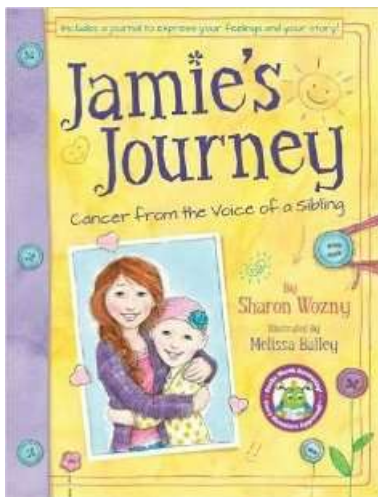


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BOOK REVIEWS

Read what people affected by cancer think about...



Jamie's journey. Cancer from the voice of a sibling (2016)

Wozny S, Bailey M (Illustrator).

Little Five Star, 2016.

64pp.

ISBN 9781589852341.

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This book covers all stages allowing the reader to follow along with each stage. It highlights that being angry, jealous and feeling unloved are all natural and just feelings. It is easy to understand and has been illustrated brilliantly, the drawings look like someone has sketched especially for your copy, giving it a more personal feel.

Sometimes when someone has something that you don't understand it can be hard to make sense of what is happening in your mind, but when you are young, and your sibling is sick, the confusion and conflict of emotions can be overwhelming: this book shows that there is nothing wrong with being angry or jealous and that at no point during the journey are you ever alone.

Child psychologist (26-35) (August 2019)

This is a useful and simple story from the point of view of Jamie, whose sister has cancer. It describes Jamie's feelings well and encapsulates the bumpy emotional journey. It could be used with a wide range of children, to read on their own – although an older child might be put off by the picture book format – or to have read to them, although the illustrations don't invite warmth and cosiness to cuddle up, being mostly black and white with a hint of colour.

It is easy to understand, in child friendly language, but the look of the book is not to my taste. I found it confusing. It has the look of a picture book for younger children, the text is more suited to older ones, and the pages at the end more suited to younger children. Perhaps, on reflection, this is so that it can be used by ANY age group. I am not too keen on the illustrations, but that's just personal.

I like the true expression and acknowledgement of negative emotions. It is frank and uses a young person's language so would engage them quite quickly. Feelings are of paramount importance. The section after the story where children are encouraged to express their emotions is done in a friendly off-hand way, by which I mean it has a "you can if you want to, but don't have to" feel.

This is the first cancer book that I have read for older children. I like it but was not bowled over by it. It expresses the range of emotions that an onlooker goes through when seeing a loved one suffer and does so in a way that children would understand. I didn't get a warmth from the text as I have done from books for younger children or from the illustrations, but that might have been because of the intended audience.

Former teacher of young children and parent living with cancer (myelodysplastic syndrome) (46-55) (April 2017)



This is a good, well-explained and simple story and a good starting point for any sibling of a cancer patient. It briefly touches on initial diagnosis and treatments and gives just enough information for a start. It explains well all the feelings that might a sibling might experience and how parents and the cancer patient might feel. The book is excellent at that and could be very helpful for a child. It will be most useful at the beginning of treatment but could continue to be of use throughout the process.

It's easy to understand and I like the simple and effective way that things are explained; I think it makes children think it's ok to feel as they do and where they might find help or guidance.

It is a shame that the cover looks like a girl's book, because the story line would suit girls and boys. It would be better if one of the main characters were a girl and the other a boy, to appeal to more children. I think boys will be put off by the cover. The illustrations are generally good but – just an observation – it seems unsuitable to show a young girl with a drip in her arm on her sister's back or travelling to hospital in the back of the car without a seatbelt. Maybe this is ok in America?

The story only takes up a part of the book. There are perhaps too many pages at the end for a child's illustrations. Sadly, the email addresses suggested are more appropriate for the American market. It is unclear what age range would benefit from this book. It's a nice idea on the whole, but some of the things I have mentioned limit its market and usefulness.

Breast cancer patient with seven grandchildren (46-55) (September 2017)

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

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