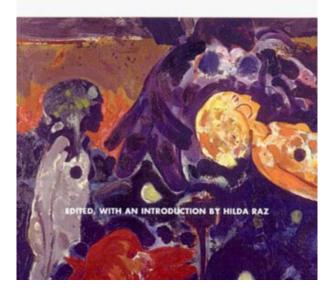
Living On the Margins

Women Writers on Breast Cancer

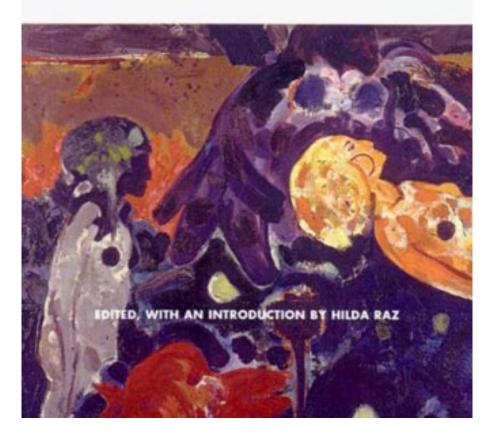


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There's much more lost than just a breast when a woman finds herself "slip[ping] through cancer's narrowing noose." Women fight, reflect, reason, give thanks, rage, weep, and howl in these heartbreaking essays and poems as they lose mothers, husbands, futures, and sometimes, hope and faith. Stunning expressions of emotion will burn into your mind: "I want to snatch the scalpels from the surgeons' hands and plunge them into the earth where they'll cut no more.... I'd try to find my lovely pink nipples in the midst of my discarded flesh." "I want to thank [my breast] for all its kindness to me for so many years. Like a Navaho thanking the deer for surrendering its life." The reader as well as the writer feels tears welling at the reaction of one writer's 20-year-old son to her diagnosis: "Mom, it doesn't matter if you have two breasts, or one, or three. I love you just the same and you're the best mom in the world." With so many powerful passages, you'll more than likely find yourself holding your breath as you read. --Joan Price

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In this powerful anthology of personal narratives, essays, shaped journals, and poems, eighteen women writers share their experiences with breast cancer -- from diagnosis and treatment, to aspects of marriage, motherhood, friendship, sexuality, work, and recurrence.

- Sales Rank: #4197351 in Books
- Published on: 1999-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.29" h x 1.04" w x 6.28" l, 1.21 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 285 pages

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