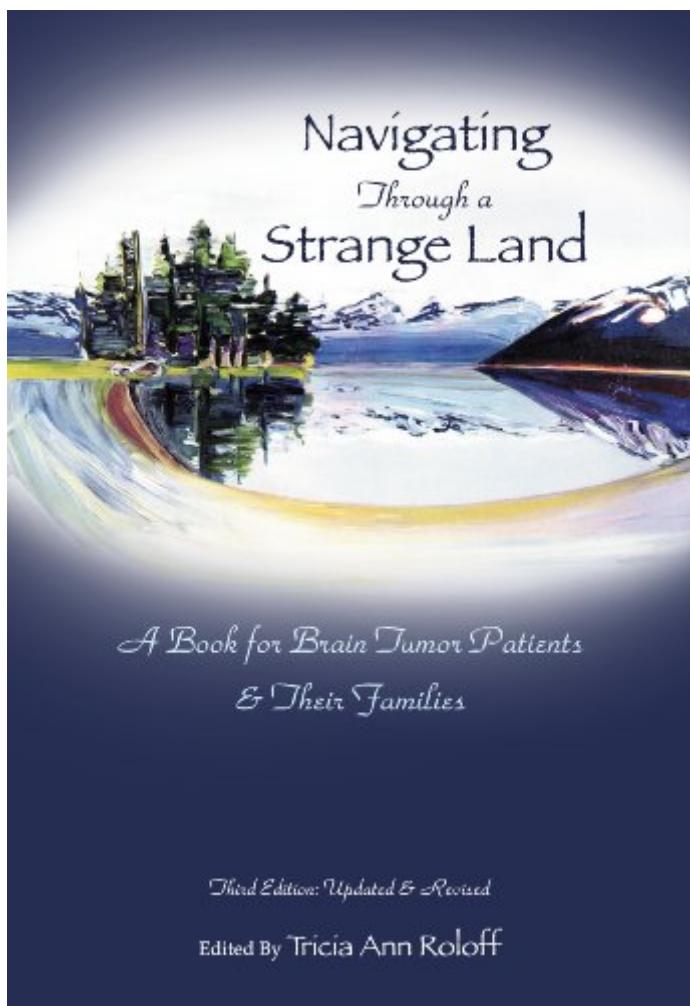


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Navigating Through A Strange Land: A Book For Brain Tumor Patients And Their Families



Synopsis

Inspirational stories by brain tumor patients and their families and advice by medical professionals.

Book Information

File Size: 947 KB

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in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Cancer > Brain Cancer

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Customer Reviews

This is really a great book for anyone with a loved one suffering the devastation of brain cancer or anyone suffering through cancer themselves. My very healthy, active, 73 year old father was diagnosed with a grade 4 brain tumor in July. In just a matter of weeks he has lost much of his speech, some of his memory, and the ability to use his right arm. In an effort to make sense of the ruthless disease he, my family and I are now facing, I bought several books. While all of them were informative, this one was the most helpful in that it is a compilation of essays written from the perspective of patients, families, and physicians. I recommend this book to anyone seeking comfort and information.

There's not much out there for brain tumor sufferers; this book of shared experiences and insights is

a good beginning. As the editor puts it: "stories of triumph, stories of death, stories of pain, and stories of gratitude." However, those in the grips of immediate treatment decisions will want more than this light smattering of treatment and hospital information. Will appeal to anyone confronting brain tumor.

Tricia Ann Roloff's *Navigating Through a Strange Land* is a great book for people who are looking for guidance through a particularly tough time in their lives--the stories brain cancer patients tell in this book are raw, unconstrained, and deeply personal. There is also a generous amount of commentary from family members of patients as well as oncologists and other physicians. Altogether it provides great insight as to how inflicting brain cancer can be on the patient's physical-and psychological-health. Doctors and patients alike provide various resources on how to treat and support you (the patient), as well as help you pave the way for a sustainable recovery. One story that really had an effect on me was Kristan Randolph's. Kristan had surgery for a glioblastoma grade IV in 1993, and in her essay she talked about the difficulty she had coming to terms with her illness, stressing that anybody going through this type of trauma keeps support close by and retains a sense of optimism no matter what. For someone that has been affected by cancer before or even someone that hasn't, Kristan's story is still worth reading. I empathize with Kristan, not because of her encounter with cancer, but because she overcame a harsh and enduring struggle. Stories like these are commensurate with any novel you'll find on the Barnes & Noble shelves--perhaps these stories surpass them, because they are so grounded in reality. Though doctors and patients tell you about the symptoms and treatments surrounding brain cancer, there is not a whole lot of information that covers the biological aspect of brain cancer. Sections covering the cellular and multi-cellular levels of cancer are lacking--and perhaps this book neglected that purposefully. Purpose is achieved through understanding, however, and I think that the next edition should include a section based purely on the biology of brain cancer--specifically gliomas, which are the most common form of cancer in the brain. On the whole, however, I found this to be a useful little book that shouldn't just cover the physical and psychological aspects of this horrendous disease, but also the biological roots that will help patients and general readers understand brain cancer that much more.

I purchased this book when I learned that my Dad's brain tumor had grown significantly and he was moving into the final chapter of his life. I found many of the stories to be inspirational and I learned a lot about people's real life experiences. I also read David Kessler's "The Needs of the Dying" and

this was an amazing book of comfort and truth. I find knowledge to be comforting. If you do also, these books will be very helpful.

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