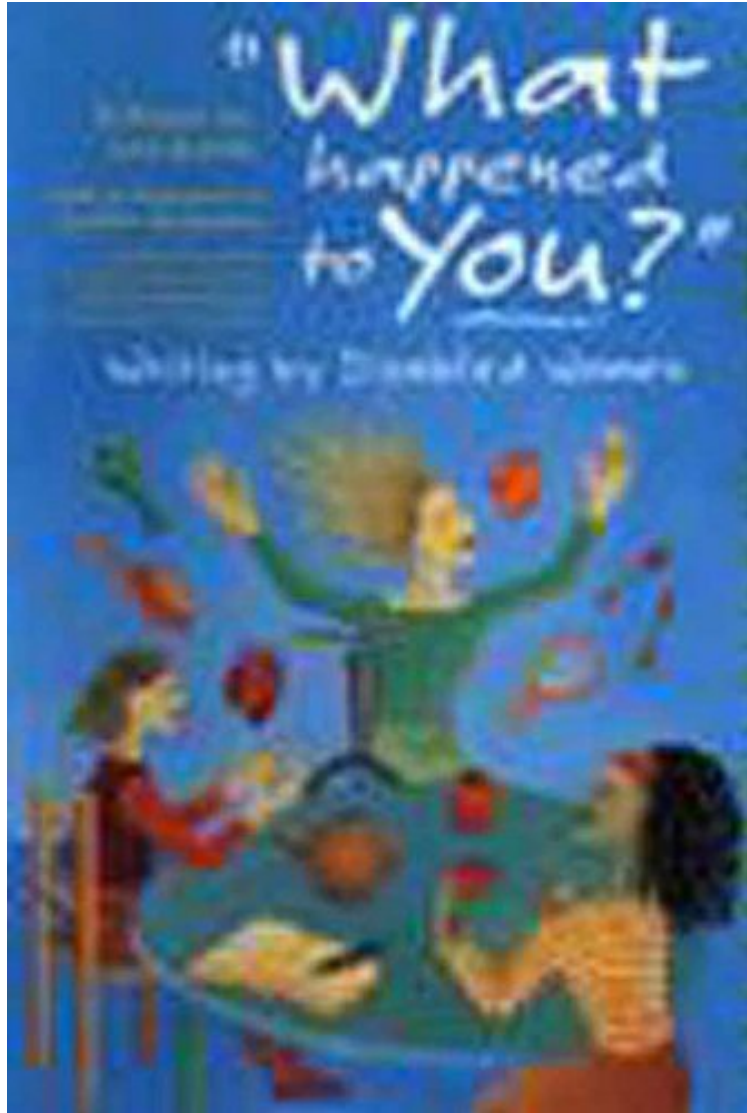


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## 'What Happened to You?': Writing by Disabled Women

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**From Brand: New Press, The :** 'What Happened to You?': Writing by Disabled Women before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 'What Happened to You?': Writing by Disabled Women:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. universally touching  
By A Customer I loved this book so much. I thought it was so wonderful that it was inclusive of women from many different cultural backgrounds and with many different disabilities. I was especially appreciative that they included mental illness in this book "Agoraphobia: letting go," by Pam Mason, because so many times it is brushed off and blamed on the victim. I would highly recommend this

book to any woman who knows what its like to go through lifes ups and downs.6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Strong VoicesBy A CustomerIf you are a woman with a disability, know a woman with a disability, or care about women with disabilities, this is a must read. Out of all of the anthologies written by women, this is the most accessible. If you are looking for a gift for someone you love, don't pass it up.

Hard-hitting and deeply moving stories, poems, and essays by more than thirty disabled women, winner of the MIND/Allen Lane Book of the Year Award.

.com After becoming disabled at age 35, Lois Keith found herself quotliving in a society which had permission to exclude me from things I had grown to consider my right." She learned writing gave her relief, pleasure, and the key to a new community. The essays, fiction, and poetry she gathered for What Happened to You? share differing experiences of women who are disabled or ill. A dancer who broke her neck performing talks of loathing the sense of being on show in the "lofty heights" of her wheelchair until she learned to dance quite differently. One woman gives voice to the undercurrents of anger, uncertainty, fear, and humiliation that colon cancer visits upon her. A disabled adoptive mother finds black humor seeking someone in similar circumstances through the personal ads only to be matched with an "athletic outdoor woman who enjoys hill-walking, climbing, and water sports." Not all of the writing is polished, but most of it comes from the heart and rings true quite loudly. --Francesca ColtreraFrom Library JournalDisabled women face even greater obstacles than do women generally, and physically challenged lesbians and women of color deal with yet another set of problems. This anthology of prose, poetry, fiction, and personal memoirs by 36 disabled British women provides an interesting view of their life experiences. The women speak about child rearing, relationships, discrimination, inaccessible buildings, and abuse by caregivers. Full of anger, pain, rage, hope, warmth, humor, and politics, their work shows readers daily life with its struggles, failures, and triumphs. This book empowers all women by giving them a sense of community and showing their strength, courage, and dignity to the world. A unique and interesting anthology; recommended for women's studies collections.?Barbara M. Bibel, Oakland P.L., Cal.Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistEditor Keith's life changed when a car hit her and left her, at 35, paralyzed from the waist down. Her subsequent discovery that writings by disabled women, in her native U.K., at least, were few and uncollected led her to gather the poetry, fiction, and essays in this anthology. These contents reflect a wide range of women with quite a range of impairments, from partial sightedness and epilepsy to loss of limbs and paralysis. Some of the 36 contributors are light-skinned, some dark-skinned; some scream their anger, some sigh their frustrations; some praise their partners and family members for inestimable help, others curse their family members' indifference to the pain, dependence, and humiliation they suffered; some mourn the loss of mobility and opportunities for sexual expression, yet a former dancer, her neck broken in a fall, now "dances" in a wheelchair. Virtually all are unforgettable. Whitney Scott