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Cancer Is Funny: Keeping Faith In Stage-Serious Chemo



Synopsis

Jason Micheli, a young father, husband, and pastor, was diagnosed with a bone cancer so rare and deadly that his doctors didn't classify it with one of the normal four stages—they simply called it "stage-serious." But Micheli wasn't going to let the cancer kill his spirit, his faith, or his sense of humor. He knew that the promise of faith makes hope possible. And approaching cancer as fodder for some bowel-busting humor helps, too. This is a funny, no-holds-barred, irreverent-yet-faithful take on the disease that has touched every family.

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Customer Reviews

I pre-ordered "Cancer is Funny" back in early August. Knowing Jason Micheli's story, his deep faith, super irreverent sense of humor (read: 12-year-old-boy level), and fearless dropping of the f-bomb, I knew it would be an unflinchingly honest and powerful book. High expectations = blown.

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Keeping Faith in Stage-Serious Chemo

by Jason Micheli | from J.

Johnson on June 21, 2017 Moving, tough to read because it's real Jason Micheli is a colleague for whom I have immense respect. As he has journeyed through cancer I've become an obsessive reader of his blog, not because he's so clever, but because he's real. Think about it. You're young and you think you've got the world by the short and curlies, and suddenly you get told you're probably going to die. How do you react? Do you believe way down in your guts the faith stuff you've passed off to others in their crisis or are you just a bloviating bozo who crumples in your moment of crisis? What will you learn about yourself and what will you learn about God and can you articulate any of it in a meaningful way or is it all empty words? This is simply the best religious book I've read in years. Everything about it is unsettling, yet in a strange way reassuring. His stubborn refusal to protect God from his anger allows us to see God as we hope he really is - big enough to take all our anger and doubt while taking that pain anger and doubt into Himself and somehow redeeming us through it. None of us know what the future holds, but I hope it holds more explorations of the intersection of faith and real life like this book. If you haven't bought it yet, order a hardback, then get the Kindle edition so you can start reading immediately. A must add, especially for a preacher's library. Who knows, you may encounter someone who needs the unvarnished truth

Micheli offers a powerful apology--by way of his own life--for a strong incarnational theology. He does so in his characteristic witty, snarky, perceptive, balls-to-the-wall honest and faithful way, giving the reader a "behind-the-scenes" into the life and struggles (emotional, spiritual, physical, theological, et al.) of a pastor, husband, father, friend, son and utterly human creature whose life was turned upside down and then, it might be argued, right-side up by Mantle Cell Lymphoma. Writing that "everything is theophany," it's clear that his brush with the holy and the "C-word" as he calls it, has been one in the same. And while he doesn't believe God is the one who gave him MCL, he's certain that the Incarnate God shares in it with him...and with us all as we join the holy communion of those who also have struggled with the One who seems so absent so much of the time. It is a compelling...and commendable...read; one for all of us who struggle to make sense of the senselessness of cancer (and at times life itself), and who long for the assurance that even in the darkest and dankest of times, there can still be room for laughter.

Jason's book is just as amazing as I hoped it would be! Jason Micheli's blogs and sermons are

some of my favorite things to read and listen to. I love his honesty, his fearlessness to swear, to tell it like it really is. I hoped that all of that raw, true truth would be as present in the book as it is in Jason's previous writings. It is 100%. I grew up in the Catholic Church. For 20 years I didn't miss mass unless I was bedridden sick. Never once in all those services or in ones I've sat through since then have I ever once had any idea what the priest was trying to preach. I've always been captivated by Jason's preaching, because listening to him is the exact opposite experience that I had from all of those years of priests preaching. I understand what Jason is saying. I understand more of the stories of the Bible and the people in it than ever before. Every Sunday I think about church, even if I don't make it, and that is monumental for me. Read this book!

I can't remember the last time I read a complete book in one sitting, but I just could not put this book down. It's an irreverent, honest, and raw book that really is funny, even laugh-out-loud funny at times. I was drawn in by the interplay of faith and life and the struggles that Christians experience when both are rattled to the core. Micheli lays it all on the line, and even as a pastor, gives us an unfiltered view into his life dealing with stage serious cancer and aggressive, debilitating chemo. The book is meaty, but never preachy. People of all faiths (or none at all) will find it accessible and applicable, but Christians especially will find Micheli's faith journey, complete with questions and doubt at times, especially refreshing. If you know someone struggling with a Cancer diagnosis or treatment, or someone who is caring for a loved one with cancer, this is the book to send them.

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