

# Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	xi
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
<b>Introduction: reconsidering dementia narratives</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Two starting points</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Why narrative?</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Biomedicine and the cultural meaning of dementia</i>	<i>8</i>
A brief history of dementia	9
Demography and demonisation	10
Reconsidering dementia: reparative moves	11
The Alzheimer's 'epidemic': care, cost, and social justice	12
<i>Literary dementia studies and the medical humanities</i>	<i>14</i>
Illness narratives: countering master narratives and exploring the experience of illness	16
<i>Outline of chapters</i>	<i>17</i>
<b>PART I</b>	
<b>Storytelling, experience, and empathy</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>1 Narrating experiences of dementia: embodied selves, embodied communication</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>Embodied selves, embodied communication</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Inside views: life writing by people with early-onset dementia</i>	<i>30</i>
Memory	32
Language	36
Perception, movement, and the senses	38
Emotions and cognition	40
Time	43
The social world: intimate relationships and strangers	45
The experience of flow in dementia	47

	<i>From the caregiver's perspective: intersubjectivity in David Sieveking's documentary Vergiss Mein Nicht</i>	
	Viewing symptoms of dementia	51
	The communicating body in film	53
	Embodied selves and relational selves	56
	<i>Conclusion</i>	58
<b>2</b>	<b>From the outside in? Experience and empathy in fictional dementia narratives</b>	<b>63</b>
	<i>Still Alice: from fiction to film</i>	65
	<i>Experiencing dementia: experimenting with the novel</i>	71
	Out of Mind	72
	House Mother Normal	76
	The Unconsoled	83
	<i>Concluding reflections on narrative empathy</i>	88
	<b>PART II</b>	
	<b>Life writing, self-writing, and creating identities</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Life writing at the limits: narrative identity and counter-narratives in dementia</b>	<b>99</b>
	<i>Narrative identity in dementia: friend or foe?</i>	100
	<i>Reconsidering master and counter-narratives</i>	103
	<i>The problem of counter-narratives in dementia: reading first-person accounts</i>	105
	<i>Coherence in 'broken' counter-narratives: 'Mrs Mill' and other stories</i>	114
	Janet's story: confabulation, continuity, and agency	120
	Counter-narratives in context: the editor's role	121
	<i>Conclusion</i>	122
<b>4</b>	<b>Relational identity in (filial) caregivers' memoirs</b>	<b>128</b>
	<i>The aesthetics, ethics, and politics of caregivers' memoirs</i>	128
	<i>Gender, genre, and the self: rethinking relational identity in dementia</i>	137
	My Father's Brain	138
	Do You Remember Me? A Father, a Daughter, and a Search for the Self	142
	Tangles: A Story about Alzheimer's, My Mother, and Me	148
	<i>Conclusion</i>	154

<b>PART III</b>	
<b>Narrating dementia/rethinking care</b>	159
<b>5 Care-writing reconsidered: towards a new practice of dementia care</b>	161
<i>Exploring caregivers' dilemmas</i>	162
Care or coercion? Autonomy in dementia	163
'Bad grooming': intimate care in dementia	168
'No good choices': institutionalisation in dementia	171
<i>Imagining alternative approaches in dementia care</i>	174
Reconsidering confabulation	175
The power of music	178
From control to letting go: being with vs. symptom management	180
<i>Challenging care practice</i>	183
<i>Conclusion</i>	185
<b>6 Making readers care: bioethics and the novel</b>	190
<i>Ethics and the novel: countering, stereotyping, and disturbing</i>	192
<i>Scar Tissue: biomedicine and the hermeneutics of selfhood</i>	193
Narrative and neuroimaging: raising epistemological questions	197
<i>House Mother Normal: disturbing care</i>	201
<i>Exploring bioethics: 'living through' as 'thinking through'</i>	205
<i>Still Alice: (precedent) autonomy and suicide in dementia</i>	207
Mode, medium, and the suicide plot	208
<i>Have the Men Had Enough? Gender and the economies of care</i>	213
<i>Conclusion</i>	219
<b>Dementia narratives and beyond</b>	225
<i>Bibliography</i>	231
<i>Index</i>	249