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Patient With Incurable Cancer Tosses Champagne in the Face of the Grim Reaper

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Melanoma Mama

On Life, Death, and Tent Camping



Constance Emerson Crooker

Retired trial attorney and professional writer, Constance Emerson Crooker takes an unflinching look at mortality in *Melanoma Mama: On Life, Death, and Tent Camping*. One reviewer, Rebecca Pepper Sinkler, former editor in chief of the N.Y. Times Book Review has said, "Melanoma Mama transcends the usual cancer journal, offering instead a true celebration of life and a glass of champagne tossed in the face of the Grim Reaper."

In *Melanoma Mama*, Constance Crooker shows the power of the human spirit to soar above the grim realities that come with a diagnosis of Stage IV cancer. She refuses to lie about death, so she relates both her fears and her sassy challenge to the Grim Reaper. In this true narrative, she deftly weaves two stories in contrapuntal harmony. The journeys into the darkness of her treatments are lightened as they intermingle with the sparkling tales of her solo, cross-country tent camping trip--a trip she had not expected to live long enough to enjoy. There is nothing typical about this book. It is a

cornucopia of keen and funny observations about America's wild places told by an insatiably curious woman who is gregarious company on this road trip through life. You will meet a person who can find joy while entangled in a tango with death--a person who has learned that when life and death no longer matter, true joy is possible. The author's honesty will impact you forever, opening the door for you to bravely face life's deepest mysteries.



Constance Emerson Crooker

Nyla Alisia

Constance Crooker's twenty two year struggle against this fatal disease has not ended. Just as the book was going to press a large melanoma tumor was spotted in her brain. After successful brain surgery she returned to the business of informing others how much living there is to be done in the valley of the shadow of death. She chronicles her ongoing saga at caringbridge.org under the site name, *melanomamama*. She is optimistically working on two more books: *Avoiding the Tuscan Sun: Melanoma Mama in Italy* and *Life in the Slow Lane: Melanoma Mama as Caregiver*. Her web page is melanomamama.com.

Melanoma Mama: On Life, Death, and Tent Camping by Constance Emerson Crooker

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