

My Nights with Leukemia: Caring for Children with Cancer



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Reviews

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(Claire Bartell)*

MY NIGHTS WITH LEUKEMIA: CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER



Inkling Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 204 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.5in. This is a moving and realistic look at what it was like to care for children with cancer, particularly leukemia, on night shift in the Hematology-Oncology unit at one of the nation's top children's hospitals. Here are some quotations from the book. The first describes how I felt when I had only seen those children from a distance. I can easily explain why I didn't want to work Hem-Onc. First, look at the picture of the lovely little girl at the start of this chapter (as well as the front cover of the print edition). Made up to look like a bunny, perhaps for a birthday party, she seems in robust good health, doesn't she? Now look at the girl whose picture opens the next chapter (and the back cover of the print edition). Yes, it's the same girl, maybe only a few months later. She's been diagnosed with leukemia and blasted with the horrors of chemotherapy. Those two pictures demonstrate far better than any words I might say what working on Hem-Onc meant. It meant being one of those who transformed children who came in looking like the first picture into those who looked like the second. Would you want to do that? Neither did I. There was nothing I wanted less to do. Nothing at all. And this, describing how I felt after I began to actually work with those children: Discovering that I was to work nights on Hem-Onc was one of the most unsettling experiences of my life. After a month of training in caring for kids who weren't that sick, I suddenly found myself expected to care for children who were battling cancers that could easily kill them—terribly sick kids that...

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