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Narration of the unpredictable in literature and culture: themes of illness and treatment in the prose of Slavenka Drakulić

Connoisseurs of Slavenka Drakulić's opus say that her newspaper articles, essays and prose are characterized by a constant redirection from the documentary to the fictional, from the personal and intimate to the general and public. She does not shy away from biographical and autobiographical topics, whether she is writing about Frida Kahlo's serious illnesses or her kidney transplant. The narrative about the disease is the dominant feature of her literary and journalistic work. The Croatian author digs into the lives of Frida Kahlo, Dora Mar and Mileva Einstein in order to depict their outsider position: the thoughts and fears of literary heroines based on authentic personalities are presented as a universal female experience in facing the unpredictable circumstances of illness, treatment and dying. As a journalist and writer who translated her own fight for health into her debut novel *Hologrami straha* (1987), Slavenka Drakulić paints the anxiety, stubbornness and persistence that accompany the disease from a psychosocial and cultural perspective, as can be seen in her novel *Frida ili o boli* (2008) and her collection of short stories *O čemu ne govorimo* (2024).

Key words: illness narrative, autosomatography, gynocriticism, female authorship.