Elaine Scarry teaches at Harvard University where she is the Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value. She lectures both nationally and internationally on nuclear war, law, literature, and medicine. Her work has two central subjects, the nature of physical injury and the nature of human creation. A few of her books include *The Body in Pain*, *On Beauty and Being Just*, and most recently, *Thermonuclear Monarchy: Choosing Between Democracy and Doom*. Her writings on the process of poetic creation include *Dreaming by the Book* and *Naming thy Name: Cross Talk in Shakespeare's Sonnets*. In 2005, *Prospect Magazine* and *Foreign Policy* named her one of the top 100 leading intellectuals.