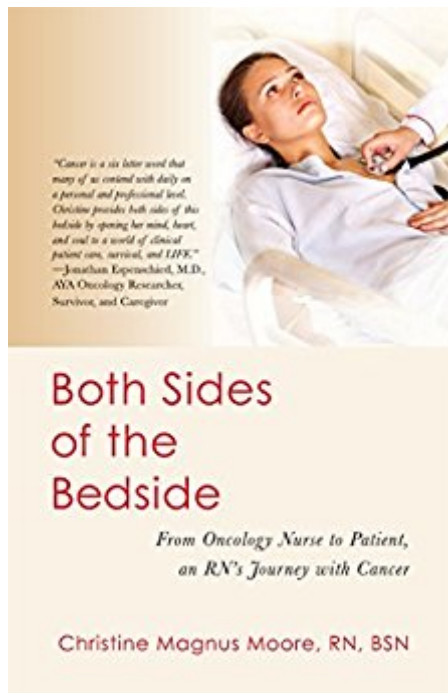


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Both Sides Of The Bedside: From Oncology Nurse To Patient, An RN's Journey With Cancer



Synopsis

Oncology Nurse, Christine Magnus Moore, stood by the bedside of cancer patients for many years, caring for them as they endured major surgeries, chemotherapy and even the aftermath of grueling bone marrow transplants. They fought a battle with an enemy in their bodies: cancer. Some triumphed and some did not. Fighting for her patients' health, she thought of herself as a soldier on the battlefield and was amazed at how they dealt with their difficult road and that they often thanked her with a smile. As connected as she felt to her patients, she didn't fully comprehend the courage it took to confront cancer every day until she became one of them. Christine navigates the rough road involved with cancer treatment, experiencing exhaustion beyond belief, debilitating nausea and pain, and other side effects which are overwhelmingly more difficult than she'd ever imagined. Her road is arduous and humbling and she is taxed to her core in every way: emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Living on the other side of the bedside, she feels vulnerable when some of the doctors and nurses she's worked with become her caregivers. On top of all that her love life begins to present challenges as well. Christine emerges a cancer survivor and gains a profound understanding of the suffering her patients had weathered, discovering that her life has been re-calibrated. She embraces her higher purpose with an amplified vigor and empathy to help others dealing with the disease. Through the darkest of times, she finds the deepest grief and tears can produce the greatest strength and passion.

Book Information

File Size: 982 KB

Print Length: 322 pages

Publication Date: April 19, 2015

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00WFG9YYK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #494,555 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Medical eBooks > Nursing > Oncology & Cancer #93

Customer Reviews

I loved this book! I must admit that I know the author, and a little bit of her personal story.. But it's all the more amazing that I found myself glued to this book and rooting for her during all her struggles like I had no idea what the outcome would be! This book is a must read for everyone! This author showed real courage in telling her story in such an open and honest way, exposing herself(weaknesses and strengths) in a way that made me feel like a really understood her journey! This book stirred up all kinds of emotions in me and left me in awe!

This book is an excellent, intimate view of how hard it is to battle cancer, not just physically, but mentally and emotionally. Also addressed are the struggles of the family and caregivers of those of us with cancer. It also helps readers to understand that the fight does not end at the conclusion of treatment. There is no cure for cancer. There is remission, NED, no evidence of disease, but no assurance that it will not return. We still need to keep fighting and supporting and raising funds to find a CURE for cancer. I am also a nurse who cared for pediatric oncology patients in the beginning of my career after battling a rare ethmoid sinus and cribiform plate chondrosarcoma that recurred 7 times in two years when I was 5 years old. I then went on to be a pediatric and urology nurse practitioner, still occasionally interacting with pediatric oncology patients. Then at 47 years old I was diagnosed with breast cancer and other issues as a likely result of the radiation I received as a child. Cancer never leaves you alone once it has invaded your body/life. The poisons and toxicities that are required to get to remission/NED are just that, toxins and poisons and there are side effects forever. Christine has done an amazing job of sharing intimately what the battle is like in the thick of it, but also what it entails long after the intense part is over and the low grade battle continues. She is using this experience to raise awareness and support people with cancer in many ways that are very effective and worthwhile in non profits, support groups and fundraisers. Thank you Christine for this book. I read it just before and after my last surgery for my current cancer and it was the perfect book. I appreciate your efforts and support and honesty.

At some point the life you imagined and planned for takes a left turn and you find yourself on a journey you never expected or wanted. Christine, an Oncology Nurse, experienced this first hand when she received her diagnosis: stage 3 non-Hodgkin lymphoma. She had cared for cancer

patients, one might think she'd be better prepared than most in battling cancer. Perhaps. But, Nurse, Doctor or Joe Shmoo cancer eats at your life without prejudice. Christine paints an honest picture of her relationships and her physical and emotional well-being from diagnosis, through treatment, and after recovery. This is juxtaposed with her memories as an Oncology Nurse, administering treatments and offering emotional support for cancer patients. Have a hanky because you'll get both, sad and happy weepy.

One of the most difficult moments in life is something we don't want to discuss. The author shares her story of the hardships and surprises with Cancer. Most people associate cancer with the elderly. But the author was diagnosed with cancer in her late-30s. Many times younger people feel immortal until life strikes us a blow. As a nurse, the author was used to caring for her patients. She never thought that she would ever be in their position so soon in life. Dealing with numerous scans, tests, and surgeries left her feeling frustrated. This wasn't part of the plan. Patience is a virtue, but how is this possible when going through chemotherapy. Also, add to the fact that as a nurse, the author knew exactly what was coming. Nurses are not appreciated as much as they should be. Throughout the history of medicine, the majority of doctors were men and nurses were women. Since women were relegated as second-class citizens, the nursing profession was severely under-valued. And this discrimination still exists today. It is way past time for this nonsense to change. Not one person in my life has ever been honest or forthcoming about their battles with cancer. I understand that this is not something that is easy to talk about. But cancer doesn't discriminate, and we need to hear about the realities of life and death. We can lie to ourselves, and think that will never happen to me. The day will come when every single person alive will have to struggle one disease or more. As human beings, we are not separate from nature, because we are a part of it. The author gained more compassion and understanding about caring for her patients. This is a lesson for all of us. I received a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

This author has captured the full spectrum of fighting lymphoma. As a lymphoma patient myself, I cannot tell you how encouraging her book was to me. Her writing was descriptive and clear, beautifully written by a nurse who has been in both places. I urge everyone to read how a nurse coped with this disease. Carefully documented material made the prose all the more special.

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