

Lesson 1

READ THIS STORY #1, Advanced

The Hypochondriac

If you should meet Christina, don't ask, "How are you?" I made that mistake this morning, and Christina chronicled her litany of medical problems for half an hour.

She told me that she had an echocardiogram last Tuesday because her episodes of tachycardia had been making her short of breath and giving her terrible headaches. But Dr. Nicholas couldn't find any physical reason for her symptoms. He suggested that she discuss her fears with a psychiatrist. Christina was so outraged that she almost had a heart attack in his office. She thinks Dr. Nicholas is incompetent, so she went looking for another doctor.

Last week, she went to a chiropractor complaining of sciatica. She was sure that her backache was caused by a tumor on her spinal column. But the chiropractor couldn't find anything, and he didn't help her.

I think Christina is a hypochondriac. She constantly worries about her health, yet she seems almost euphoric when discussing her many self-proclaimed illnesses.