



Novel Medicine: Healing, Literature, and Popular Knowledge in Early Modern China (Modern Language Initiative Books)

Andrew Schonebaum

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By examining the dynamic interplay between discourses of fiction and medicine, *Novel Medicine* demonstrates how fiction incorporated, created, and disseminated medical knowledge in China, beginning in the sixteenth century. Critical readings of fictional and medical texts provide a counterpoint to prevailing narratives that focus only on the "literati" aspects of the novel, showing that these texts were not merely read, but were used by a wide variety of readers for a range of purposes. The intersection of knowledge—fictional and real, elite and vernacular—illuminates the history of reading and daily life and challenges us to rethink the nature of Chinese literature.

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