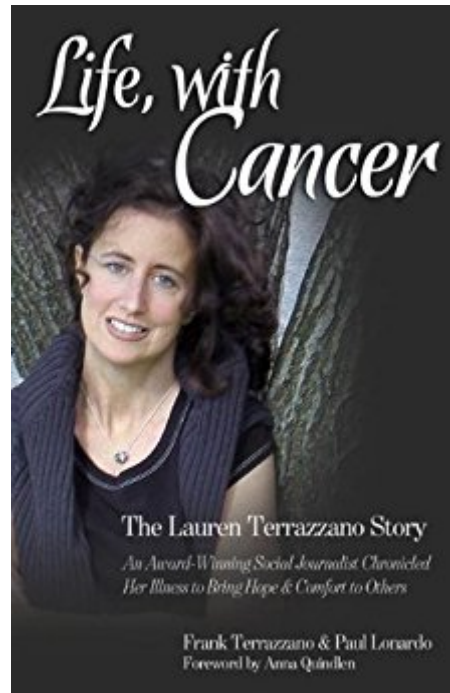




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# Life, With Cancer



## 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**

I went to high school with Lauren and my best friend lived in her neighborhood. I always knew Lauren was bright, friendly and had a great personality. I was a year older and lost touch after I graduated. I was very saddened when I learned of Lauren's illness in an article I read. Our local newspaper ran an article recently about this book coming out. I was extremely interested to learn more about Lauren's life and what she had accomplished. The book was very interesting and covered both her personal and professional life. I was very impressed with all that she accomplished. The book was easy to follow and written with much love by her Dad.

The Lauren Terrazzano Story was a profile of a courageous and caring young lady who wrote about

a long battle with cancer. A truly altruistic reporter for 14 years, she wrote about and championed causes about child & elderly societal abuse. Lauren defined exactly what her struggle with this horrible disease entailed, writing about all aspects of her fight.

A heartfelt tribute and compassionate story, wonderfully written. Despite the pain and suffering depicted, it is a story of a courageous and caring woman who accomplished a great deal in her short life. Lauren will be remembered not only for her courage but for her love of humanity and her kindness.

This book is very well written and gives such an accurate view of how life changes after a lung cancer diagnosis. As a lung cancer patient advocate I was impressed with the factual aspects shared through Lauren's story. I truly enjoyed this book and recommend it highly.

Frank Terrazano was a guest on Ashley Fountaine's wonderful radio show, [...] Lauren Terrazano was a journalist who battled cancer with hope and life. Whereas most books about cancer seem down and depressing. This book was written with life and hope. Written by father, Frank, this book is about a journalist who gave her heart and put it on the page. When she was diagnosed with cancer of the lungs, she took a high road and wrote a blog and a Newsday column called Life, with cancer. This was as powerful pieces of work. Lauren brought her works to the human factor, rather than talk medicalese. She break down the ideals of cancer into something people can understand. Lung cancer seem to be a disease that is effecting women more and more these days. what makes this more and more powerful Lauren addressed this in her blog and her columns. If you have cancer, friends or family who have cancer or just want to read something positive, this book is one you should read. Bennet Pomerantz AUDIOWORLD

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. I could understand her not finding her illness 'the best thing that had ever happened' as she had heard other sufferers say (page 150) But it did make her consider that her time precious. The recounting of Lauren's last few days and last moments alive were heartbreaking to read, but the writer, tastefully, did not over dramatise the events. There is no way Mr. Terrazzano's life will ever be the same, but perhaps the writing of this book has helped him to honour his daughter through her work, her colleagues and friends as well as a much loved daughter. I have no problem in recommending this book.

I read this book with the hope of learning about what life is like living with cancer. It turned out to be the story of a young journalist who was taken by lung cancer. It was more an autobiography written by a grieving father than it was helpful as guidance to what to expect from a lung cancer diagnosis. It was not what I expected but I did finish the book. It is a tragic story mostly centered on Lauren's life.

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