



Nothing Is Promised

Marjorie E. Belson

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It all happened so fast! Her son's wedding, her diagnosis of invasive, breast cancer, and subsequent surgery, followed swiftly by 9/11, after which, her only child enlists and goes off to war in the Persian Gulf. A true story, Nothing Is Promised is fast paced and detailed, Marjorie has chronicled it all. She compels the reader to experience her efforts to make sense of a world forever changed. Taking inspiration from the courage of her fellow New Yorkers, and the bravery of her son, cancer becomes secondary to the survival of her child, and the healing of her city. To be sure, there are dark and depressing moments in her recovery, [how could there be not?] but ultimately, it is her humor and new found tenacity, which propels her into the light and the renewal of her soul.

Nothing Is Promised Details

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Plus Equals says

This book is powerful on so many levels. It is written in a voice that is humorous and thoughtful, and also so sharp and sassy. Marjorie takes these trying situations and circumstances that she is dealt and overcomes them all with caring and grace. For anyone with a loved one who has had to fight cancer, this book is for you. It is a powerful and moving read. Highly recommend it!

Kelly says

I won a copy of this through Goodread's first reads so firstly thanks.

This memoir will have you both laughing and crying, beautifully written by a native New Yorker, it chronicles the struggles the author faces after being diagnosed with breast cancer and how she managed to face her fears. I don't tend to read memoirs but after reading this one I might give some more a go.

Chevy Chase says

This book has three things that I find wonderful. There's love. There's hope, and there is renewal. I read this book in two days because Marjorie's writing and her biography really captivated me. You discover that throughout the book she is witty and sharp, warm and loving and brave and fierce. She doesn't just fight cancer and the obstacles life places in front of her, she dances around them with grace and humility and humor--oh, and love. Not just her own love, but with the love of her friends and family as well. This book gets five stars because it deserves every one of them!

Denise says

Good perspective on what it is like to have your world come crashing down around you and not have any control over where or when or how it happens. I'm glad she didn't do into too much details of all the events that occurred during this time, just her thoughts and general feelings of helplessness at this time. One of the worst things a woman can hear is "breast cancer", yet she helps us to see that it is just one element in an individual's life and it can be dealt with. Nothing in life is promised.

Sharah McConville says

Nothing Is Promised is the true story of Marjorie E. Belson, a Kindy teacher, born and raised in New York

City. The book follows the ups and downs in Marjorie's life as she battles with breast cancer. I won an autographed copy of Nothing Is Promised through Goodreads First Reads Giveaways and enjoyed reading it.

Gina says

I was delighted to receive this book from Goodreads - with a handwritten dedication from the author. This book moved me beyond words. It is absolutely the most real and heartfelt I have ever read. I followed Marjorie in her journey - crying at some points and smiling in others - I learned a lot from this - and Marjorie was very gracious in her reply to my email thanking her. A truly inspirational book written by an amazing woman. Please read this book!

Barron says

Such a wonderful book. I cannot recommend it highly enough! I was not sure what I would think of it since it is so far outside the normal genres that I read and listen to. However, what this woman went through between her breast cancer, the attacks of 9/11 and then her son joining the Coast Guard with the possibility of being shipped off to the Persian Gulf is just amazing. Marjorie does a phenomenal job of telling her story giving just the right amount of details without being graphic or gory or making it sound as if the book is a plea for sympathy.

The narrator was first rate as well. The story never drags and the narrator keeps moving without being slow or too fast. Her voice was just right for this book. I felt as though I was listening to the author herself.

I received this audio book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Bettina says

Marjorie went through the one thing that is the biggest scare for me in my life....cancer, more specifically breast cancer. I found this a very easy to read book, that chronicles a very difficult, very personal time in the author's life which is also extremely frightening for me to even comprehend.

Not only does she have to somehow find the strength to overcome her fear and anger of having breast cancer, she also lived through 9/11, and then shortly afterwards, the deployment of her son.

I found Marjorie a very strong, uplifting woman, who I consider a role model especially since I have said my entire life that if I found out I had breast cancer I would kill myself before I would go through that! I now have changed my mind. It took the strength of this stranger sharing her story to reconsider my life long thought process.

By her writing this book I am sure she has not only brought some healing for herself, but for countless others, like myself, a great lesson learned and a great amount of soul searching.

I thank you Marjorie for sharing your story. I admire you!

T Curtis says

Normally I'm not a big memoir reader, so I was skeptical going into *Nothing is Promised*. I was very pleasantly surprised by this story of strength and hope in the face of tragedy and adversity. Marjorie writes beautifully, and handles extremely difficult times in her life with humor and love and humility. I was moved on many occasions, and laughed out loud on many others. Marjorie, thank you for your words of healing and hope!

Allison says

I won this book in a GoodReads giveaway, and was skeptical at first. Memoirs usually aren't my cup of tea. Fortunately, I was pleasantly surprised. This is the first book in quite awhile that has pulled a range of emotions from me. I honestly laughed and cried. At times, I was terrified and angry. This book spoke to me on some higher level, and I can't quite figure out why. Regardless, I am grateful for being given the chance to read it.

Marilyn Stanley says

What a great read - I cannot imagine anyone going through that many horrific events in their life and still able to keep their sanity. Hats off to the author - fine job of keeping things running smoothly for Marjorie, I'm sure if it was me I would have suffered a mental breakdown after the cancer diagnosis and the story would have ended there.

I highly recommend this book.

Mel says

Nothing Is Promised

Set against the backdrop of New York City, "*Nothing Is Promised*" resonates with those who have not only faced personal challenges, but also with those who have faced personal challenges set against something larger than their own life defining moment.

For Marjorie, it was breast cancer, September 11, 2001, and her son, going off to war. A gifted writer, Marjorie's words fly off the page, as she draws you quickly into her world of experiences, challenges, and mixed emotions. It is a must read for everyone, as life lessons to be learned.

An avid reader I do not award a five star rating lightly. Mel

L.J. Taylor says

Nothing is Promised is a riveting memoir written by a native New Yorker who is diagnosed with breast cancer the day after her son's wedding. While she recovers from a double mastectomy, 9/11 takes place and her only son enrolls in the military and is scheduled to be deployed to the Persian Gulf. Belson tells the tale so beautifully and with such humor that she had me laughing out loud and crying on an airplane I boarded for a business trip - a highly unusual reaction for me as I am a civil trial attorney who has been accused, on more than one occasion, of having no feelings whatsoever. I highly recommend this book.

Jennifer says

For having experienced some really tough and challenging years in her life, Marjorie Belson really knows how to tell a story that makes you smile, laugh, gush and even shed a tear. Thank you for sharing your story with all of us. A MUST READ for EVERYONE!

Dolores says

I was aware when I started reading "Nothing Is Promised" that it was not a polished work written by an established writer.....so I read it uncritically, as I would the account of a friend.

Marjorie learned that she had breast cancer shortly after her son's wedding. She had to make some tough decisions and was afraid of what the future would bring. She did recover from a bilateral mastectomy only to face the challenge of 9/11 and her son's enlistment in the Coast Guard. Through all this she was supported by her faithful friends and especially her indomitable mother-in-law, Maxie. However I have to say I was a little shocked when, just after surgery, a friend asked, "What's your prognosis?" With friends like that, who needs enemies!

I am sorry that some of her experiences were so painful, such as the stereotactic biopsy. I had one of these in 2003. They took a dozen tissue samples as I lay totally still....my husband said they looked like pieces of gristle. The doctor was very nice and they gave me a little ice bag afterwards to ease any pain. It wasn't something I'd want to do again soon, but it wasn't too bad.

I want to thank Marjorie for sharing this frank memoir and I'm glad she did find light at the end of the tunnel. And thank you to Goodreads First Reads for my free copy of this book.
