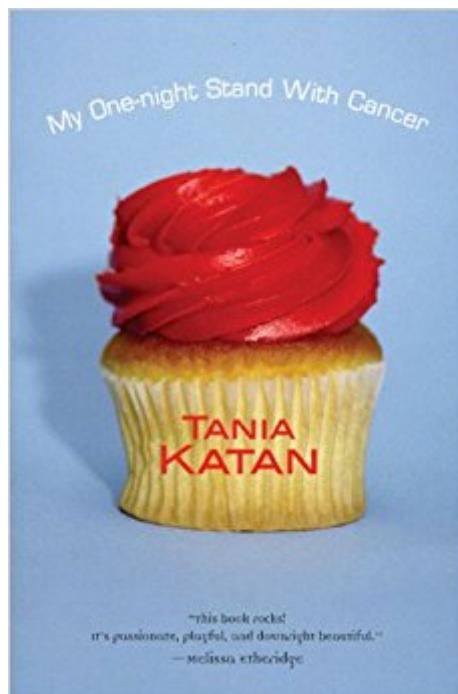


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# My One-Night Stand With Cancer: A Memoir



## Synopsis

When Tania Katan was 21 years old she was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. She survived, minus a breast. Exactly 10 years later it happened again. By age 31 Katan was a two-time breast cancer survivor with the scars to prove it and a sense of humor forged by the unthinkable. Her memoir, loaded with rage and blistering humor, tells the tale of living through two bouts with death and is woven through with stories of picking up women while bald, coping with her supportive but neurotic family, running in two 10K races, and pledging to never ever date a psychotic woman again. An unforgettable account of survival. Tania Katan's plays have been seen at Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Circle Repertory Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros, Pacific Residence Theatre, A Traveling Jewish Theatre, and Theatre of NOTE.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Katan, shown naked above the waist in her back-of-the-book photo, sacrificed a breast to stage three cancer at 21. The disease recurred 10 years later, but she survived to prove, perhaps, that laughter is in fact the best medicine. In any event, the Jewish lesbian's memoir is loaded with humor. When a girlfriend found a lump on her breast, Katan calmed her nerves at the breast clinic by pretending she was a rock star and completing the intake form by indicating lesbian sex as her preferred form of birth control. By alternating, during a description of an ultrasound, between her real past as an impoverished, 16-year-old, dateless, friendless "drama fag" who wrote standup and fantasies of her present self as a lesbo porn star, Katan establishes a then-and-now structure for

insights infused with wry comedy: remarks like "toxic girlfriends give me cancer" and characters including hypochondriac Nurse Fred, who fears those who lick books. With lymph nodes negative and outlook positive despite lightning striking twice, this 10K runner shows great spirit and strength. Whitney ScottCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Tania Katan is a playwright and stand up comic living in Los Angeles.

Although this memoir book is written from the perspective of a 2-time survivor of breast cancer, it's nothing like you might expect. Nobody expects to hear the phrase "laugh out loud funny" applied to a book about cancer, but that's exactly what goes on in this book. There are some moments so funny that you laugh in that almost crying kind of way. There are serious moments too, of course, and it's also just a great story - you will love it even if you're not looking for a book about breast cancer. Tania Katan's writing is just fantastic. She's soooo funny, but she's also precise and elegant, sometimes infusing just a few sentences with meaning without being heavy-handed about it. She doesn't "tell" you, she "shows" you - like a good song, many of the emotions and meanings are sort of hidden between the lines. She's also one of the most likeable characters of any book that I've read in recent history. Overall, this is one of the best and funniest books I've read in quite a while.

I can't say enough about this book. Tania made me laugh, made me cry, and most of all, made me feel her journey. She seems like such a badass, cool chick, after reading this book there is something wrong with you if you don't want to go and share a bottle of wine with her and pick her brain! Even though I'm straight and a lymphoma survivor vs. breast cancer, I found her story so relatable, and like I said hilarious! Plus, it's nice to read a book by someone who didn't act like her cancer diagnosis was a death sentence-IT is possible to stay positive and use humor to get yourself through it! Do yourself a favor and read this book!!!

As a woman, as a writer, as a lesbian, and having gone through a portion of the cancer drama that Tania Katan has...this book was relatable cover to cover. Her journal-style descriptions read like my own internal monologue making me laugh out loud repeatedly, and feel her emotions entirely. Her earnest and comical approach is refreshing and addictive. I couldn't put it down. Her character, herself, is unapologetically endearing, witty; and I know I'll feel a kinship toward her and her writing for years to come.

I met this woman and am grateful she is alive to tell her story which is astoundingly alive and well written. She has made my world a bigger, better place. I would not shy away from the book because you're affected by the disastrous effects of cancer and its treatment, but would learn from reading it an example of the will to survive and thrive.

This book provided much needed comic relief while recuperating from mastectomy. To have such a very positive attitude when facing breast cancer not once, but twice, makes one realize how lucky they are during a difficult time. This book portrays the unique stress she faced by her family and the medical profession not prepared for someone so young and a lesbian.

I needed to write a book report for a cancer patient that was non-fictional. This book was great. She gives plenty of detail about her cancer and how she was able to deal with the ups and down of her treatment and life expectancies.

This is Tania Katan's own story and she tells it with a wonderful balance of frankness, humor, and tenderness. Katan comes off as a "whole" person in her writings, which isn't something we often see with lesbian 'characters.' She's not just a lesbian or a cancer patient, but also a daughter, sister, lover, friend, coworker, student, etc. A great, fast read.[...]

I had breast cancer and it wasn't funny. This book made me lighten up. If we can't laugh we will cry.

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