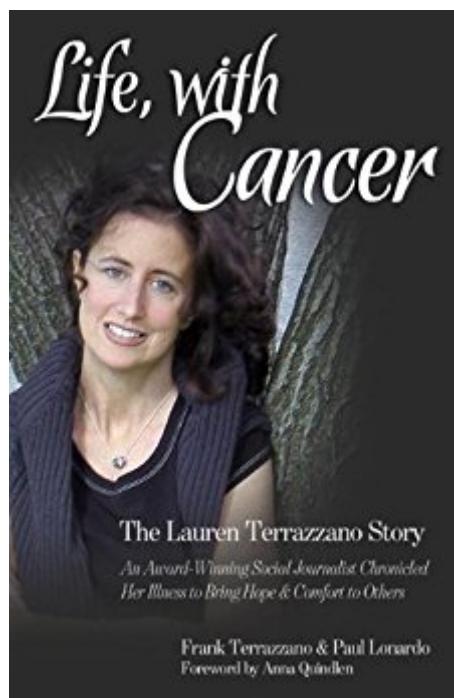


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# Life, With Cancer



## Synopsis

Newsday columnist and Pulitzer Prize-winning social journalist Lauren Terrazzano championed the causes of abused children, the elderly, and the homeless, truly becoming a voice for the voiceless through her writing by taking global issues and personalizing them to dramatize how they affected individual families and people. Not infrequently, her stories would force change in people's thinking and in governmental policies. Lauren infused every journalistic story she crafted with passion. That included her own story: at the age of thirty-six, Lauren--a non-smoker--was diagnosed with lung cancer. Until her death three years later, Lauren turned her incredible drive and her passion for communication into putting a human face on her disease and raising public awareness of lung cancer. Her boss at Newsday gave her a weekly column called "Life, with Cancer," and it was through this column that Lauren candidly shared her day-to-day experiences and shed light on lung cancer--"a disease that kills more women each year than breast, ovarian, and uterine cancers combined. With the help of coauthor Paul Lonardo, (Caught in the Act), devoted father Frank Terrazzano tells his daughter's compelling life story through the eyes of the many people whose hearts and lives Lauren touched. Lauren's friends, colleagues, coworkers, doctors, and even her college professors, collectively paint an accurate and touching portrait of Lauren the person and the journalist. Reflecting on his daughter, Frank writes of Lauren as "A beautiful young lady who believed that 'The Pen Is Mightier than the Sword' [and chose] to use her pen as a light" "a light to shine in dark places exposing society's many shortcomings." Including a foreword by best-selling author Anna Quindlen, *Life, with Cancer* begins with Lauren's early years as a journalist, and with the intensity of the journalist herself, covers her larger-than-life experiences. A tapestry of Lauren's life is woven together throughout the course of the book, taking into perspective her childhood, her accomplishments as a young journalist, and the final three years of her "Life, with Cancer." These three major components are combined in each chapter to tell Lauren's complete story. Through interviews with Lauren's doctors, along with those of other physicians, researchers, and clinicians who specialize in lung cancer, readers will have a better understanding of the disease. *Life, with Cancer* includes excerpts from her moving (and sometimes humorous) Newsday columns in which Lauren wrote about such various subjects as the inappropriate things people say to cancer patients and the myth that people with cancer are heroes. She also criticized tobacco marketers, discussed the cancer battle of Elizabeth Edwards, and wrote about the stress that cancer imposes on the patient's loved ones. Lauren revealed many misunderstood issues about lung cancer with compelling honesty, in particular its increasing incidence rate among women, and she attracted readers from around the world who were eager to follow her medical progress. With the same

passion and honesty Lauren exhibited throughout her brief career, *Life, with Cancer* chronicles her story and the legacy of her writing that continues to live on to enlighten and inspire.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This was a courageous book to write as a testament to a much loved daughter Lauren. Mr Terrazzano has written in simple and clear style, a celebration of Lauren's life. His expression of helplessness in his daughter's illness comes across as realistic and very sad. However this is not a sad book, it is full of life and details of the very exciting life led by a young dedicated journalist who wanted to make a difference to people who needed help and recognition. Early on in Lauren's career she said that a wise editor once told her, 'We are all dying we're just doing it on a different schedule.' How true. It was very novel way to write the book by finding out about the lives of Lauren's friends, and through that to learn about her life and the effect that she had on others. The story jumps back and forward in time from childhood to adulthood and also gives details of Lauren's college days and trials and tribulations. I particularly enjoyed her personal involvement in the Long Island community and the investigative work done to improve lives of that community. The fact that she got to ride

along with social services is surely a first for a journalist. It was also very scary to find out the specific targeting of cigarette advertising toward women. The statistics given on lung cancer are truly horrific, but a necessary part of the narrative, as this was real life and real facts had to be looked at. This seemed very much Lauren's style and her father has captured this well in his writing. The excerpts from Lauren's own column 'Life with cancer,' were very touching and honest and had a lot of humour.

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