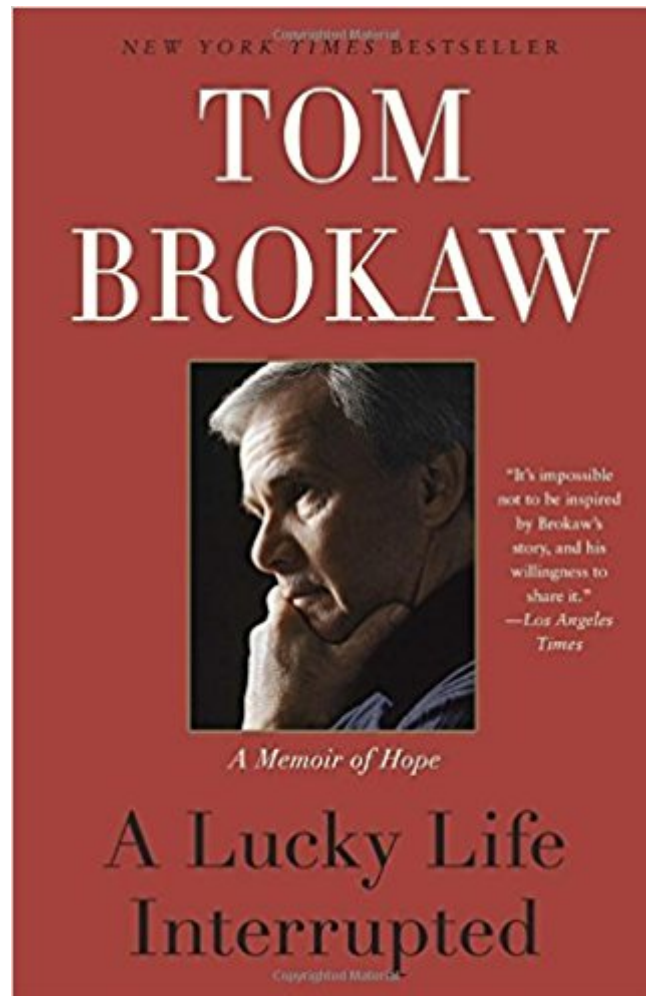




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A Lucky Life Interrupted: A Memoir Of Hope



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • WITH A NEW PREFACE BY THE AUTHOR

A powerful memoir of a dramatic year spent battling cancer and reflecting on a long, happy, and lucky life • from the bestselling author of *The Greatest Generation*, whose iconic career in journalism has spanned more than fifty years Tom Brokaw has led a fortunate life, with a strong marriage and family, many friends, and a brilliant journalism career culminating in his twenty-two years as anchor of the NBC Nightly News and as bestselling author. But in the summer of 2013, when back pain led him to the doctors at the Mayo Clinic, his run of good luck was interrupted. He received shocking news: He had multiple myeloma, a treatable but incurable blood cancer. Friends had always referred to Brokaw as “lucky star,” but as he writes in this inspiring memoir, “Turns out that star has a dimmer switch.” Brokaw takes us through all the seasons and stages of this surprising year, the emotions, discoveries, setbacks, and struggles • times of denial, acceptance, turning points, and courage. After his diagnosis, Brokaw began to keep a journal, approaching this new stage of his life in a familiar role: as a journalist, determined to learn as much as he could about his condition, to report the story, and help others facing similar battles. That journal became the basis of this wonderfully written memoir, the story of a man coming to terms with his own mortality, contemplating what means the most to him now, and reflecting on what has meant the most to him throughout his life. Brokaw also pauses to look back on some of the important moments in his career: memories of Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the morning of September 11, 2001, in New York City, and more. Through it all, Brokaw writes in the warm, intimate, natural voice of one of America’s most beloved journalists, giving us Brokaw on Brokaw, and bringing us with him as he navigates pain, procedures, drug regimens, and physical rehabilitation. Brokaw also writes about the importance of patients taking an active role in their own treatment, and of the vital role of caretakers and coordinated care. Generous, informative, and deeply human, *A Lucky Life Interrupted* offers a message of understanding and empowerment, resolve and reality, hope for the future and gratitude for a well-lived life. Praise for *A Lucky Life Interrupted* • “It’s impossible not to be inspired by Brokaw’s story, and his willingness to share it.” • Los Angeles Times • “A powerful memoir of battling cancer and facing mortality . . . Through the prism of his own illness, Brokaw looks at the larger picture of aging in America.” • Booklist (starred review) • “Moving, informative and deeply personal.” • The Daily Beast • “The former NBC News anchor has applied the fact-finding skills and straightforward candor that were his stock in trade during his reporting days

to *A Lucky Life Interrupted*.
•USA Today
“Brokaw doesn’t paste a smiley face on his story. Again and again, the book returns to stories of loss but also of grace, luck and the beauty of having another swing at bat.”
•The Washington Post
“Engaging . . . [with] the kind of insight that is typical of Mr. Brokaw’s approach to life and now to illness.”
•The Wall Street Journal
“Powerful and courageous . . . [Brokaw] looks ahead to the future with hope.”
•Bookreporter

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Customer Reviews

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•Bookreporter
“Wryly good-natured . . . a wise and oddly

comforting look at the toughest news of all. — Kirkus Reviews From the Hardcover edition.

Tom Brokaw is the author of seven bestsellers: *The Greatest Generation*, *The Greatest Generation Speaks*, *An Album of Memories*, *Boom!*, *The Time of Our Lives*, *A Long Way from Home*, and *A Lucky Life Interrupted*. A native of South Dakota, he graduated from the University of South Dakota, and began his journalism career in Omaha and Atlanta before joining NBC News in 1966. Brokaw was the White House correspondent for NBC News during Watergate, and from 1976 to 1981 he anchored *Today* on NBC. He was the sole anchor and managing editor of *NBC Nightly News* with Tom Brokaw from 1983 to 2005. He continues to report for NBC News, producing long-form documentaries and providing expertise during breaking news events. Brokaw has won every major award in broadcast journalism, including two DuPonts, three Peabody Awards, and several Emmys, including one for lifetime achievement. In 2014, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He lives in New York and Montana.

I am a myeloma patient, who was diagnosed just six months following Tom Brokaw's unfortunate encounter with the same cancer. His book was not only enlightening and encouraging to me, but very interesting in the way he interwove the narrative with familiar historical events. This is a book that will certainly appeal to anyone dealing with MM, or with cancer of any kind. I recommend this book for anyone really. It is very uplifting.

Tom Brokaw is a fascinating and as he accurately puts it lucky guy: he has a beautiful wife with whom he's shared half a century of togetherness and a career filled with innumerable accomplishments and well-deserved awards. But then the glow on his life dims unexpectedly by the diagnoses of a dreadful disease: multiple myeloma, a rare cancer of the blood. Is his charmed life over? In *A Lucky Life Interrupted*, Brokaw takes us from the debilitating back pain that ultimately leads to the diagnosis of MM and through the many setbacks during a rigorous treatment that in the end will give him the news his cancer is in remission. As a multiple myeloma patient myself, I can't recommend this book highly enough. Brokaw prose is straightforward and candid--he puts his journalistic skills to good use. And although he experiences some dark moments during his treatment, self-pity never encroaches his narrative. Perhaps the note that most resonated with me was his frustration when he felt his medical team was not communicating with each other at crucial moments. This is endemic not only to this disease but every serious disease as well. Doctors tend

to concentrate on their area of expertise and go MIA at times when their knowledge might help other doctors who are looking at a patient from a different prism of knowledge. Thanks to a cadre of doctors I was able to put together outside the team of specialists in charge of my treatment--a strong recommendation by Brokaw to other MM patients--I was able to interpret the information delivered in confusing medical terms and question how one doctor's findings influenced another's recommendation. Brokaw has been in remission for three years. For me it has been five. And like him I'm claiming my life back, and experiencing some of the "old self" showing through the veil that was once cancer. Thank you Mr. Brokaw for putting a face to this terrible disease.

Really love Brokaw, but this was a major disappointment. This book is more about the awesome-ness of his life than the reality of cancer. Interspersed between many, many passages of 'I ate with the Dalai-Lama, I met so many famous people, I have traveled everywhere---there are bits of 'oh yeah, and I have cancer' moments. But they're not enlightening nor educational. In fact, they're rather idiotic, if one can dare say that about Brokaw. As in: he says everyone with cancer should have a relative or family friend physician, like he had, to be the point guard in the complex labyrinth of medical care. I laughed out loud. Most of us don't have that kind of connection, in fact, it's getting harder and harder for many people to simply find a general practitioner! And, later in the book, he discovers that even with that doctor daughter deciphering everything and shepherding his care, some specialist missed some pretty important bone problems in his back that - if caught way earlier- would have saved him time, money, surgery, pain and agony, etc. That was the most depressing thing about the book: If the great Tom Brokaw can't get top-notch treatment, what are the rest of us supposed to expect? All the while I was reading the book, I kept feeling that the subtext in Brokaw's mind was something along the lines of-'I am Tom Brokaw- how can I have cancer?' That constant reminder to the reader how relevant he has been, instead of how cancer messed with him, would have been far more interesting.

Great book, I highly recommend it. Mr Brokaw is very honest about writing about his battle with cancer and how it changed his perspective on life. His devotion to his wife and family stand out, even in the face of great uncertainty. Yes, he admits that he is a lucky man, to have so many high profile friends and to have the ability to travel the world over. Yet, Mr Brokaw, is a "giver" in the purest sense of the word, for sharing his story, his time with veterans, and for his humility. After reading this book and I have read several of his other books, I was touched very deeply. My wish for this iconic man is for continuing remission from the big "C" and for a long life, as he continues to be

the eyes and voice of all Americans.

He wrote it more like a magazine article, with a lot of facts and figures, stories about other people. He practically interviews every nurse he works with and tells you something about them. You do get a sense of his family and what he went through, but due to his wealth and connections -- I mean he has board seats at hospitals -- he really is living a lucky life and got premium care. My father died just a week after he was diagnosed; I think he just gave up, without a family support system around to keep him fighting and the doctors, of course, treated him as just another file, which he was, not a TV personality. It's a short book and a quick read, but God bless you if you have all the advantages Brokaw had facing cancer.

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