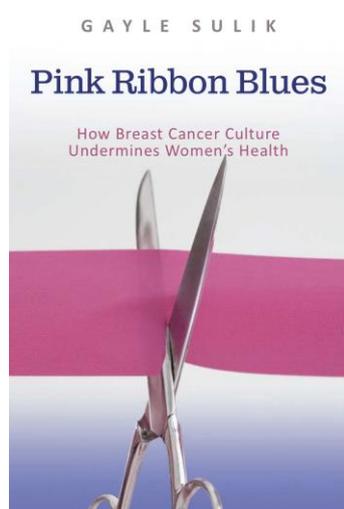


**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

BOOK REVIEWS

Read what people affected by cancer think about...



Pink ribbon blues. How breast cancer culture undermines women's health (2011)

Sulik GA.

Oxford University Press, 2011.

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Average star rating 3.8 (out of 5)

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This is a very useful book for those involved in breast cancer care and the public; it reminds us that “all that glitters is not gold”. It is thoughtful, provocative and at times disquieting as the author presents the history behind pink-ribbon culture, the reality and power behind this universal movement, which is not always as it appears. It has integrity throughout and a resonance for women connected in whatever way with breast cancer. Whether directly affected or a member of the public who wishes to support research, we are all are wooed by pink-ribbon culture to an extent. This book helps us keep in perspective that this culture, whilst stemming from excellent motives, has become a vast business machine that may be flawed and less altruistic on closer scrutiny. It reminds us that we are individuals and that when we live with a situation that demands choices and changes (which by their very nature come without guarantee) this does not take away our ability and right to think for ourselves, to question, to seek support and to avoid exploitation when most vulnerable.

The author charts pink-ribbon culture from its grass roots, its history and progression, listing the key American players and the most salient outcomes. We are made aware of how pink-ribbon culture continues to thrive and provided with thought-provoking paths to explore to suit our own individuality and needs. The material she presents is very well documented and analysed. It is methodical and qualitative in approach which makes it a powerful and empowering resource. It is at times a disquieting read as she takes us behind the shiny veneer of altruistic, ‘feel good’, positive and, sometimes, somewhat ‘noble’ pink-ribbon culture as presented to those under the ‘umbrella’ of breast cancer and the public. It highlights clearly the damage pink-ribbon culture is doing to itself, which the author brings as a future positive to the reader by making us ask: ‘Why, with all the power, scientific advances, media participation and vast financial and intelligent resources available, has breast cancer not yet been eradicated?’. Is continuing to ‘buy’ into an exploitative, albeit aesthetically and emotionally appealingly packaged pink-ribbon culture really the best way to achieve this goal, or would it be better served by questioning and looking far more closely at those behind the campaign and data findings? This is made more empowering, insightful and poignant in the chapters where she gives personal stories and reactions to the now-expected conformity embraced by pink-ribbon culture. This book may represent American culture, but it is universally applicable.

It is interesting and insightful, well presented aesthetically, and the content makes for a thought-provoking read. It is written in a straightforward and informative manner in clear and succinct language. It is not a medical textbook so there are few technical terms, but any medical terminology, statistical data, quotes and material sources are clearly explained and there are comprehensive notes at the end of each chapter, prior to leading and engaging the reader in the next one. There is also a full index.

The front cover is striking with a clever visual design that draws the eye and perfectly represents the book's style and content; the words in pink under the title (how breast cancer culture 'undermines' women's health) engaged my interest and curiosity before I had even opened the book. The book is substantial (over 400 pages) yet not unwieldy. The size and weight make it convenient to carry by hand or in a 'normal' size bag. The typeface and font size are appropriate and legible, except for the comprehensive index, which is a somewhat lighter font and smaller typeface, which is not so easy on the eye, even with glasses. The general layout is appropriate for its content and style and the author's tone is friendly and straightforward without detracting from the book's integrity and thought-provoking subject matter.

This is a highly pertinent book. It reminds us of the dangers of mass marketing by corporations motivated by profit and not altruism, in a world greatly defined by consumerism where inequality, ineffectiveness, or worse, can be easily lost, hidden or misrepresented and where women who do not 'fit' the stereotype can be left feeling isolated and ostracised and in some way or another emotionally, if not physically, penalised for not being able to deal with their situation in the manner best suited to their individual needs and circumstance. It is also interesting to see how the stereotype of the pink-ribbon woman has derived from a mix of the stereotypical models of male and female to give us the accepted and expected framework within which the pink-ribbon female icon functions and performs today.

It is highly relevant to society in general, not just American culture, where it is more the norm for us to be highly influenced by the media, scientific and technological advances that surround us; many prove to be positive, growth-making influences but these, in turn, often mask hidden or unmentioned negative and detrimental realities. We all like the sugar-coated pill that masks the unpleasantness of the content. This book strips away the sugar coating and brings us to an, at times, unpalatable reality of what is really behind the sentimentality, bravos and hype that is so easy to buy into even with the best intentions. Regrettably, this book documents how such general innocent and willing participation can, whilst positive for some, be detrimental to the advancement and hopeful eradication of this disease and women's health.

Breast cancer patient in recovery (56-65) (December 2012)

This is the best of many books I have read on this subject. It covers the historical, social, and political aspects of breast cancer as well as the personal views of patients and factual statistics and information from the author's PhD. It captures many areas of my experience, understanding and interest and confirmed much that I, and others, have observed. We are silenced no more; this book is confirmation of what a lot of patients and health professionals know but that is dismissed as a one off or seen as negative and of no value and therefore not recorded.

It would be of interest to all but may be scary for most patients or dismissed as over the top. It may be of more interest to those at a less emotional stage in their journey seeking further understanding or an overview. Health professional, politicians, and NHS professionals could learn from it and it is an excellent template for UK research, for example women's studies or the influence of marketing on such a serious issue.

The author strikes a balance and exposes the core of many issues in an intelligent manner. One example is the analysis of financial changes; this is not only cause for concern but refreshing to see in black and white using observation and facts. The influence of marketing on the medical profession and therefore patient choice is also worthy of note. Although it is a USA review, it relates to observations in the UK in all the areas discussed. It may be considered over analytical.

This is a very useful book but at an early stage of the cancer or without long personal experience and the benefit of time, it could be alarming. Before recommending it, one would have to evaluate the reader's emotional capacity, intellect and willingness to be open and put aside emotion. I offer the author a big thank you; I feel vindicated after suffering from battle fatigue as a breast cancer patient, previous long-term cancer carer and advocate. In summary – to use one of the book's chapter titles – 'Think before you Pink' is a message that should be considered.

Breast cancer patient (46-55) (August 2012)

Although this is most useful for health professionals, it is also of value for patients, carers, or family. It is most useful for the interaction between personal experience and the wider social situation. The subject is approached intelligently – academically and emotionally – and balanced between empathy and critical analysis. It is observational with an acceptance of the diversity of people affected by cancer, and the society within which it takes place; it is not judgemental. It would be interesting to have a British angle; it is American, but this does not detract from it.

It is easy to understand, but some people may be put off by the academic approach. For others, it will be this very approach that appeals. I like the cover, the feel of the book and the layout. There aren't any pictures, but this does not detract from the book. I like the quotations at the beginning of each chapter.

I have waited a long time for a book like this. It builds upon Barbara Ehrenreich's work, which gave people permission to question the place of pink ribbons for those affected by breast cancer. It portrays well the dilemma between wanting high-profile and financial backing for prevention, treatment and support services and the need to have a break from the incessant reminders.

I would recommend it to certain people. You need to be interested in the impact of cancer in a social context. Some people will not want to be bothered by what this book has to say, however it will give many a sense of relief that they are not alone in their perspective of the breast cancer world. Every health professional who works in breast cancer care should read it.

Breast cancer patient (46-55) (July 2012)

Doctors, oncologists and the media need to review their attitudes to breast cancer; this is a useful text with good ideas and many true testimonials from patients who see themselves beyond popular culture. From a sociological viewpoint, it is also a comprehensive text about attitudes to women and breast cancer throughout the 20th century. It is probably most useful to carers and health professionals. I would have found it unhelpful at times (at diagnosis or when things had gone wrong medically) as it could have shaken my faith in conventional medicine; however, seven years after diagnosis, it was helpful in affirming the views I have about needing to be seen as an individual and not a cause or a brand. Every carer and oncologist should read this and hopefully see that breast cancer is neither a battle nor a retail brand!

The title is challenging, as is the whole book, but the subject is well handled and necessarily provocative. There are cross referenced notes at the end of each chapter. It is a very logical, intelligent and challenging text. Sometimes I did find the detail about American cancer charities and politics difficult to follow; it is essentially an America view although the politics and attitudes have been mirrored in the UK. There is also quite a detailed review of breast cancer types, statistics and recommended treatment, linking to economics and drug brands; it is not a light read!

I like the depth of research. The author illustrates very well what it feels like to have breast cancer. It gives intelligent debate about diagnosis and treatment, and the commonly over-radical treatment for cancer precursors and risk indicators. I like the clear presentation of the fact that increased screening leads to an increase in in-situ cancer detection, giving a false impression of early diagnosis increasing cure, when the mammograms cost phenomenal amounts of money (there is profit to be made!) and in-situ cases may never become invasive!

Pink ribbon is a high-profile brand. This book is not the first to challenge it, but it is a significant piece of research. I applaud what I believe to be a true account of society's need to undermine the individual by normalising the silhouette and glossing over the suffering of patients with battle cries and sponsored runs. The author masterfully shows how suffering in others creates a need to do something (anything!) that has led to a profit-making, media-fulfilling, industry.

The language surrounding illness is rightly challenged as is the paradox that the experience can be a blessing. The challenge of the word "survivor", to "alivers" or "thrivers" appeals to me greatly. I work with cancer patients and was interested in the highlighting of the masculine terms of fighting, battle and winning that are commonly used and how negative this becomes – as a bereaved daughter said to me "it implies that my father didn't fight hard enough, when I know he did everything he could..."

I like the characterisation of the "she-ro" (a woman who fights the disease and smiles through irrespective of suffering or outcome!). The account of the missing breast being there every morning, every shower time, every time you dress and undress and therefore impossible to forget is wonderful! The health carer with the prosthesis saying, "you'll never know the difference", the patient thinking "of course I will!". Also, there are some great testimonials about women feeling guilty about having to put themselves first, having to take time out of family life for treatment and recovery.

Books like this can take the cancer patient from “why me” to “why not me” – a relevant point at which it is possible to accept this illness. I would probably not recommend it at diagnosis, but it has some interesting points about society, politics and living with breast cancer. The argument is anti-establishment, and I would never endorse anything that might dissuade people from taking the conventional medicine route. Precursors to cancer may or may not become invasive and until statistically proven or identifiable otherwise, I still believe that the advice of an oncologist you trust is the best way to go. Furthermore, to learn after radical surgery that it may have been unnecessary has questionable value. But if you are a carer, doctor, family member, or politically engaged, this is a valuable work.

Living with breast cancer (46-55) (June 2012)



This isn't about living with breast cancer or caring for someone with breast cancer; it's about “pink” culture, which is all about raising money and profile instead of finding a cure! I don't think it is suitable for someone with breast cancer and it could have a detrimental effect. It is interesting from a sociological point of view and a great book for someone who is interested in fighting against “pink” stereotypes.

It's well written, well laid out and a nice comfy size to read. I found it very interesting, if heavy going, but I was already interested in the subject. It is quite a heavy read, not easy to dip in and out of, and I don't think most people with cancer will find it suitable, especially women with breast cancer.

Womb cancer survivor (46-55) (September 2012)

This is an analytical report of the cancer industry, in particular breast cancer, and how the pink-ribbon movement is more about media hype and advertising and less about cure as pharmaceutical giants and other corporate bodies make vast profits. It is an excellent resource for anyone not swept up in the pink-ribbon movement; it exposes many of its downsides and normalises the emotional aspects of breast cancer. For those who do not always feel optimistic it is an excellent and enlightening resource; it allows for the expression of fear, anger, and depression.

The language is easy to understand, and a glossary is not needed. I like the cover; the cutting of the pink ribbon is symbolical and a good indication of the contents.

This book offers emotional support, normalising the feelings of despair, anger, depression and fear that even the most optimistic feel at times. It is very thought provoking and although American, it applies to the pink-ribbon culture here as well.

Living with secondary breast cancer (56-65) (June 2012)

This book would be particularly useful for someone with an interest in medical sociology and/or the cultural aspects of illness, or someone interested in women's studies and feminist critiques. It is an academic text (PhD thesis) adapted for reading by the public. It is not a self-help guide for patients or carers, but could prove illuminating for anyone – patient, carer or anyone with a general interest – to understand the context in which survivorship issues are developed and publicised. It also offers a critique of the medical profession, the pharmaceutical industry, marketers and western (particularly American) society.

I am a graduate, with an intellectual as well as personal interest in the sociological and cultural aspects of illness, so I found it easy to understand and the concepts to be well explained. The author is describing 'Pink culture' in the US and uses examples from the US to develop her argument. A reader needs to be aware of the differences in how American health services are structured and financed to understand some of the points fully, for example the author's analysis of direct advertising of prescription-only drugs to members of the public, which is not permitted in the UK. Similarly, I found it helpful to find out more about the different breast cancer organisations discussed and spend time visiting their websites.

The book is very appealing to handle physically, with good-quality paper and binding. It's built to last and its quality enhances the experience of reading it. The typeface is attractive and legible, and the layout, with plenty of space between the lines, is open and somehow welcoming. The writing style is accessible whilst remaining rigorous. The book is based on a PhD thesis, so it has been very well edited. The index is useful and accurate, and the citations are excellent – plentiful, full and accurate. It is an excellent starting point for exploring the topic further.

The wide-ranging and detailed analysis is interesting and intellectually invigorating. The book also sheds light on some of the uneasiness I often feel about the 'breast cancer cause' and the disproportionate attention breast cancer receives in popular culture compared to other cancers with comparable, or even higher, incidence, mortality, physical effects and outcome.

It is a very useful book for the right reader. It matches my interests and approach to life and provides much new material to reflect on, but I would hesitate to recommend it if I thought it would discourage or confuse, or if someone is looking for advice or reassurance. It would be a mistake to recommend it to someone trying to get to grips with a recent diagnosis or to a carer who wants to learn more about how to offer support. I am more likely to recommend it to those with an academic turn of mind, whatever their connection with breast cancer.

If it were not American, I'd give it five stars because it would be an easier read. It's clearly designed to be accessible as well as academic and intellectually challenging, but the British reader needs to do more background reading to make the most of it – worth it if you're so inclined.

Former Hodgkin lymphoma patient (56-65 (June 2012))

This is a fascinating, thought-provoking book following the history of breast cancer in the USA from before the Second World War to today and the experience of the pink-ribbon culture. It explains how, behind this famous logo, big business profits while millions of people raise money through sponsored walks, runs and events for research and better treatment. Even so, breast cancer rates continue to rise, and you have the same chance of dying as 50 years ago.

I recommend this book post treatment when one may want to reflect on the bigger picture as some of the information could shock, e.g. the exploitation of breast cancer by big business advertising, using the pink ribbon logo. It blows the pink-ribbon myth and I found it a reassuring read as I had been questioning it myself.

It is a serious factual book, with a lot of references at the end of each chapter – a huge amount of research has been involved. I had no problems reading it, but I have worked as a nurse/health visitor for the last 30 years and am familiar with this type of book. However, it is well set out and can be dipped into if necessary. Each chapter is subdivided, and the personal accounts are at the end so can be read separately. I like the presentation and the cover. The author is very factual and non-judgmental when describing individuals' responses to breast cancer.

An interesting aspect of the book is the language that surrounds breast cancer, always 'war terminology, e.g. battling, fighting, and that the pink-ribbon culture is only for those who exhibit strength, hope, courage and a sense of humour. It discusses the "she-ro" role women have to adhere to or else be excluded. The inclusion of personal stories makes the whole book come to life and many of them resonated with me when they discussed the emotional side of this cancer, the guilt, anger for example, which one can experience.

This excellent book is very useful for people who want all the facts. It is well balanced and even though American still relevant to the UK. However, it is uncomfortable to read about the reality of the big business approach of pharmaceutical companies and advertising companies who use the logo to get more business and the yearly screening programmes in the USA that benefit the insurance companies. Because of this I would recommend it to a limited group of people; the majority who adhere to the pink-ribbon ethos may be very offended and not want to face the fact that they are being manipulated by big business, and not want to recognise the stereotypical portrait of a breast cancer patient that is around today. There is so much in this book that informed me, made me reflect on the pink-ribbon culture and reassured me that we deal with breast cancer in the best way we can. I would have given it 5 stars but for the US setting, which makes it occasionally less relevant in the UK.

Post breast cancer treatment (56-65) (June 2012)



This is a book with much promise but in practice a limited audience. It is of very little use for anyone directly affected by breast cancer in the UK. It seems to be mainly useful for researchers or sociologists who are particularly interested in the detail of breast cancer culture in the U.S.

It looks good with an attractive cover, but there are no photos or illustrations, just 400 pages of dense text. The language is at times difficult. Even before you get to the main text you must contend with chapter titles such as “Realism and Transcendent Subversion” and “She-roic Selfishness (i.e. Rational Coping Strategy)”. Endless sentences such as “The Cartesian philosophy identifies the mind with the rational and immortal soul and the human body as a machine that can be analyzed in terms of its parts” left me wondering what point the author is trying to make.

I started reading this book with enthusiasm; it is not often that one reads of anyone challenging ribbon culture, pink, red or other. It was interesting to read about how it has developed, and the organisations involved. However, I found it increasingly difficult, with complex language and endless mentions of American organisations and parts of the U.S. healthcare system, of which I know little. It is too long and could have benefited by having a good editor, which might also have resulted in a better order. If I hadn't been reviewing it I doubt that I would have finished it, even though I find ribbon culture interesting and am used to reading academic texts. If I was doing a health care course relating to this subject I would probably have found it excellent, as it has material that is difficult to find elsewhere. I will recommend it to people directly affected by cancer only if they are some time past their treatment and able to cope with the difficult language.

Former mouth cancer patient (56-65) (August 2012)

This book focuses on pink-ribbon culture in America. Although British society is different, there are similarities, such as the use of advertising to promote goods and services. The pink-ribbon culture makes heavy use of advertising techniques to raise funds with the aim of eradicating breast cancer. The author questions its ethics and effectiveness and raises the awareness of suffering in the real world that has not been brought to the surface by the pink-ribbon culture.

The first seven chapters examine pink-ribbon culture: its humble origins, its development, how it is being sold to the public, and its problems. In the remaining three chapters, the author shows how a redress is needed if breast cancer research is to move in the right direction. It may help people understand and think carefully about fundraising, especially for cancer.

It is the result of the author's research work and in the early chapters, the text is more like a research paper; it lacks interest and a personal touch. Later, the text is the author's own voice. There are snippets of text from other materials to support the author's claims. In general, the language is understandable by the public and technical terms are explained in the text. There is no glossary.

The book highlights the hidden phenomena that exist in the pink-ribbon culture; it urges the public to take a different look and think deeper about what this culture represents. It is not a self-help or support book for people with cancer. It is useful in the sense that it raises awareness about pink-ribbon culture – it is good to be aware of the pitfalls. I gave it three stars because the early chapters are too heavy going and lack interest.

Breast cancer survivor in remission (46-55) (July 2012)

This book is a sociological analysis of the breast cancer industry/brand in the USA, written from an academic viewpoint. However, there is not too much heavy theory, so it can be tackled by a reader with a general interest in a critique of the cultural politics of (some) cancer charities and treatments, but no specific sociological background.

There are two main themes in the book. First, Sulik identifies and critiques the set of narratives that have become packaged up with the pink-ribbon brand of breast cancer awareness in the last couple of decades. These include the narrative of ‘the she-ro’ – the heroic survivor waging her personal war against breast cancer – illustrated through qualitative interviews with breast cancer patients who have both adopted this trope (whether consciously or not) and others who have not. Other narratives include the importance of early detection, the acceptability (or otherwise) of different emotional responses to cancer diagnosis and treatment and the difficulty of women continuing to care for others while going through diagnosis and treatment.

The second theme is perhaps more problematic, in that Sulik argues that these pink-ribbon branding narratives/associations not only shape our expectations of what breast cancer patients should be like but also undermine women’s health in more practical ways. For example, by promoting mammograms and other forms of ‘early detection’, the screening industry may skew the cancer statistics (early, often smaller cancers will be easier to treat, so survival rates will appear more positive), may identify and treat tumours that would not have turned into life-threatening cancer anyway (thus causing unnecessary suffering through excess treatment), and will make billions of dollars from patients, doctors and their insurers in the process.

Consequently, Sulik implies that women are disempowered and rendered less able to make their own decisions about what counts as cancer, what treatments (including tests) are appropriate and how they should behave when they are diagnosed and undergoing treatment, because ‘pink-ribbon culture’ predetermines what medical advice is given and what is an acceptable, feminine response. In this sense, the options for a woman diagnosed with (or even suspected to have) breast cancer are limited not by her own body and mind, but by the health industry and gender politics of the society in which she lives (in this case, the USA). It is also somewhat irritating that, in the first half or so of the book, Sulik writes as if there is no or little resistance to or challenge of pink-ribbon norms, despite the diversity of women’s experiences and approaches. This (thankfully) changes in chapter 8, which gives detailed examples of precisely this resistance and challenge, although it does somewhat undermine the claims in earlier chapters of the dominance of pink-ribbon thinking.

Sulik's perspective is set in the American context, so UK readers may find many of the comments about costs of tests and advertising to doctors and patients less relevant. Also, although Sulik argues that 'no whining' is a key message in US advocacy, in the UK there is more acceptance that it's OK to feel bad when you have cancer – the Macmillan leaflets often make this point about accepting your own feelings (rather than feeling guilty). There is also quite a bit of repetition of the main arguments in the first few chapters, although they are mainly clearly explained.

I do have some problems with the analysis. Sulik frequently refers to the pink-ribbon approach as a "culture", but also as a "trend", "industry", "distinct cultural system", "brand name", "an established social space" and "a lifestyle". Some of these I agree with (especially industry and brand) but others are a stretch (especially culture and lifestyle). The analysis goes too far in claiming that pink-ribbon expectations define a separate zone/culture; perhaps they are part of our wider culture, but surely they are not all of it nor do all women in our culture quietly submit to them? So, overall, the critique of the pink-ribbon industry/brand is interesting and politically important, but the book is very American in perspective and rather overdoes the dominance of the pink-ribbon industry, to the detriment of other ways of living with breast cancer.

The style is academic and can seem dry in places, although the theoretical content is not that extensive. Compared to other, more intensively theorised and referenced books, this one can readily be tackled by someone who is not already familiar with the literature in this area. The second part is much more personal, anecdotal and human-scale, and enjoyable. There is one glaring error: "the 210 million women in the United States who are currently living with breast cancer" (p. 276) – there are only about 311 million people in the USA in total! The cover is great but there are no illustrations in the book. This is a pity; the author frequently describes adverts and it would be good to judge these first hand.

I would only recommend it to someone who I knew would be happy or interested to read a more academic/analytical book, perhaps someone who is already questioning the 'public face' of breast cancer more generally and looking for a more critical, non-mainstream perspective. I would not recommend it to someone who just diagnosed and struggling through treatment; it is not designed to offer solace or practical advice.

Former breast cancer patient (36-45) (July 2012)

This book has been researched well and anyone who would like to gain a better or deeper understanding of organisational thinking 'behind the scenes' would find it an interesting, if not comforting, read. I recommend it post treatment, when one may want to reflect on the bigger picture; some of the information is shocking and disturbing – the exploitation by big business advertising, using the pink-ribbon logo. Although I had a level of awareness, it confirmed some of my views and thoughts.

It has an eye-catching title and cover. I prefer paperbacks, purely because they are lighter; a paperback price would also make it appeal to a wider audience. Overall, the layout is good, with plenty of space, and the tone is consistent. It has been written by a researcher and the language reflects that – a glossary would have tempted a wider audience – but the core message can be picked up by anyone.

The “she-ro” is a perfect explanation of the woman who fights the disease and smiles regardless of the suffering or outcome. There is no getting away from the reality of the missing breast and its impact on daily life. It is amazing how it takes away the spontaneous decisions that we all make and things we take for granted. The perceptions of some health care professionals about prosthesis as an acceptable option of support communicated poorly and in an insensitive manner do not fully take on board the loss experienced by the patient. The book also confirms just how many women find it difficult to put themselves first, especially once treatment is complete and so-called recovery is perceived, yet adjustment has barely started.

It is an interesting read – supported by good research; it confirms and puts into perspective the true workings of big business, where initial intentions are easily swayed, and focus is lost to profiteering. However, the American mindset, lifestyle, attitudes and healthcare system is very different although it does mirror some of the human behaviour and practices that could be relevant to the UK public.

I might recommend it, but it will depend on who it is and what they are searching for; there’s nothing worse than confusing someone who is looking for assurance. It would be an eye opener for some, such as family carers who often want to give back but who are not aware of the workings of large business.

Living with the consequences of breast cancer (56-65) (July 2012)



I did not like this book at all; it is not relevant or interesting to English breast cancer patients, carers or relatives – the author is writing about breast cancer culture in American society. It is easy to understand; the author writes well, and the book is good quality. The topics would be interesting if it were written for the English market.

Breast cancer patient (46-55) (June 2012)

Further information

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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.

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

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

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Being told ‘you have cancer’ can affect so much more than your health – it can also affect your family, your job, even your ability to pay the bills. But you’re still you. We get that. And, after over 100 years of helping people through cancer, we get what’s most important: that you’re treated as a person, not just a patient.

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We’re here to help you find your best way through from the moment of diagnosis, so you’re able to live life as fully as you can. For information, support or just someone to talk to, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk

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