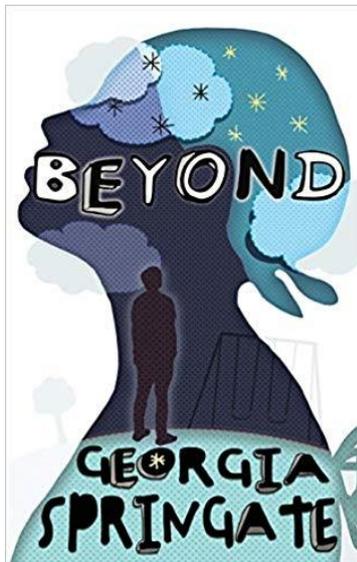


**MACMILLAN**  
**CANCER SUPPORT**  
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

# BOOK REVIEWS

Read what people affected by cancer think about...



**Beyond (2019)**

Springate G.  
London: Burning Chair, 2019.  
308pp.  
ISBN 9781912946051.

**Macmillan Cancer Support**  
**89 Albert Embankment**  
**London SE1 7UQ**

**These reviews were written by people affected by cancer and are not the views of Macmillan Cancer Support. These reviews, and the publications reviewed, should not be relied upon as a substitute for specialist professional advice tailored to your situation. So far as is permitted by law, Macmillan does not accept liability in relation to the use of any information contained in this review or publication or third-party information or websites included or referred to in it.**



I enjoyed this story, which is written from a slightly different angle: that of a young teenager, Al, trying to find out what will happen to his older sister when she dies. Where will she go, will she be safe? Alongside, is the subtext of relationships and what happens when there is turmoil in a family – the ripple effect.

The story is typical of young people's literature and narrative, so is a familiar style for young people to read. It is very easy to understand. The story is told quite well with a lot of the main character's thoughts, although these take a bit of getting used to in the way the text is set out. The font and spacing is small so it is often not easy to differentiate between the dialogue and Al's thinking. I don't like the cover and the paper is too bright for my eyes much of the time.

I like the characters, though the minor ones are almost more powerful than the main protagonists. The search for what happens next is slightly far-fetched, but plausible and possibly attractive to a younger audience. It is refreshing to see people talking about death openly and asking questions and the different emotions that surround it.

Would I recommend it? Yes. It could be read by many people, not just those living with, or affected in some way by, cancer.

**Ex teacher of young children and parent living with cancer (myelodysplastic syndrome) (46-55) (March 2019)**

# Further information

## Why does Macmillan Cancer Support review books?

We use reviews to help us compile a list of suggested cancer books, the [Macmillan Core Book List](#). Cancer information centres and public libraries can use this list to select appropriate and relevant books for people affected by cancer.

We add reviews to the [Directory of information materials for people affected by cancer](#) so that people affected by cancer can see what others in a similar situation think about a book. You can also see details of all the books reviewed in the [Book reviews listing](#), which also has links to all the reviews.

We recruit most of our reviewers through the [Volunteering Village](#) and the [Cancer Voices Network](#), people affected by cancer who have signed up to help Macmillan Cancer Support in a number of ways. Volunteers are a vital part of our book review process; since 2007, over 1,500 Macmillan volunteers have written more than 6,000 reviews of over 500 different books.

If you are a health professional who would like to review books for us, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

## Information and support for people affected by cancer

If you are looking for support to help you live life with cancer, you may wish to contact one of [Macmillan's cancer information and support services](#). Or you can call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00** (Mon-Fri 9am–8pm). We have an interpreting service in over 200 languages. Just state, in English, the language you wish to use. If you are deaf or hard of hearing you can use textphone no 0808 808 0121 or Text Relay.

You can also email us using the [website enquiry form](#). Alternatively, [visit our website](#).

## Feedback

If you have any comments, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

**We're here to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can, providing physical, financial and emotional support. So whatever cancer throws your way, we're right there with you.**

**For information, support or just someone to talk to, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit [macmillan.org.uk](http://macmillan.org.uk)**

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