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Don't Leave Me This Way: Or When I Get Back On My Feet You'll Be Sorry



Synopsis

Julia Fox Garrison refused to listen to the professionals she called Dr. Jerk and Dr. Panic, who "after she suffered a massive, debilitating stroke at age thirty-seven" told her she'd probably die, or to Nurse Doom, who ignored her emergency call button. Instead she heeded the advice of kind, gifted Dr. Neuro, who promised her he would "treat your mind as well as your body." Julia figured if she could somehow manage to get herself into a wheelchair, at least she'd always find parking. But after many, many months of hospitalization and rehab "with the help of family, friends, and her own indomitable spirit" Julia not only got into a wheelchair, but she got back out. *Don't Leave Me This Way* is the funny, inspiring, profoundly moving true story of a woman's fight for her life and dignity "and her determined quest to awaken an entrenched, unfeeling medical community to the fact that there's always a human being inside every patient.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Julia Fox Garrison is a successful working mother of a three-year-old son, Rory, and the wife of a devoted husband named Jim. She is loved and admired by her many friends and coworkers, and enjoys a close relationship with her mother, father, and eight brothers. Her life couldn't be more satisfying. However, an unexpected curve ball is thrown her way when, on July 17, 1997, she is felled by a sudden stroke. Julia is rushed into emergency surgery to stop the bleeding in her brain, but although she survives the operation, she is left with complete paralysis on her left side. Fortunately, she is able to think and communicate, even though her ability to move and function has been severely curtailed. The doctors are unsure what caused the stroke and they recommend a

variety of treatments, including chemotherapy for a condition called vasculitis. "Don't Leave Me This Way" is Garrison's poignant, uncompromisingly honest, and darkly humorous account of what happened to her and how she handled it. Her short, breezy chapters have droll titles such as "Homage to Your Hemorrhage," and, for some reason, she avoids using the word "I" until the final section of the book. However, her unconventional writing style works; the reader is given a front row seat as Julia surmounts one obstacle after another, with many bumps and bruises along the way. From the beginning, she refuses to take her doctors' statements at face value, especially when she is convinced that they are only guessing. In fact, she decides that in spite of the bleak prognosis, she is going to get back on her feet. She rejects the opinion of her doctors and nurses that she is "in denial" and is too "impulsive."

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