



Cancerland: A Medical Memoir

MD David T. Scadden , Michael D'Antonio

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A doctor's riveting story of loss and hope in the world of cancer.

What is it like to encounter cancer? How does it feel to face the unknown, to enter a world of hope, loss, and dread?

From the diagnosis of his childhood friend's mother to his poignant memories in the lab, David Scadden's seen the unknown world of cancer from the lens of a young boy, a classmate, a researcher, a friend, a doctor, and a neighbor. Scadden chronicles his personal memories of cancer – his visits to his sick neighbor and his classmate who left school and never came back.

Now Dr. David Scadden, co-founder of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute and one of the world's leading experts on immunology and oncology, writes his memoir, *Cancerland*, with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Michael D'Antonio. With riveting stories and moving compassion, Scadden and D'Antonio paint a still rapidly changing landscape in the context of all too common stories of loss. Ranging from Scadden's personal childhood memories to his triumphs and regrets as a doctor, Scadden illuminates a light at the end of a dark tunnel.

Through opening a window into the science of medicine in the world of the unknown, Scadden and D'Antonio humanize cancer while inspiring action that we all so desperately need.

Cancerland: A Medical Memoir Details

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From Reader Review Cancerland: A Medical Memoir for online ebook

Literary Soirée says

A stunning look at cancer treatment and research from a top Harvard oncologist. Poignant stories of patients battling the illness are interwoven with details on research efforts, including the pioneering stem cell expertise of the author. Highly recommended!

Many thanks to NetGalley and St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books for an ARC. Opinions are mine.

#Cancerland #NetGalley

Shelley says

Thank you to Netgalley and St. Martin's Press for the ARC!

This book was truly fascinating, I thought I knew a fair amount about cancer and the therapies but it was so enlightening to read about how the history of cancer and the development of the treatments. The authors do not shy away from difficult subjects like the roles that politics, ego, funding and scientific fraud play in research.

I am actually going to re-read this book because I want to remember most of the facts, particularly in light of the fact that some people think cancer is one disease and that treatments are being hidden. I was also pleased to see that the authors added facts about vaccinations and dealt with some other medical misconceptions in the book.

It was however not a memoir for me, in the sense of other medical memoirs I have read. I would have liked to read more about the patients, although I am pleased that it was not chapters and chapters of the authors childhood/schooling etc as some are. The science however is easily explained in layman's terms and you will be astounded at the medical breakthroughs that have been made in the last 50 years. There really is so much to the book not only cancer, it includes HIV, Genome testing, Aging, The Tuskegee experiment, Immunology and more than I can add here. I highly recommend it.

Cindy says

I found this book to be less about what it's like to have cancer and more about what it is like to dedicate your life to science; specifically to cancer research. The book provides deep insights into cancer and the trials and tribulations of being a researcher. The authors use of strong analogies helps to make abstract complex science more understandable. I felt both hope and frustration as I read it - hope that there are such dedicated smart individuals working on this challenge; frustration at the competitive landscape that discourages cooperation. Kudos to the author for his creativity and perseverance in creating his center. I found the book interesting but a bit long in details and length as a lay reader.

Sabrina says

Good overview of the field, but too much name-dropping. I don't care that you went fishing with Irv Weissman... Sorry!

Janet says

I received a DIGITAL Advance Reader Copy of this book from #NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. From the publisher ---

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Cancer is NASTY - it does not care who you are or how you are: it takes without blame or prevention.

Seeing Scadden's view on cancer was eye-opening as seen from the eyes of the doctor I am not afraid to admit that I cried at times or that I ever believe that there will be a 1000% cure. But after reading this book I see hope and possibility that someday no one will have to go through it and die too soon ... I guess I can say that there will be a cure, just unlikely in my lifetime.

Jim Connelly says

Engaging look into the research and treatment of cancer. The very real human impact on cancer patients and their families of new technologies and the efforts to find a "cure". The study of molecules, genes and cell research is presented in a way that makes it approachable to the non-scientist. Dr. Scadden also illustrates very well the political and commercial realities of obtaining research funding.

Virtually everyone is affected by cancer in some way and *Cancerland* removes the veil of mystery and misunderstanding of the causes and treatment of this disease and the process of finding solutions.

Recommended.
