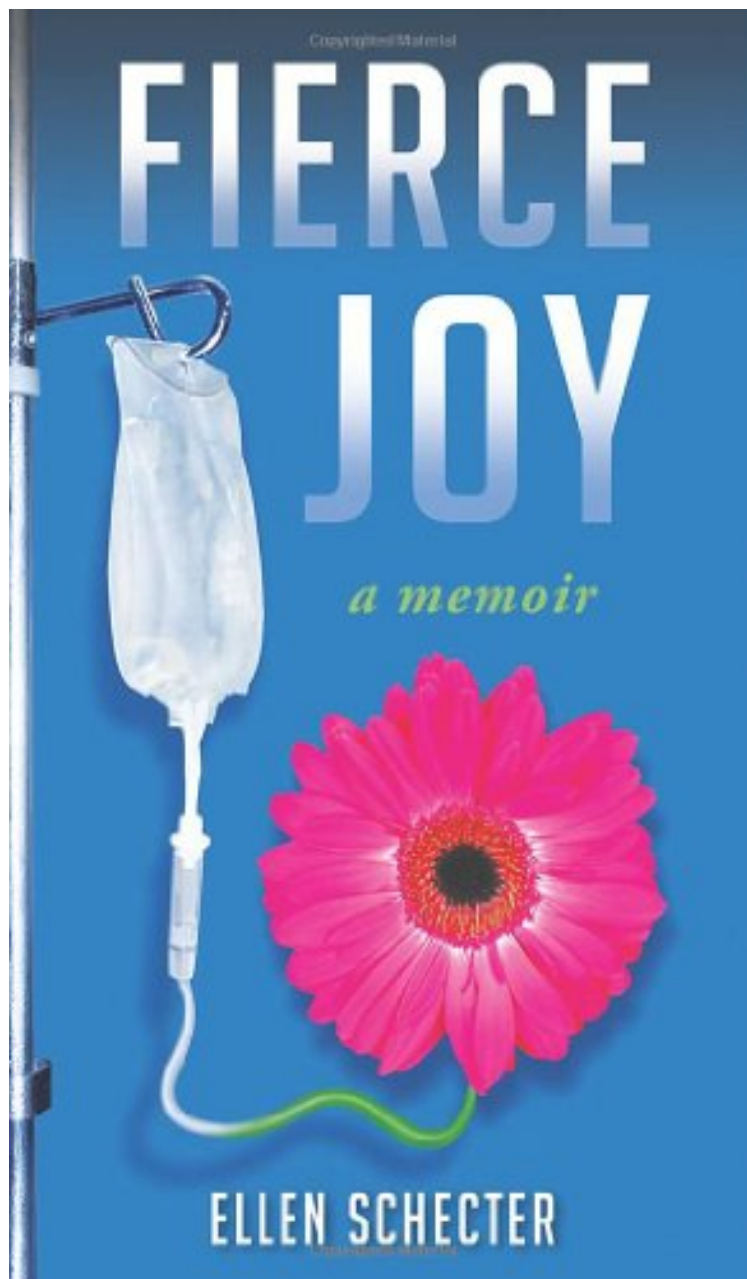


Fierce Joy

Ellen Schecter

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Ellen Schecter : Fierce Joy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fierce Joy:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful Medical Memoir...and moreBy JLS, Ph.D. "Fierce Joy" is a beautifully written memoir about the author's pain, suffering, and coping with two very serious, incurable, debilitating diseases: lupus and severe peripheral neuropathy. Schechter writes vividly and poignantly about her experiences with and anger at having such awful physically incapacitating diseases. She describes in detail the pain and humiliation these diseases have caused her, and her efforts to cope. But rather than being a didactic, dry, depressing medical memoir, "Fierce Joy" is a joy to read. Schechter also writes about the happiness and comfort she experienced because of the help of many physicians, therapists, family members, friends, flowers, music, and religion. She details her medical and emotional ordeals with a remarkable sense of humor and lack of self pity. "Fierce Joy" will inspire people not only suffering from lupus and peripheral neuropathy, but other painful, disabling chronic conditions. It should also be read by their physicians, caregivers, family members, and friends.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Magnificent Story of Strength and LoveBy CustomerThis is an excellent Memoir told by a strong, brave woman who has a progressive illness. I once worked with Ellen and saw first hand how she suffered in pain and with the loss of her physical independence from this illness. This is story of one woman's fight for the life she worked hard to build, in addition to telling a beautiful love story between Ellen and her husband and the wonderful life they worked hard together to give their children. I always admired Ellen, and while I haven't seen her now in almost 20 years, reading this book brought back so many memories of her strength, talent, and ability to be a great woman and friend in spite of all she lived with.Denise Coleman0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tremendous JourneyBy R B ThornEllen's excellently written book made me think of the Joseph Campbell's description of the Hero's/ Heroine's journeys that take them beyond seemingly insurmountable problems to a place where they can find their 'bliss'. It brings this journey to the modern world in a way that we can identify with. The debilitating diseases she suffers, and her search for physical healing are told about with honesty and humor. Rather than give in to her physical limitations, she decides to live life to the fullest possible extent. Her 'spiritual' journey, opening new doors, is even more compelling. A journey that we can understand and follow. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to find inspiration.

Fierce Joy: A Memoir is a medical mystery, a spiritual adventure, and a love story. Ellen Schechter had everything she ever wanted: a loving marriage, two great kids, and her dream career writing children's books and television programs. Then her life shattered when she was diagnosed with a painful, potentially fatal disease. Fierce Joy tells the story of how Schechter found a way to be sick without suffering and transformed the loss of her place in the world of work into a quest for her soul. Propelled by illness into a search for new meanings, she learned to listen to her body and find healing even though a cure was impossible. Never asking "Why me?" she instead asked, "What's next?" and forged a new life paradoxically filled with joy.

"Ellen Schechter creates a visual symphony with her extraordinary command of the unique language of the soul...Fierce Joy' is a powerful story full of hope, redemption, and the ultimate triumph of the human spirit." -The New York Journal of Books "Fierce Joy is one of the best memoirs of the year so far," Linda Wolf, faboverfifty.com/bookblog/2012/04 "[Ellen] Schechter says, 'I not only want to make peace with my illness, I want to sanctify it...to discover or create...a deeper, even sacred meaning for it.' Schechter shows there is solace to be found in that inevitable time when we each must look squarely into the face of our own mortality." tabletmag.com/diagnosis-is-not-death