

LIVING IN COLOR

A Story of Love, In Sickness, and In Health

Different authors have different tactics and elements when writing their books, all of which work up to build on the goal of their book. Some authors aim to educate their readers, thus settling on finding accurate information, while others aim at pleasing their readers, thereby focusing on fiction, romance, and scary novels. Regardless, the author's main aim is to create content worth their reader's time, making them fall in love with their book. *Living in Color: A Story of Love, in Sickness, and Health* is a book written by Mike Murphy with Ellen Daly, a book that focuses on the life of a woman as she battles a deadly disease in the twilight years of her young life. In the book, Mike focuses on telling the story of a cancer patient and the hardships and pain that follow the family of cancer patients. The book is a riveting account that showcases love, hope, pain, and the despair of fighting a losing battle and coming to terms with a complicated new reality. True to its title, this is a love story, telling the exciting and short-lived relationship between Mike and his wife. Mike does not shy away from telling the reader his love story with Margot, how they met and how their love can be viewed as an accident, a mistake since he was still married. Mike takes the reader on a journey explaining in detail everything he loved about Margot and how he felt somehow guilty about his first marriage. With his words, he manages to show the reader the extreme extent and amount of love he had for

Margot, an aspect which makes it easier for the reader not to look at their love as the cause of his divorce, and the same for Margot. Mike has to be commended for excellently describing a love so pure that the reader can be forgiven for not feeling any empathy for their former spouses. While the book is a love story, it also touches on pain of sickness, especially long-term illnesses. The story centers around Margot, and Mike shares with the audience the numerous hardships that Margot faces individually and the heavy toll the cancer treatment has on both of them and their families. With his words, Michael explicitly shows the reader the pain and despair that the patients feel when they receive the news, the jading effects of the treatments, and the pain of seeing a loved one fading away. While telling the story of Margot, the readers are left holding their breath, waiting to see if she would be able to overcome setback after setback. Aside from the disease, their narrative involves parenting a wild adolescent from Michael's first marriage, attempting but failing to conceive, and dealing with some unhelpful physicians. Margot's reflections on fear, death, life, and religion are highly emotional throughout the book and will benefit anybody dealing with life's challenges. The book is a riveting experience for both the audience and probably Mike as he aimed to create a masterpiece. His hand is seen all over the story and is rightfully credited for how he tells their story.

From a personal perspective, I loved the book. This story offers hope to cancer patients and their families, showing that even though cancer does not get treated, it does not win. There is a happy ending for people who are terrified of tragic stories. After Margot died, Michael found a new purpose: he founded the Love From Margot Foundation to help low-income cancer patients. Her love is flowing freely through me to serve these women in need, he says, as a way of keeping her alive. This book is an exceptional piece of art and one in which the author should receive acclaim and recognition in the manner in which the story is told.

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