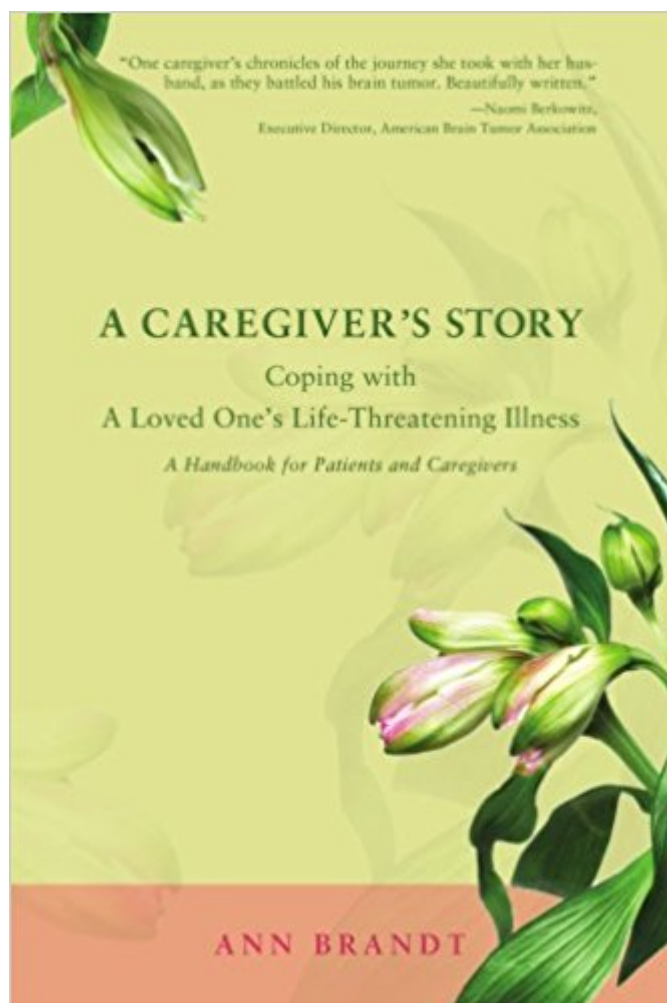


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# A Caregiver's Story: Coping With A Loved One's Life-Threatening Illness



## Synopsis

Just one year after battling a little-known illness called Guillain Barre, Ann Brandt faced another challenge when her husband was diagnosed with a rare, debilitating, and aggressive form of brain cancer. Lacking in resources or formal instruction, Brandt relied heavily on her faith and memories of how her husband cared for her during her illness to navigate them both through the difficult times ahead. In *A Caregiver's Story*, Brandt approaches the complexities of caregiving in a personal and empowering way that offers sound spiritual as well as practical advice to make caregiving more manageable. She includes invaluable, up-to-date information about: Working with doctors and getting a second opinion Choosing a treatment plan Maintaining your life and sanity while offering good care Finding support groups and conferences Dealing with emotional and financial issues Making a connection between prayer and healing Brandt offers a loving, encouraging environment to help steer you through difficult times and delivers much-needed support and comfort. For caregivers, family members, and friends alike, *A Caregiver's Story* provides the support you deserve.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ann Brandt holds a BA and MA in English and is a member of the Colorado Authors' League and the Denver Women's Press Club. She has written and published numerous articles and essays for national and local publications, including the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. Brandt and her husband, George, live in Broomfield, Colorado.

Excellent book--very inspirational for someone going through a medical crisis--especially brain cancer.

This is a story about a wife that took care of her husband with a deadly disease brain cancer. How she depended on God for help through his treatments. Being I have a brain tumor I know a lot about that. Darlene Cady

When this author faced the struggle and recovery with Guillain-Barre, she learned the life-sustaining importance of courage, faith, and the medical community. She also learned the necessity of having an active and curious caregiver who works round the clock for the patient's needs. A year later, Ann finds herself in the reversed role of being the primary caregiver for her husband George when they learn he has brain cancer. Ann tells the story of his near-death experience, treatment, therapy and recovery in a step-by-step detailed and close-up narrative that unfolds the vital role a good caregiver must play. The account is filled with advice on how necessary it is for caregivers to maintain their own well-being in order to take over the tasks of the patient. She also explains the ways in which the outcome of the healing process itself may depend on the caregiver's steadfast and conscious body, mind and spirit's staying on top of (and indeed one step ahead of) the patient's illness. This book highlights information throughout on help that is available in the community and medical areas. It comes with an appendix of accumulated resources, book listing and handy glossary of related terms. *A Caregiver's Story* is a shared personal journey into the awful valley of cancer and of faith and courage. There are some interesting discourses on the power of things such as prayer and optimism as well as the productive use of a caregiver's time and energy. The story is a rich resource for other cancer patients and their caregivers and is told with clarity and precision. It's a good book for anyone to read and learn, for although we may not get cancer or even become a caregiver, we will most certainly know someone close who is going through this experience. This book enlightens us on how to be a helpful good friend or relative in such an event. Judy Light Ayyildiz author of 9 books including *Nothing but Time*

*A Caregiver's Story* is a love story about George and Ann Brandt's relationship as Ann wades through the haphazard and tangled world of medicine. The story takes you through the ups and downs of Ann's journey of trying to find the proper treatment for George's cancerous brain tumors. Through it all the steadfast bond of love, grace and humor binds them even more tightly as Ann,

reins in hand, maneuvers George to a safe secure place. This book is a step-by-step totally complete guide, which includes phone numbers and websites, of what to do if brain cancer strikes you or a loved one. And it has a happy ending.

Ann Brandt has written an all-inclusive account of her family's struggle with her husband's bout with brain cancer. Given from the perspective of the caregiver, Ann gives us the total package, i.e., information about brain tumors, from diagnosis to treatment to after-care. She also presents the emotional view of a wife learning how to cope with a "new" normal for her husband and herself. Perhaps the strongest message she imparts is hope. For anyone going through this horrendous illness, it is a helpful reference for all caregivers.

An unwelcome cancer journey is not exclusive to the patient. It also pulls in caregivers and other loved ones. Fortunately, there is now Ann Brandt's elegant handbook that gives voice to the caregiver's perspectives and emotions and the resources that are needed to be a caregiver "survivor." Readers will appreciate this insider's experience. Judy Gordon, co-author of *The Heroics of Falling Apart: One Couple's Breast Cancer Journey*

While the life-threatening disease the author of this book faced was brain cancer, there is plenty of good advice and useful information here for one caring for someone with any other life-threatening illness. Having cared for my mother during treatment for non-Hodkin's lymphoma, I can relate to many of the struggles Ann describes and wish that I had had a book like this during that time.

This book is filled with information and inspiration. It offers hope for caregivers and patients. Shirley Conquest Broomfield, CO

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