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A Cute Leukemia



Synopsis

The shocking L-words struck like hammers: "Laid off," then, "Leukemia." Like millions of Americans, Rodney Curtis feared for his life and his family. But what that deadly acute leukemia didn't know was: It was dealing with the Spiritual Wanderer, the popular columnist who is famous for finding humor and wisdom in daily life. Rodney started by renaming his foe: "A Cute Leukemia." He explains, "Nothing makes cancer madder than belittling it and pinching its darling baby cheeks." If you'd like to try chuckling in the face of your fears, join Rodney on his quest to recover both humor and health. Rodney doesn't take this life-and-death challenge lightly. "I won't kid you that this was all fun and games," he writes. He's not poking fun at anyone trying to survive either unemployment or a diagnosis of cancer. He knows the stark fears of such a double-whammy, but he is bravely charting a fresh course through these challenges. He proves that the first task in any recovery is recovering one's good spirits. In these 86 short chapters, Rodney provides either a quick read guaranteed to lift your spirits, or a daily companion for three months of your own journey. You're likely to borrow some of the ideas from these stories. Like taking what might be another somber birthday and turning it into a "re-birth day"? Like eating your favorite dinner in a warm bath to soothe the ills of therapy. Or inviting friends over to enjoy a movie night "on" your house; yes, literally projecting a movie on the outside of your house on a warm summer night so friends can gather in lawn chairs under the stars. You won't forget A Cute Leukemia, because you keep drawing from it for years. This is a perfect book to share with anyone facing a threat to life, home and family. It's great to share with caregivers and family members. It's sure to spark spirited discussion in your small group.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A 'Cute' Leukemia" is a wonderful book. Rodney Curtis presents his illness journey with a unique mix of hope, humor, and wisdom. He takes us with him on this journey. We can feel the pain and the unexpected moments of joy. With him we experience the long road of healing. But he doesn't sugarcoat any of the pain or the fear. His journey is complex and honest, and he presents it clearly with his own voice of spiritual wonder and love. He makes us see again the power of family to help pull us through. The short chapters, the color photos, the puns--this book is full of variety and meaning. I love this book. It strengthens my faith in our own will to survive what confronts us (and in our health care system.) If a comet were blasting toward earth, I'd want to be in the same room with Rodney Curtis--and I'd want my family to be there too. Crowds would gather. We would need a Superdome, with Rodney holding the mic.

Kudos to Rodney Curtis for so openly and honestly taking us with him on a very difficult journey. Having had a brother go through AML and experiencing the pain, uncertainty, family toll and roller coaster ride of this horrible disease, I truly appreciated the way Rodney Curtis' was able to convey his experiences and philosophy in this wonderful, easy to read book. Two themes really jumped out at me. The first was the sense of humor, gratefulness and faith in his ability to defeat the disease, even as he dealt with the setbacks and complications. Second was the overriding kindness and humanity as people, many on the periphery of his network, supported him in ways that one would not expect. Reading this book renews your faith in the inherent good in people and their willingness to help someone in need. The book provides an excellent role model for courage and optimism in the face of adversity and the importance of family. I highly recommend this book.

I doubt most of us could regard a serious disease with this author's good humor. One of the lessons is that self-pity is unproductive & that following the dots is a good idea. It also made me think of the financial repercussions of a major illness & wonder about the cost/benefit ratio of survival...its exploration is likely to increase in this era of bankrupting medical miracles.

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