



Zona, Mon Amour: A Micro-autoethnography of a Rare Disease

Description

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The AutoEthnographer





Photo of her medications by Serpil Aygun Cengiz

â??I meet you. I remember you. Who are you? Youâ??re destroying me. Youâ??re good for me.â?•

Marguerite Duras, *Hiroshima Mon Amour*

Zona[1]. I have always thought that names of diseases sound so beautiful.

I had *chicken pox (varicella)* virus as a child. This disease is called *suÃ§iÃ§eÄ?i* in Turkish. Look at the beauty of its name: *suÃ§iÃ§eÄ?i* â??in Turkish it is water/aquatic flower. This virus has been living with me in my body since my childhood. It decided to activate (due to internal/external earthquakes[2]) last week while it was quietly living in my nervous tissue. It will continue to live with me even if I recover (I will recover according to modern medicine). Well done.

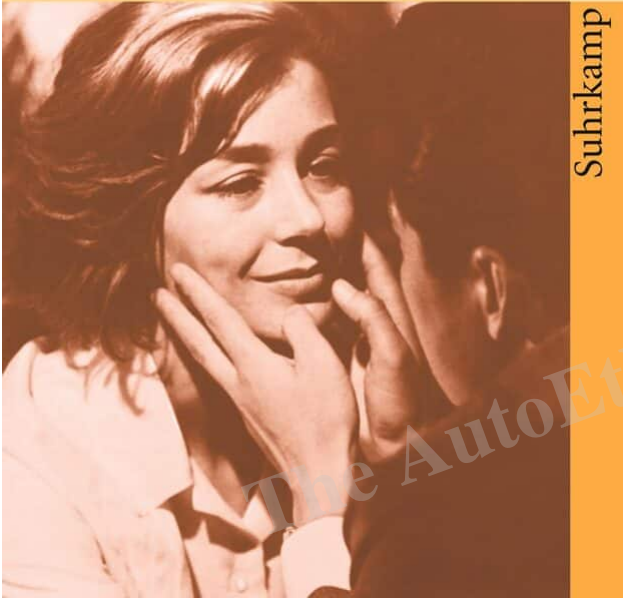
I have four medications. One of them is *Majezik* to relieve the acute pain. I can take only two in a day. Thanks to it, I can make my partly transfer to heaven. My dermatologist told me that she can prescribe me *Lyrice* which normally sell with a special prescription from the doctor. Because I know it is a medicine also used for epilepsy treatment. Therefore, I did not want it. They sound like the names of a very handsome man and a very attractive woman: *Majezik* and *Lyrice*, Eiji Okada and Emmanuella Riva, les amoureux in *Hiroshima mon amour*.

After a week, I could not sleep last night either. Nevertheless, this time I did not have that much pain indeed. Only inflammatory itchingâ?! I am grateful even to this after a lot of pain that lasted for a couple of days.

At the very beginning of my academic career -when I was a very young research assistant- when I came back home from work, I always thought that I was torn apart in the jungle by the wild animals during the day, licked my wounds in my beloved Erdalâ??s arms till morning, gathered my strength and went back to the same jungle again next day. After all, I felt exactly like that.

This is the thirtieth year of my academic life. My childhood virus lives together with me. And my body is always creating zona by manifesting itself in many different ways. Doctors can only diagnose it when they see the visible red blisters.

Marguerite Duras
Hiroshima
mon amour



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Marguerite Duras Hiroshima mon amour



Hiroshima Mon Amour Book cover from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

[1] Zona is also called *shingles* in English. *Chicken pox (varicella) virus* causes zona.

[2] On February 6, 2023, there were two major earthquakes in Turkey that resulted in the death of thousands of people.

Credits

The text is translated by [Dilek A?ler HayriÄ±](#) from Turkish.

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