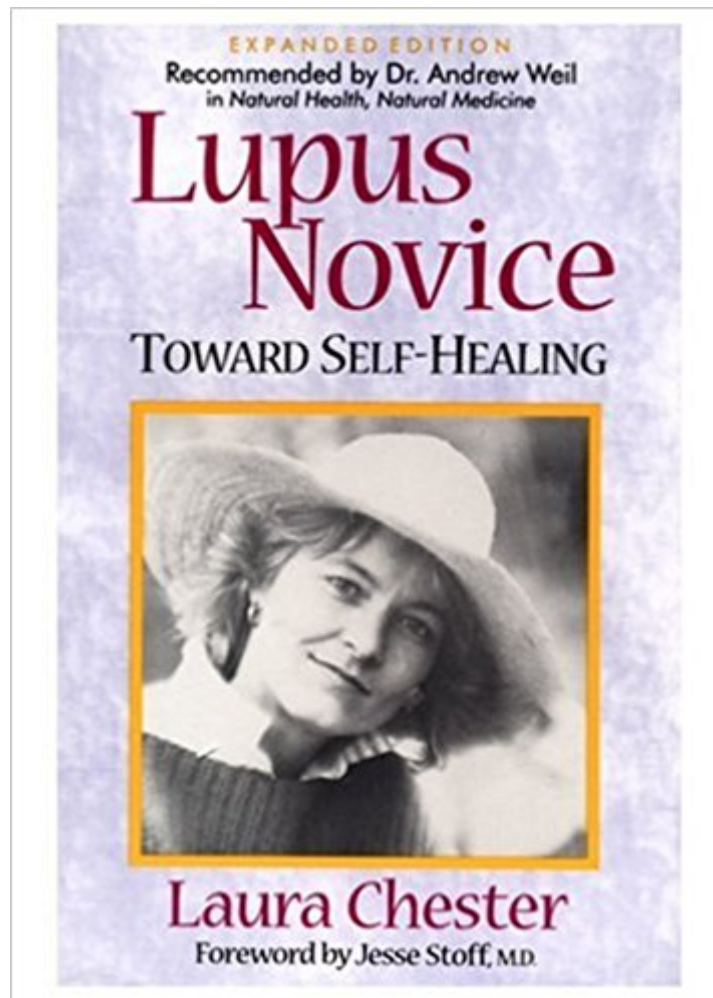


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Lupus Novice: Toward Self-Healing



Synopsis

Recommended by Andrew Weil in *Natural Health*, *Natural Medicine*, *Lupus Novice* gives a moving account of the author's successful struggle with incurable SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus), affecting mostly women. Ms. Chester shares the personal discoveries behind her recovery, and a meditation on what it means for a body to be attacking itself. This enlarged edition updates her story and includes a foreword by the best-selling authority on immune-system disease: the author of *Chronic Fatigue Syndrome*, Dr. Jesse Stoff. Laura Chester has written a moving and significant book. On one level, she discusses her personal odyssey through the realm of a serious and inexplicable disease—its history, current cultural status, biology, symbolism, and the doctors of all persuasions who attempt to cure it. On another level, she speaks to the esoteric level of the disease, discussing the initiation into a deeper level of self and a journey through the unconscious and archetypal aspects of nature. On this level, she is an artist more than a patient, an individual who has the power to effect her cure.—Richard Grossinger, author of *Planet Medicine* --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Laura Chester has published many volumes of poetry, prose and non-fiction. Most recently, *Holy Personal*, looking for small private places of worship, was made available from Indiana University Press, and a selection of prose-poems, *Sparks*, was published by The Figures. Both books include extensive photographs by Donna DeMari. Station Hill Press released an updated version of *Lupus*

Novice, an account of Chester's personal struggle and breakthrough with the auto-immune disease SLE, while Black Sparrow Press, published three of Chester's early books of fiction. Other novels include *The Story of the Lake*, Faber & Faber; and *Kingdom Come*, Creative Arts Book Company. Chester has edited four important literary anthologies, including *Deep Down* and *The Unmade Bed*. She is currently completing a fifth, *Eros & Equus*, a passion for the horse. Having grown up in Wisconsin, lived in Albuquerque, Paris, and Berkeley, she now travels between Patagonia, Arizona and the Berkshires of Massachusetts. Fo --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I feel this is a wonderful, inspiring book not to give up. I had symptoms of Lupus years ago and bought this book then and although an older printing now, it is still worthwhile today. The author really worked to find answers and a better way to live with her condition. I often "gift" this book to people who have a diagnosis using traditional medicine to see that it is possible to use alternative, non-toxic treatments as well. It also gives a good view of what it is like from the patient's view for those relatives or friends who do not have the condition and don't begin to understand. She was situated in the San Francisco Bay area at the time of her diagnosis and represents a lady of her times of the period of which she wrote. You get a sense with this book, the suffering, even if you only want to learn more about it coming away with a sense of the spirit of this woman. She has some wonderful quotes in the book that I saved to encourage my life along.

This is a good read for anybody with a chronic disorder, not just Lupus. It documents the personal challenges of living life while investigating possible remedies while steadily become your own advocate.

Laura Chester is a gem. She writes an excellent journey of her issues with Lupus SLE. It is a wonderful insight to her soul and can help hundreds in dealing with this terrible disease. I think a big, big, big part of the diary is how she describes her physician, Dr. Jesse Stoff. This medical doctor writes the forward to this amazing book and is mentioned many times on how he helped Laura understand this disease and what she had to go through to improve her immune function and let her body beat the disease. What Lupus patients have to understand is that Laura Chester's journey and experience is being true to herself on why the disease happened in the first place because of stress and imbalanced lifestyles and dealing with infection. All of these things are outlined in Dr. Jesse Stoff's two other books, *The Prostate Miracle* and *Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: The Hidden Epidemic*. What's interesting in the updated version of *Lupus Novice* is that Laura doesn't even

remember a lot of the pains she went through because she's on the road to recovery and that the past has nothing to do with her future of wellness, since it was her past issues in her life that caused the stress which lead to her disease. This is truly a fascinating book that I recommend at our Institute of Anti-Aging and Longevity to all our Lupus patients along with Dr. Stoff's other two books. In fact, the American Lupus Foundation, highly recommends Lupus Novice also to all the people with Lupus. Again, an outstanding book about, love, compassion, determination, self-actualization and witnessing to all those who suffer from lupus. Anyone interested in the protocols that Dr. Stoff applied to Laura Chester can email us at the Institute of Anti-Aging and Longevity... or call us at 1-800-878-6659 and we will be more than glad to put you on the road to recovery.

I found this book by accident in a bookstore one day, and ended up on the floor reading the whole thing in one sitting. It is a compelling and insightful account of the author's journey towards healing from SLE, exploring various natural and conventional therapies, and eventually finding relief using anthroposophical medicine, a system somewhat like homeopathy developed by Rudolph Steiner. This also led me to investigate this form of medicine and the field of anthroposophy in general.

I think "Lupus Novice" is a best read for poetic, New Age (in this case, George Steiner) readers, but anyone with Lupus or any chronic illness should find it very worthwhile, insightful, and helpful. This said, for a personal account, "Lupus Novice" seems strangely impersonal. The few interest rousing moments of personal revelation, tension, and criticism, are fairly quickly muted and/or never returned to. Also, I think the social and political dimension of modern chronic illnesses like Lupus, CFS, MS, Lyme, and so forth, all of which grow daily in number, might receive much more attention because they are so absent in the media.

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