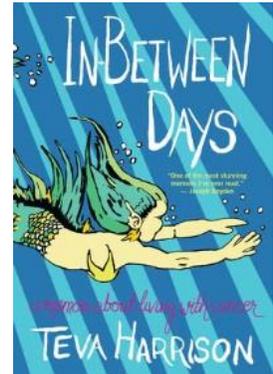


May 20, 2016

Spotlight on Books:

In-Between Days: a memoir about living with cancer by Teva Harrison

Illness and dying memoirs abound mostly because, as human beings, this is our lot hopefully after a long and fruitful life! However, Canadian author and graphic artist Teva Harrison's account of living and dying with metastatic breast cancer is in a class all its own.



The talented Teva Harrison may not have a long and fruitful life but, by her account, as short as her days may be, she intends to “suck the marrow out of life”. Diagnosed at age thirty-seven Harrison is devastated but slowly, slowly she begins to navigate the waters of the “new normal” and to look unflinchingly at her life. As she examines her demons, her hopes and her fears Harrison realizes that it is the unspoken that is most frightening and that by sharing her experience she takes the power back from the “bogeyman” that is her cancer.

The stage four diagnosis that the author receives means that there is no cure and that she must learn to live with changing protocols as her crafty disease outfoxes one therapy after another. However, it is the very uncertainty that she faces down that illuminates her life and inspires her gratitude for it. Harrison's descriptions of all she values in her life – especially her rock solid marriage (“*He is the most dear part of my life.*”) – will encourage readers to reflect on their own worldly treasure troves.

In-Between Days deals with a dark subject but somehow transcends Harrison's bleak story to offer up an inspired universal lesson. There are, as well, many darkly comic moments as, for example, when the author can't subscribe to the status quo thinking of the support group she finds herself in. (“*Atheism doesn't sit well with a terminal diagnosis.*”) The spare text is wonderfully complemented by the artist's stark graphics and it is no surprise that *In-Between Days* was named as one of the most anticipated books of 2016 and that renowned Canadian author Joseph Boyden has described it as “*one of the most stunning memoirs I've ever read*”.

Check it out soon from Yellowknife Public Library and I have saved the best news for last! Author Teva Harrison will be presenting at *Northwords Writers Festival* which will take place in Yellowknife from June 2nd through 5th.

- *Review prepared by Deborah Bruser*