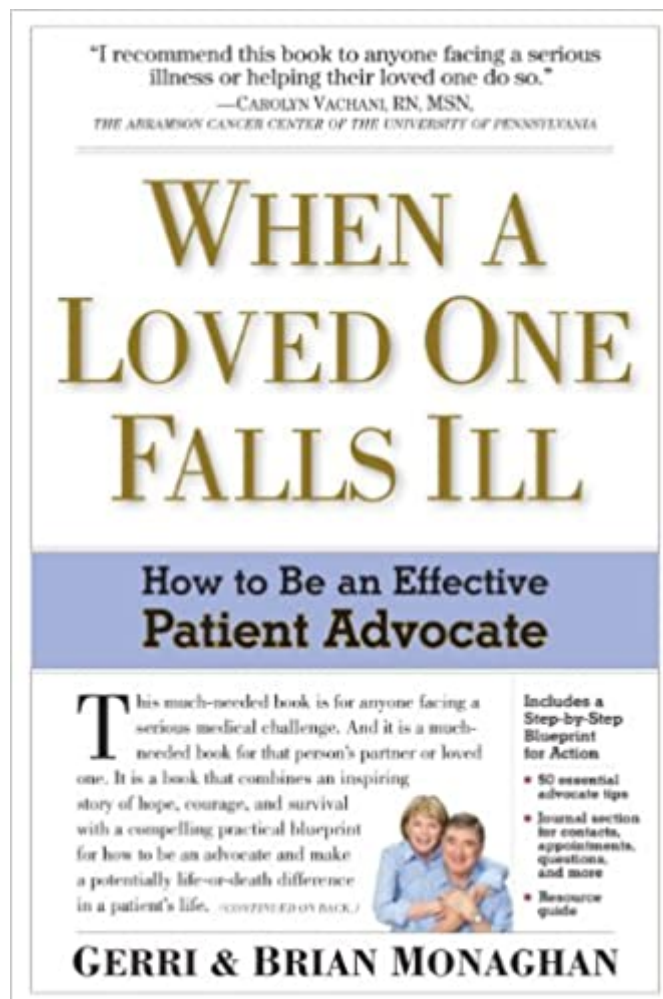


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When A Loved One Falls Ill: How To Be An Effective Patient Advocate



Synopsis

The much-needed book for anyone with a loved one facing a serious illness. It is the book that's a bible for how to make the potentially life-or-death decisions that every medical advocate, and every patient, must grapple with—especially now, as health care becomes ever more complicated. It is the practical blueprint for how to be a successful medical advocate. When Gerri Monaghan's husband, Brian, then a fifty-nine-year-old lawyer at the top of his game, got the news that all of us dread—a diagnosis of brain tumors caused by Stage IV melanoma with a prognosis of three to six months to live—she knew that this was a challenge the two of them would fight together. Brian brought his enormous courage, attitude, and reserves of humor, and Gerri, with dogged determination, stood up again and again for what they needed—tirelessly researching options, reaching out to friends, family, and anyone who could help, resisting the status quo, and always thinking in terms of “we.” Together they tell their story, back and forth, punctuated throughout by Gerri's top 50 tips for how to be an advocate: #1 Trust your intuition. #6 Create a battle plan. #15 Get copies of records. #26 Make doctors speak in a language that you understand. #33 Don't schedule surgery during the holidays. #49 Remember, this is not a dress rehearsal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“An interesting, different, upbeat, and funny book about dealing with a terrible disease. The lessons—taking charge of one's care, questioning authority, making hard decisions

yourself rather than relying on others, the need for advocates, and keeping your sense of humor—these are universal. The writing is first-rate.—Dr. Richard Murphy, President and CEO (retired), the Salk Institute --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In 1998, Brian Monaghan, a fifty-nine-year-old trial lawyer at the top of his game, received the worst kind of news—Stage IV cancer with a prognosis of three to six months to live. That night, Brian and his wife Gerri, made a pact: “We are going to love and laugh and fight this. And we are going to win.” This is how they did it. When a Loved One Falls Ill includes Gerri Monaghan’s 50 tips, from “Get copies of records” (#15) to “Always think in terms of ‘we’” (#50), plus a bound-in Advocate’s Notebook, a place to keep track of the patient’s medical history, hospitalizations, medications, doctor’s appointments, and important phone numbers. And even some of Brian Monaghan’s favorite jokes for those moments when laughter is truly the best medicine.

As wife , who purchased this book, and having experienced my husband’s recent (and ongoing,he is still in the Hosp.) health emergencies... I have been and am still his ‘advocate’...but have a few opinions I find popping up as I read (when I have the moment). I’ll say 1st off, on 12/21/16, my husband felt ‘off’.We thought, as did his Dr that it was diabetes related(type 2, husb. on meds, blood sugar was at comfortable levels?)..but we persisted, as it just seemed odd that the right side of his body was becoming ‘clumsy’. 12/22/16 had MRI. 12/23/16, was advised to see a Neurologist at 7:45 am....large brain tumor was seen. Made arrangements for Op asap...1/3/17. But, life throws curves, 12/27/16 a stomach ache turned into a nightmare by evening-ambulanced to ER and my daughter and I sat up all night w/him until a catscan showed a partially ruptured lower intestine and colon. So of to UCSF we went, and nothing has been the same since!As of now, he is healing from that op, a 9 hr Brain tumor removal op, had blood clot issues, so a few procedures for that- most of the tumor was removed but found to have fused into some of his skull...which they addressed, but it had grown unsafely close to an artery.... so they had leave a little still in him. Radiation is suggested, but not chemo, as he had 2 major ops, and needs to regain some strength. All that said- I say if you suddenly are handed cards you never thought you would be dealt, of a loved one, this book is wonderful and has many resources in it too. BUT- some of it leaves a few things out:if you have children and no family near, some suggestions are impossible. Kids

have school, need to eat too, and need transportation, and some folks(like us) have family- but in other states, so its difficult. Kids need you as much as your spouse, its a huge shock when dad(in our case) suddenly isn't the go go go work work work, laughing happy dad they knew, only a week before. In our case, SF is extremely expensive to stay long term in a hotel one feels safe having ones kids with them- a calm neighborhood. Walking a lot at night when a health crisis hits, happens; and ours happened to BE holiday time. So lodging is full anyway- because of holidays. It is a blessing to be able to be with your loved one 24/7, but for those SELF EMPLOYED, and living 2 hrs North of the Hosp., some people cannot be there day and night. I found many helpful tips in this book, but as everyone has their own unique health experience- ours happened to be overwhelming and no time to prepare. The subject of children(incl. teens and young Adults), finances, travel, self employment etc seems was not an issue much for the authors? I am glad they had some flexibility, but keep in mind if you are going through a medical crisis with a loved one; some of your ponderings about hanging in there for your loved AND your kids and work and limited finances etc , may not be addressed here. Still a great resource, so worth the purchase of the bk.

Wonderful book for someone going through this traumatic situation. Have sent it to many friends. The authors have very beautifully and appropriately described the trauma one feels.

This book is written in such a manner as to take away some of the harsh reality of life. Much comfort can be gained from reading this.

This book is life changing for people who are helping a relative deal with a serious illness. I expected it to make me sad. Instead, it uplifted and empowered me. By sharing their journey, Gerri and Brian Monaghan give others a beautiful gift. When A Loved One Falls Ills explains the vital role a patient advocate plays in the treatment of a seriously ill patient. It provides a myriad of helpful strategies for fighting illness with courage and humor. I am grateful the Monaghan's shared their story and I had the good fortune to stumble upon this amazing book. If you know of a family struggling with a serious illness, don't send flowers. Buy them this book!

This is a wonderful book and a must read if you need to be an advocate for a patient with a life threatening disease. It'll make you laugh, it'll make you cry, but most importantly, it will give you hope and the tools to help your loved one. Gerri and Brian tell their story of Brian's recovery from

stage IV melanoma with metastasized brain tumors. Through Gerri's tireless efforts on his behalf and Brian's strong will to live, he's a long term survivor (16 years and still counting). What an inspiration these two are! After reading it, I passed it on to my wife/patient to read, not only so she could "audit" me on my performance as an advocate, but so she could see how this remarkable couple dealt with Brian's cancer.

This book literally helped save my husband's life! I can not begin to tell you how relieved I was to find a tiny spark of hope after my husband also received a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Gerri & Brian's guide was something that empowered me and gave me guidance. Without this book, I don't know that I would be sitting here next to my husband and best friend. It's hard even now to look back at the very difficult 8 month journey. I know writing this book had to be at times therapeutic and at times excruciating, but the Monaghan's have done so in order to benefit all other caregiver/patient teams. I can't thank them enough!!!

This book is a must have for anyone facing medical challenges. A step by step guide that is both wise and thoughtful in its approach and recommendations for facing, and beating a potentially deadly disease. No concern or question is too simple or too complex for this most courageous of couples! Join Gerri and Brian in celebrating life with love, laughter and great insight. When illness knocks on the door, there is no one more important than your advocate. May we all be or know a Gerri Monaghan when the going gets tough, and may we all approach an illness with the strength and optimism of Brian Monaghan.

I love the book ... and I love them! Taking their personal struggles public to help others in similar situations is a selfless gift that most of us would not be able to create and share! I wish them many happy and healthy years together!

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