

# Delve Deeper into "In The Family"

A film by Joanna Rudnick

This multi-media resource list provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "In The Family," that premieres on October 1st, 2008 at 10 PM (check local listings at [www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/)).

How much would you sacrifice to survive? When Chicago filmmaker Joanna Rudnick tested positive for the "breast cancer gene" at age 27, she knew the information could save her life. She also knew she was not only confronting mortality at an early age, but would have to make heart-wrenching decisions about the life that lay ahead of her. Should she take the irreversible preventive step of having her breasts and ovaries removed, or risk developing cancer? What would happen to her romantic life, her hopes for a family? "In the Family" documents Rudnick's efforts to reach out to other women while facing her deepest fears. A co-production of Joanna Rudnick, Kartemquin Films and Independent Television Service (ITVS).

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## ADULT NONFICTION

**Balwanz, Patti, Kim Carlos, Jennifer Johnson and Jana Peters.** *Nordie's at Noon: The Personal Stories of Four Women "Too Young" for Breast Cancer.* New York: Da Capo Lifelong Books, 2007. Chronicles four young women (all 30 or younger) who developed breast cancer and met at a nontraditional monthly support group at the Nordstrom Café.

**Bennett, Robin L.** *The Practical Guide to the Genetic Family History.* Danvers: 1999, Wiley-Liss, Inc. [The Practical Guide to the Genetic Family History](#) is a valuable resource that outlines the proper methods for taking and recording a patient's family medical history, allowing primary care physicians to be more efficient in diagnosing conditions with potential genetic components.

**Canfield, Jack and Mark Victor Hansen and Mary Olsen Kelly.** *Chicken Soup for the Breast Cancer Survivor's Soul: Stories to Inspire, Support and Heal.* Deerfield Beach: 2006, HCI. This addition to the popular *Chicken Soup* series should help anyone diagnosed with or undergoing treatment for breast cancer, as well

as their close friends and family members. Divided into categories such as love, healing, challenge and courage, the wide-ranging first-person accounts set a positive but realistic tone.

**Carr, Kris.** *Crazy Sexy Cancer Tips.* Charleston: Skirt! Books, 2007. Kris Carr aims to give cancer a makeover by dishing out advice to cancer patients including tips about social life changes, health, recipes and support groups.

**Davis, Devra.** *The Secret History of the War on Cancer.* New York: 2007, Perseus Book Group. Devra, the director of the Center for Environmental Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, reveals how the world we live in affects whether we get cancer.

**Ellis, Neal C. Jr.** *Inherited Cancer Syndromes: Current Clinical Management.* Memphis: 2004, Springer-Verlag Inc. This handbook is designed to educate physicians and health care workers about the genetics of inherited syndromes of cancer.

**Isaacs, Claudine.** *Hereditary Breast Cancer.* New York: 2008, Informa Healthcare. Isaacs addresses every essential aspect of hereditary breast cancer and offers comprehensive analyses of hereditary breast cancer-associated syndromes, low penetrance genes, and hereditary breast cancer associated with mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes.

**Marchetto, Marisa Acocella.** *Cancer Vixen: A True Story.* New York: Knopf, 2006. Marisa is a sophisticated New Yorker with a great job, a glamorous finance, and a wonderful life, when she develops a lump in her breast. *Cancer Vixen* is a graphic novel documenting her life with cancer.

**Offit, Kenneth.** *Clinical Cancer Genetics: Risk Counseling and Management.* 1998: New York, Wiley-Liss, Inc. This book on cancer genetics in clinical practice covers most of the essential material in this complex field in a highly effective and readable way. The role of genetics in cancer is put into context by an overview of the role of genetics in disease, and Offit reviews our current knowledge of specific forms of genetic

predisposition in both common and rare cancers.

**Radner, Gilda.** *It's Always Something.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 1989. Radner chronicles her battle with ovarian cancer, while retaining her comedic edge and witty style.

**Waldholz, Michael.** *Curing Cancer: The Story of the Men and Women Unlocking the Secrets of our Deadliest Illness.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. Waldholz profiles men and women on the forefront of genetic cancer research, including Mary-Claire King who proved the existence of the breast cancer gene.

**Woodruff, Ronnie C.** *Mutation and Evolution.* Norwell: 1998, Kluwer Academic Publishers. Although debated since the time of Darwin, the evolutionary role of mutation is still controversial. In over 40 chapters from leading authorities in mutation and evolutionary biology, this book takes a new look at both the theoretical and experimental measurement and significance of new mutation.

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## ADULT FICTION

**Berg, Elizabeth.** *Talk Before Sleep: A Novel.* New York: Random House, 1994. The story of two best friends who share everything and are forced to endure the painful realities of cancer.

**DeShazer, Mary K.** *Fractured Borders: Reading Women's Cancer Literature.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2005. An anthology of contemporary women's writings on cancer, from a wide variety of perspectives.

**Diamant, Anita.** *Good Harbor: A Novel.* New York: Scribner, 2001. A story about two middle-aged women who find friendship amidst breast cancer and family tensions in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

**McFadden, Bernice L.** *Camilla's Roses.* New York: Dutton, 2004. Camilla, a woman estranged from her family since college, retains genetic ties to them through breast cancer.



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## NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Jacobs, Marian B. *Coping With Hereditary Diseases*. New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 1999.**

Explains how hereditary diseases, the most common of all diseases, work, and potential ways of avoiding them.

**Stone, Miriam R. *At the End of Words: A Daughter's Memoirs*. Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 2003.** A young woman documents her mother's passing from cancer, and chronicles her own grief and confusion through her writings and poems.

**Garbuny Vogel, Carole. *Will I Get Breast Cancer?: Questions and Answers for Teenage Girls*. New York: Julian Messner, 1995.** A reference handbook to help young women better understand the makeup of the breast and breast cancer in a Q&A format.

## FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Cook, Karin. *What Girls Learn: A Novel*. New York: Pantheon, 1997.** Two sisters are uprooted from their former lives to live in Long Island with their new stepfather and their mother, who develops breast cancer.

**Jablonski, Carla. *Thicker than Water*. New York: Razorbill, 2007.** Kia's mother is sick again with cancer. To cope, Kia retreats into an underground vampire world in New York.

**Pennebaker, Ruth. *Both Sides Now*. New York: Holt, 2000.** When Liza's mom is diagnosed with breast cancer, Liza has to adjust to a new way of living.

**Tomlinson, Theresa. *Dancing Through the Shadows*. New York: DK Publishing, 1997.** Ellen learns to cope with her mother's cancer through dancing, and her belief in the healing powers of nature.

## FILMS

***Breasts: A Documentary*. A film by Meema Spadola. *First Run Features*, 1996. (50 mins.)** An all-female film crew interviews 22 women who openly discuss the role breasts have played in their lives. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

***Crazy Sexy Cancer*. A film by Kris Carr. *Crazy Sexy Life*, 2007. (89 mins.)** Carr explores alternative treatments for her rare cancer, and interviews women across the country afflicted with cancer. [www.crazysexycancer.com](http://www.crazysexycancer.com)

***The Fight for Our Life: Three Women Battle Ovarian Cancer*. Createspace, 2007. (28 mins.)** From the moment a woman is diagnosed with ovarian cancer, an overwhelming number of facts, statistics, and information are thrown at her. This documentary goes beyond the facts and gives a human face to the disease. Sally Cotlar, Kolleen Stacey, and Susan Thrower are three powerful women who openly share their experiences with the disease, as well as certain coping strategies they have found helpful, whether spiritual, nutritional, emotional, or psychological. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

***In the Land of Women*. A film by Jonathan Kasden. Warner Brothers, 2007. (97 mins.)** Meg Ryan plays a mother who is recovering from breast cancer, learning to rediscover herself as her daughter falls in love. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

***My Left Breast*. A film by Gerry Rogers. *Women Make Movies*, 2000. (57 mins.)** Filmmaker Gerry Rogers tells her story of breast cancer survival with wit, wisdom and resilience. [www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com)

***Rachel's Daughters: Searching for a Cure for Breast Cancer*. A film by Allie Light and Irving Saraf. *Women Make Movies*, 1997. (107 mins.)** A documentary that follows a group of breast cancer patients and survivors, who see themselves as "daughters" of ecologist Rachel Carson, as they seek answers to possible environmental causes of cancer. [www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com)

***Why I Wore Lipstick to my Mastectomy*. A film by Peter Werner. *Lifetime*, 2006.** Based on the true story of Gerayln Lucas (who also co-wrote the film), who tries to deal with the shock of her cancer diagnosis with the best attitude possible. [www.mylifetime.com](http://www.mylifetime.com)

