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A SHOCKING MEMOIR FROM ONE OF OUR MOST ESTEEMED CANCER SCIENTISTS

As heard on WNYC/The Brian Lehrer Show, coming to NPR, LitHub, Katie Couric Media, Boston Globe

“Compulsively readable”

- Kirkus Reviews

“A riveting story, unexpected and all too human, about marriage, illness, and the secrets we feel compelled to keep. It’s a reminder that cancer affects the psyche just as much as it does the body.”

— Siddhartha Mukherjee, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Emperor of All Maladies*

BARRETT ROLLINS IN SICKNESS

NEW YORK: November 15, 2022: In 2008, pioneering cancer scientist and Harvard Medical School professor, Jane Weeks drew her husband and fellow Harvard oncologist, Barrett Rollins into a shared delusion or *folie à deux* that would culminate five years later in her shocking death. As they went about their public roles as celebrated authorities on cancer treatment, Rollins helped his wife conceal her breast cancer and delay treatment until it was too late. Their delusion, that Weeks was completely healthy and cancer-free, was broken at last by a medical emergency that revealed the truth and led to their final, honest year together.

“Why would a distinguished cancer doctor conceal her own cancer? Her husband ponders this conundrum in a book that is by turns loving and angry, as well as disturbing, fascinating, and blisteringly honest.”

— Anne Fadiman, author of *The Spirit Catches You and You All Fall Down*

Rendered with the attention to detail one would expect from a world-famous scientist revealing his most closely guarded secret, *In Sickness: a Memoir* (November 15, 2022; Post Hill Press / Simon & Schuster; hardcover; \$28 US; \$37 CA; 224 pages; 6 x 9 in; ISBN-10: 1637585586) is borne of Rollins’ implacable guilt and desire for understanding. The book is his first public admission that during the years leading up to his wife’s death, the Chief Scientific Officer of the Harvard-affiliated Dana-Farber Cancer Institute was drowning in fatal submission to the woman whose love he feared losing above all, suicidal ideation, and acquiescence to his own buried fury. It is his first acknowledgement that he “stood by idly” as Weeks faced mortality alone, without a shred of real medical support; that he, Barrett Rollins, the illustrious Harvard cancer doctor, allowed his wife to be swallowed alive by a perfectly concealed case of metastatic breast cancer. Read more at www.barretrollins.com and at the official publicist page: www.bmmworldwide.com/foleie.

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TO KEEP HER LOVE HE LET HER DIE

“A unique story of love and commitment that captures our mind and heart from the very first pages and shows us the depth of human resilience under extraordinary circumstances. A remarkable work that illuminates and inspires.”
— **Jerome Groopman MD**, Recanati Professor, Harvard Medical School, Author, *How Doctors Think*

About the Author

Barrett Rollins is The Linde Family Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and Chief Scientific Officer Emeritus at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Born and raised in Cleveland, he graduated from Amherst College—which has also given him an honorary D.Sc.—and received his M.D. and Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University where he was honored with its Distinguished Alumni Award. He is a long-time trustee of the Interlochen Center for the Arts and lives in Boston with his wife and dogs.

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IN SICKNESS: A Memoir by Barrett Rollins

Post Hill Press / Simon & Schuster, November 15, 2022; 224 pages, Hardcover, \$28 US / \$37 CA; ISBN 10: 1637585586;

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