



The Adventures of Cancer Bitch

S. L. Wisenberg

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Wisenberg may have lost a breast, but she retained her humor, outrage, and skepticism toward common wisdom and most institutions. While following the prescribed protocols at the place she called Fancy Hospital, Wisenberg is unsparing in her descriptions of the fumblings of new doctors, her own awkward announcement to her students, and the mounds of unrecyclable plastic left at a survivors' walk. Combining the personal with the political, she shares her research on the money spent on pink ribbons instead of preventing pollution, and the disparity in medical care between the insured and the uninsured. When chemotherapy made her bald, she decorated her head with henna swirls in front and an antiwar protest in back. During treatment, she also recorded the dailiness of life in Chicago as she rode the L, taught while one-breasted, and attended High Holiday services and a Passover seder.

Wisenberg's writing has been compared to a mix of Leon Wieseltier and Fran Lebowitz, and in this book, she has Wieseltier's erudition and Lebowitz's self-deprecating cleverness: "If anybody ever offers you the choice between suffering and depression, take the suffering. And I don't mean physical suffering. I mean emotional suffering. I am hereby endorsing psychic suffering over depression."

From The Adventures of Cancer Bitch:

I found that when you invite people to a pre-mastectomy party, they show up. Even those with small children. The kids were so young that they didn't notice that most of the food had nipples. . . . I talked to everyone—about what I'm not sure. Probably about my surgery. Everyone told me how well I looked. I felt giddy. I was going to go under, but not yet; I was going to be cut, but not yet; I was going to be bald, but not yet. As my friend who had bladder cancer says: The thing about cancer is you feel great until they start treating you for it.



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From reader reviews:

Donald Jefferies:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open as well as read a book titled The Adventures of Cancer Bitch? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have additional opinion?

Judy Sigmund:

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Erik Garcia:

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James Wood:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always aim to and must have the time or they will get lot of stress from both way of life and work. So, if we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not really a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, often the book you have read is The Adventures of Cancer Bitch.

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