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# Reconstruction: Defying Cancer And Building A More Purposeful Life



## Synopsis

Have you or someone you know experienced loss, tragedy, or trauma? Are you desperately looking for solid ground on which to rebuild? Do you want to be inspired to not just exist but to lead a life that you can be proud of? Would you like to ultimately become the hero of your own story? Although this book is a personal story about my journey with breast cancer, it has been carefully and thoughtfully written for anyone who has been knocked over by tragedy or loss. Think of this book as a lifeline to your best self, the part that clings to the life that you were always supposed to lead, valuing what and who truly matters most to you. Stop and ask yourself what led you to this book: "What am I searching for? How do I take the first step to find it?" • You have already taken the first step, and I will show you the way to a stronger and happier version of yourself. With your commitment and focus, you too, can stand in the sun. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Breast Cancer survivor, I have spent countless hours in meetings or appointments specifically focused on reorganizing, restructuring, and/or rebuilding one's business, life, or priorities. But the question remains: how many individuals or organizations actually make change happen? RECONSTRUCTION: Defying cancer and building a more purposeful life will provide for both the inspiration and knowledge to take the following steps: \*Increase your self-confidence and individual identity \*Reprioritize your life and focus on what really matters \*Live in the moment \*Create a more resilient YOU \*Let go of what is holding you back \*Uncover your amazing self \*Become Amazing! Reading this book can be life changing, but you need to be ready for the change, and more importantly, ready to BE THE CHANGE! You will be inspired after reading this book; the question is what will you do with this inspiration? Your Journey Begins With the Click of the "Buy Now" Button! \*\*A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated directly to a charitable foundation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am what I like to call a life "œthriver"! • In my forty years I have come out of the closet, mourned the loss of an unborn child, and battled cancer. I have fallen to my knees many times but it is when I stand again to face the world that I find the hero within. In August of 2013, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and life, as I had known it changed forever. I do not define my life by cancer. Instead, my purpose and identity lies in the idea that I have chosen, amongst the rubble and loss, to build a more purposeful life and become a source of inspiration for others. A Licensed Clinical Social worker by trade, I have committed my work to helping others. Now my mission to inspire, lead, and create sustainable change is undeniable. My current work includes: facilitation of grief support groups, inspirational speaker for TMI consulting, and adjunct faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University. I provide volunteer services for both Beyond Boobs and Front Row Foundation. When I am not working or volunteering, I enjoy gardening, spending time with my amazing family, and visiting with friends. My most important accomplishment thus far is becoming a parent. In addition, I owned and operated a successful private practice for five years. Finally, I have developed and lead trainings and seminars related to work "life balance, communication in the workplace, self-care, grief support, creating sustainable change, and leadership through inspiration. My ultimate hope is that you can learn the secrets I have learned. Life is what we create and it is the most fragile gift of all. It is through our human connections and giving back that we find the answers to a life well lived. Melissa Weaver lives in Richmond, Virginia with her amazing wife, two beautiful daughters, and her continual zest for life.

I was amazed at the raw honesty, courage and emotional bravery that this story represented. Melissa Weaver truly is courageous as she holds nothing back in her story of battling cancer and the relationships that compelled her to continue living. This book is about LOSS and GAIN as it weaves you through the pain of losing a child, dealing with cancer and then to overcome impossible odds at the end. The writing is top notch and speaks to you as if you are right there with Melissa, having a conversation and hearing her story in person. This story isn't just focused on one woman's triumph but the victory she experienced with her family and, if anything, leaves you with a feeling of

gratitude in the end. Life is unpredictable we never know what is going to be handed to us and so, in Melissa's case, you can either surrender or push through it. The story is inspirational at the very least and teaches us the most important human lesson of all: Love conquers all. A definite must read.

Breast cancer is on both sides of my family. I never met my paternal grandmother. She died from it when she was 47 years old (the age I will be in three months), and all I knew growing up was that breast cancer killed people and I was terrified of getting it. 13 years ago both my mom and maternal grandmother were diagnosed within months of each other. Both survived, but I was still terrified. Then when a dear friend, my age, was diagnosed a few years ago, my fear of getting breast cancer became even more real to me. Until I read Melissa Weaver's book, 'Reconstruction,' I only had access to the outward effects of breast cancer, its impact on family and friends, and drip drops that my mom, grandmother and friend shared. I had no concept of living with it, but what I watched only added to my fears. Now I can honestly say that for the first time in my life, breast cancer doesn't scare me anymore. Ms. Weaver's story, her powerful words and her beautiful, courageous warrior spirit inspired me to re-shape my fearful relationship with breast cancer into one that is constructive. By the time I read the last page of 'Reconstruction', I finally understood what it means "to have cancer" from the other side because Ms. Weaver was willing to share her most vulnerable moments so honestly with me. By doing this, she opened my mind and heart so I could see another way to frame having cancer instead of mindlessly fearing it. I highly recommend 'Reconstruction' to anyone who has cancer, but I definitely recommend it to anyone who knows someone who has or had cancer. The perspective she provides is priceless.

"I am in awe of your strength, your committed love to Suzi and your daughters, and your commitment and determination to LIVE through this trauma. My heart hurt as I read your story - and my heart sang as I watched a woman I don't even know stand up and claim her life!" My words to Melissa Weaver upon reading her incredibly raw, honest, compassionate story of loss and, more importantly, GAIN. That this book starts with a statement of gratitude for her cancer gave me chills. It told me I was about to read a story, that of one woman's battle through the loss of a child and the cancer which would challenge her very core only a short time later, which would have me cheering at the end. Thank you for your work Melissa Weaver - you are an inspiration! Thank you for your work. It is important. Raw, honest, compassionate. Your tale will help other women to realize that they can and they WILL survive.

I could not put this book down, plain and simple it was raw, emotional and uplifting. Melissa's love and dedication to her wife and children is inspiring and her message is fabulous. I also loved reading about the Front Row Foundation, I have not heard of this prior to Melissa's story and they are remarkable. I believe it is a difficult challenge to live your best life, we lose ourselves so easily especially when you have a loss, and Melissa shows that with the right tools you can overcome almost anything. I am in awe that this is her first book, because it seems like she has been writing for years.

*Reconstruction: Defying Cancer and Rebuilding a more Purposeful Life* by Melissa Powell Weaver speaks to the core of everyone's hopes and fears. This memoir provides her story that illuminates a map of self discovery and defying the words of doctors and the echo of self strength. The result of this journey and complete transformation for what was a death sentence into a journey and mission and battle cry for living.

Beautifully written. Melissa has woven journal entries from the actual time she was battling breast cancer with her current post-treatment insights, perspective, and wisdom. She describes her journey in an articulate, witty and moving way, providing support, hope and inspiration throughout her entire story. This book is a must-read for anyone experiencing a terrifying and uncertain situation in life as Melissa offers light and clarity from her own life's journey.

I am a seven survivor in my sixties. While being diagnosed with breast cancer it is so much more frightening in a young woman, Melissa brings you into her heart and her thoughts in a very powerful way. I won't say that I wasn't terrified of the disease and the treatment. It was as bad as they say. Melissa provides a pathway for healing both emotionally and physically for women of all ages. I now live a much meaningful life and credit the evil that is cancer for a new perspective. Bless all of you are battling.

I can understand that people who have been diagnosed with cancer and cancer survivors would benefit greatly from this book. But the fact of the matter is that this book is for everyone! Anyone that has faced adversity would benefit from reading this. This is a true story, told by an amazing human being, showing up in the world and guiding us towards a brighter future! This book goes straight to your heart and you end up taking a good look at your life and the choices you have to make a

difference.

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