



Making the Invisible Visible:

INTERSECTIONS OF CHRONIC ILLNESS, DISABILITY AND GIFTEDNESS

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an InterGifted Writing & Art Compilation

SUMMARY

If you're gifted and chronically ill/ invisibly disabled, we warmly invite you to submit a piece to our upcoming IG writing & art compilation.

You can submit an essay, article, short story, poem, or an image of an original artwork.

We invite you to write about what it's like to experience life with your own flavor of giftedness *and* illness or disability, in its complexity and paradox. Our intention is for you to be heard and taken seriously for the full complex, multi-faceted person you are.

The aim of this compilation is to open the doors to constructive dialog; we ask that you consider the spirit of your piece, so that through it, you share your truth in an affirming way (more on this in the "Definitions" section below).

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

Join our very special upcoming community writing and creative expression project! This writing compilation is meant as a vessel for the voices of chronically ill and/or invisibly disabled gifted individuals. The intention is to share with each other in solidarity-- and with the broader community-- what it's like to live at this particular intersection of experience. Being gifted and being (fully or partially) disabled all at once has its own flavor of existence. If you experience, or have experienced, this particular flavor-- and want to share and explore that part of your experience with us-- we want to hear from you!

If you are unfamiliar with our community writing projects, have a look at our two past e-books [*Embracing the Gifted Quest*](#) and [*Being Me: Reflections on the Gifted Person's Path to Authenticity*](#)

For this compilation, you are welcome to write an essay, article or poetry and/or (a digital version of your) art: a piece which allows to you express what it's like for you to live as a gifted person with a chronic illness / invisible disability. This includes the painful and raw aspects, the existential questions and insight, the resilience and sense of humor, the unlikely connections and discoveries you've made along the way, who you've become as a result of your experiences-- and other angles that perhaps only you can illuminate.

A Couple of Definitions

The term chronic illness is well-known, but the term "invisible disability" may be less so. Here is a link to a [list of some invisible disabilities](#). Additionally, the term "disability" is an umbrella term with various meanings in various contexts. Typically, disability refers to a contextual (compared to the norm) impairment that may be cognitive, developmental, intellectual, mental, physical, sensory, or some combination of these; it is something which affects and typically limits or restricts (some of) a person's life activities given their context. It is an interactional phenomenon.

In our compilation, we include any condition that you have felt as disabling in your particular context, such as learning disabilities, neurological or physical conditions, or even mental health conditions such as PTSD or CPTSD. We want to make a special note that whether autism and ADHD are "disabilities" is a hotly contested issue, and for the purposes of our compilation, we invite our autistic contributors and our contributors with ADHD or any other contested "condition", to focus only on what

aspects of their particular experience *they personally experience as disabling in their context*, without generalizing to all autistic people or people with ADHD.

The intention is for this to be a constructive compilation. Given our theme, this is a bit tricky, since those of us who have disabilities are culturally very used to not being heard in our pain. As a result, we often must make it louder, and cycle through it repeatedly for it to even be acknowledged by others. Additionally, gifted people with invisible disabilities are sometimes considered “not gifted” or “not disabled”, depending on how their complex issues present.

Here in our compilation, our intention is for you to be heard and taken seriously for the full complex, multi-faceted person you are, so we invite you to tell us your reality without feeling the need to convince us, make calls for pity or resort to undue blaming or complaining.

This is a boundary we need to make explicit, so that we can all feel safe knowing that this ebook will have a *positive* effect on the public dialog on this important topic. If you are unsure of your tone while you are writing, reflect on whether a reader out there would be inspired and feel heard by what you are writing; or whether they would “feel bad” for you and feel more hopeless about their own situation as a result of reading about yours. The goal isn't to create empty inspiration, but to open the doors to conversation on these topics in as safe a way as possible for all readers. If you are worried about your tone and need some feedback along the way, check in with our editors (notes on that below).

More details:

- Deadline for submission is April 25, 2019 and the e-book will likely be ready for publication by the end of May 2019.
- For written pieces, we're not setting a word limit, but a rough suggestion would be 3000 words average.
- You are welcome to publish with your name or anonymously, as you prefer.
- If you are not a native English speaker, we at the editing team will be reviewing for grammar and will suggest revisions if needed.
- You do not have to be an InterGifted member to participate; however we welcome you to join our community here. For our members, we will have an event page in our group where you can ask questions or exchange ideas and thoughts with other contributors during the project, as well as connect with the editors (Karin Eglinton, Marion Kee, and Val Wiggin).
- For text-based entries: Please submit in a MS Word (.doc, .docx) or LibreOffice (.odt) document.
- For images: Please send in a hi-res image of your artwork (min. 300 PPI).

- If for some unlikely reason we feel that your entry does not fit into the spirit of our e-book, we will contact you with suggestions for how to re-work it.
- You are welcome to use your entry on your own blog, with a note that it was originally written for IG's Writing Month and a link back to our bookstore (when ready).

How to Proceed?

Let us know in the facebook group or via email (karin.eglinton@gmail.com) that you are participating!

Get writing.

Get connecting with others who are writing-- join the event page in our Facebook group.

TO SUBMIT YOUR FINAL ENTRY: please email it to us by April 25, 2019 at karin.eglinton@gmail.com. Send your entries in MS Word (.doc, .docx) or LibreOffice (.odt) document and/or send in a hi-res (min. 300 PPI) image of your artwork.

We will edit and compile the entries in May 2019, and put our ebook for sale on our website. The proceeds go to keeping our community fees affordable to all and to keeping our blog ad-free. Of course, all contributors will receive a complementary copy of the completed compilation. We look forward to reading you!

For questions, email Karin Eglinton at karin.eglinton@gmail.com