

U.S. \$15.95

MEMOIR

AS BONNIE J. ROUGH AND HER HUSBAND CONSIDER BECOMING PARENTS, THEIR BIOLOGICAL LEGACY HAUNTS EVERY DECISION. A carrier of the genetic condition *hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia*, or HED, Bonnie begins a journey to uncover the complicated details of her family's past.

At first glance, HED seems only to be a superficial condition: an unusual facial bone structure, sparse hair, few teeth, and an inability to sweat. But a closer look reveals the source of a lifetime of infections, breathing problems, and drug dependency for Bonnie's grandfather Earl, who suffered from the disorder, and died penniless and alone at the age of forty-nine.

In a time when genetic testing offers answers that can lead to excruciating decisions, even refusing a test is a deliberate choice. Caught between science and the heart, Bonnie and her husband find themselves faced with a modern moral crisis—and one that ultimately reveals the eternal tension between past and future.

"Bonnie Rough's search is a myth for our time, and her book a necessary read for anyone who faces the implacable destinies of inheritance."

—HONOR MOORE,
author of *The Bishop's Daughter*

"There are many things to praise in Bonnie Rough's deeply felt memoir, in her report from the brave new world, but most striking are her compassion and her wisdom as she navigates the harrowing choices, the complex choices that medical technology allows us."

—JANE HAMILTON,
author of *Laura Rider's Masterpiece*

"Lyrical, investigative, haunting, and tender, all fueled by a powerful imagination and fiery intelligence unlike any other in the literary cosmos. *Carrier* is boundary-busting nonfiction at its finest. This is a book I will not only recommend widely but teach for years to come."

—ROBIN HEMLEY,
author of *Do Over!*



BONNIE J. ROUGH has taught at The Loft Literary Center and is also a trained birth doula. Her writing has appeared in *The Sun* and the *Modern Love* column of *The New York Times*, and has been widely anthologized. This is her first book.

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