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Cards For Brianna: A Mom's Messages Of Living, Laughing, And Loving As Time Is Running Out

Heather McManamy
with William Croyle
Though the end of your life may be near, it doesn’t mean you have to stop living. After being diagnosed in her early thirties with terminal breast cancer, Heather McManamy felt like her life was crumbling. Her "normal" vanished—and was replaced with multiple surgeries and dozens of chemo treatments that could briefly extend her life, but would not prevent her inevitable death. With an effervescent spirit and a new perspective, Heather started to live each day as if it were her last. She learned to soak in the moment, appreciate the beauty around her, and celebrate her blessings. She also pondered her daughter’s future journey without her mother—and gracefully prepared for it. Heather began to write greeting cards to Brianna. Cards for her first day of school, her sixteenth birthday, her wedding day. Cards for when things were going right and when they were going wrong. Cards for when Brianna would need her mother—whether in five years or in fifty years—and Heather wouldn’t be able to be there for her. Cards for Brianna is the story of one mother’s powerful love for her young daughter and Heather’s unmatched experiences, laced with laughter and charm, are a reminder to never take a single day for granted.

Heather provided such a beautiful gift in sharing her story and I feel so grateful that she did. It normally takes me months to read a book and this one I finished in a couple days as I couldn’t put it down. She shows such honesty, humility and perspective that you feel you are with her during her journey. I appreciate that she doesn’t sugar coat the experience so others can learn her real
perspective but she also has such great sense of humor too! As a hospice worker and mom of a 4 year old I really took her advice to make sure every day matters, find the value in things and not take these moments for granted. She truly left a wonderful gift behind to her daughter, husband and the rest of us so thank you!

This book brings happy and sad memories of conversations with Heather during my breast cancer treatments. I could be at my lowest point and she had the words to turn me around. The day she left this world was the worst day for many of us that she touched with her friendship and words. It's taken me several months to buy this book because I know my tears will come. My wish is if you buy this book that you have a greater appreciation for life as Heather did. I'm glad I have her words in front of me.....

Read this in less than an hour (blessing and curse too read that fast). Rare is it too embrace feelings of hope, love, laughter, fear and sadness in such a short time from the words of others. An absolute honor this author allowed us into her life of living. This truly is a "must-read".

Cards for Brianna is a book that will make you shed many tears. It really makes you appreciate every single moment you have on this earth. This book has changed my life, I highly recommend it to everyone.

I was wholly filled with emotions, tears trickled down my checks constantly while reading this book. "Everyday matters" is the lesson that I've learnt. This also teaches us about how important is to love, laugh and enjoy. Heather was extraordinarily powerful and courageous even though she knew she was dying.

When I heard that Heather would be publishing a book I knew right away it would be good. The book surprised me by being even better then expected! It made me laugh, it made me cry, it made me laugh some more. It made me hug my kids a little tighter, and tell my husband how much I love him an extra time. This book is an read, easy because it’s about such a simple concept: live, laugh, love and make everyday matters! Once I started I found it hard to put it down. Having two toddlers running around, I was surprised that I managed to finish it within the first 24 hours of opening my mail box.
Heather writes as she speaks, and with an unfiltered view of the end if her life she teaches some incredible lessons. While the book is perfectly positioned for a parent of a child of any age, it's really a life lesson opportunity for anyone. The power of the phrase "Every Day Matters" can be a mantra for humanity. Thank you, Heather.

I am so proud of Heather for having the chance to write such a wonderful story. She was such a role model for me. She couldn't of said it any better. Live like each day matters. And that is what many of us try to do.

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