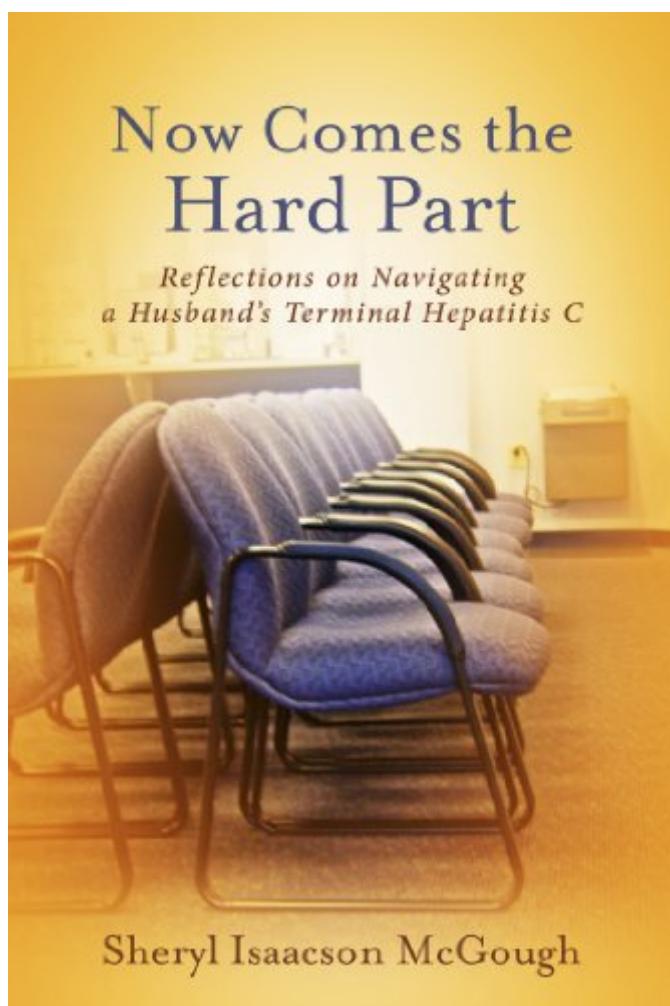


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Now Comes The Hard Part: Reflections On Navigating A Husband's Terminal Hepatitis C



Synopsis

Jim contracted Hepatitis C through a blood transfusion after being wounded in Vietnam; forty years later, the virus began taking him down. Now Comes the Hard Part reveals the stress, grief, and guilt his wife experienced as she watched cirrhosis and liver cancer rob her husband of his vitality. This memoir enlightens readers whose loved ones currently carry a Hepatitis C diagnosis, who ask questions never fully answered by medical professionals: "What happens next?" "What does this mean?" and "How long does he have?" Now Comes the Hard part is written from the perspective of Jim's wife, Sherry, and examines not only the progression of Jim's liver disease but also the stress and strain she endured as the "well" spouse. Her admissions of frailty and fault are frank and sometimes repugnant but always honest. The story traces the devastation that liver disease delivers on Jim's health and the challenges it poses to the couple's finances and marriage. At the same time, Sherry's reflections offer inspiration and clarity to readers who face their own journey through Hepatitis C and the resulting complications that comprise liver disease. The book is intended to help patients and families understand the consequences of delaying treatment. Now Comes the Hard Part also supports families whose previous Interferon treatment failed to clear the virus, and who are finding it difficult to make the sacrifices needed to see the patient through the illness.

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Customer Reviews

This book details the years leading up to the death of a loved one from liver disease as a result of Hep C but would be relevant for those dealing with long-term illness from other forms of liver disease and even other types of terminal illnesses. It shares the stuff others won't tell you and doesn't sugar coat what to expect - but also doesn't bog the reader down in technical or medical terms. Not so much about disease progression (though there is valuable information about that, too) the book is about what happens emotionally and mentally to the survivor/caregiver and how outsiders view families in these situations. A must read for caregivers of those losing their battle with terminal liver disease.

No one knows how they will react when faced with the illness of a loved one. Some collapse into their own grief and others, like Sherry, use the experience to help others. In recounting the years it took for this illness to lay claim to her husband, Sherry used the only thing she could control, her ability to write, to make sense of it all. In writing, she was able to release her anger, fear, self-doubt and all those other emotions that she had to control in the light of day. Their eventual acceptance of what was to come was heartbreaking but the love they had for each other was clear and the strength they had as a couple and as individuals will now help family through the hard part: living. Stay strong my friend.

If Iowa is heaven, then heaven breeds people of deep courage. At least it is so with both Sherry and Jim McGough. To be honest, Jim is my husbands cousin, but even if he wasn't related, I can honestly say I have never met a kinder man than Jim and Sherry's words show exactly what a kind, loving man he was. She writes with a wonderful combination of love, skill and tremendous honesty: I could visualize Jim's words, his actions and most of all, that wonderful smile of his on every page. While everyone's path to living with a terminally ill family member is different, Sherry offers hope that it can be navigated, and brutal honesty on the toll it will take for everyone involved. And the assurance that in the end, love never dies, it lives in the heart forever.

Incredibly personal, beautifully written. How does one relate with any sort of clarity the heartbreak reality of losing a spouse, slowly but surely, over the course of several years, to a disease unwilling to loosen its insidious grip. Sherry chronicles her painful journey with amazing insight and startling honesty. Her first-hand experience and candid reflections will provide valuable tools and insights for anyone facing the numbing void following a loved one's terminal diagnosis. Having known and loved both Sherry and her beloved Jim for many years, I shared some of their pain and frustration through Sherry's sensitive narrative. I admire her bravery and honesty ... I don't know how she managed it, but I felt strangely calm and uplifted after finishing the book.

Many young American boys served in our armed services, some without outright harmful injuries. This book takes us on a journey of a young Viet Nam Purple Heart veteran, who lives a normal life with his family, while living with acquired Hepatitis C, derived from blood transfusions after his war injury. It is a happy family story, a painful long term health issue story. This is a well written document. It will be helpful to others who try to understand the complicated world of medicine, physicians, diagnosis and treatment of Hep C.. And feel the love that binds a husband and wife together to meet the challenge.

I thought Sherry did an excellent job writing this. Since I personally know them I had a hard time reading about their trials because I wish I had been more available to them and all who were fortunate to know Jim continue to miss him and think of them often. I have recommended this book to others

An emotional, inspiring journey through the frustrating struggle with Hepatitis C...this story is a perfect reminder of the power of love. As I sit here with tears in my eyes I am thinking of one of my greatest role models and reminded of the importance of supporting his bride. Thank you for taking the time to share your story.

Honest and straightforward approach to dealing with a chronic, fatal illness. The decisions, conflicting opinions and strain those items can place on the strongest of families and relationships is clearly described. For any family or couple faced with the prospect of a terminal diagnosis, this would be excellent reading. Knowledge is power and understanding what you know, what you don't know, what to ask and where to get the answers is critical.

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