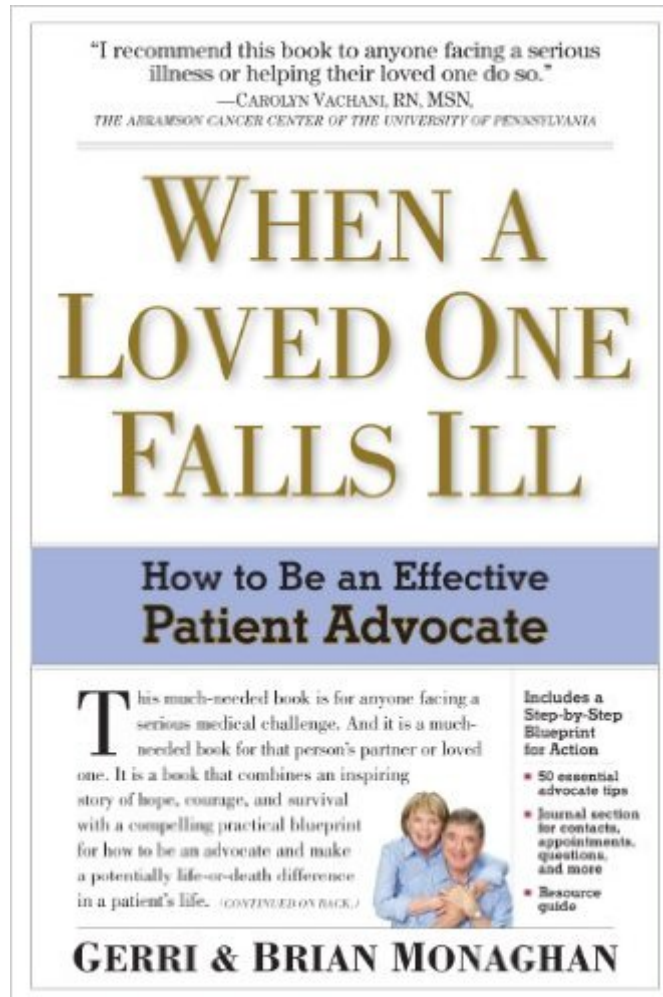


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# When A Loved One Falls Ill: How To Be An Effective Patient Advocate



## Synopsis

The much-needed book for anyone with a loved one facing a serious illness. It is the book that's a bible for how to make the potentially life-or-death decisions that every medical advocate, and every patient, must grapple with—especially now, as health care becomes ever more complicated. It is the practical blueprint for how to be a successful medical advocate. When Gerri Monaghan's husband, Brian, then a fifty-nine-year-old lawyer at the top of his game, got the news that all of us dread—a diagnosis of brain tumors caused by Stage IV melanoma with a prognosis of three to six months to live—she knew that this was a challenge the two of them would fight together. Brian brought his enormous courage, attitude, and reserves of humor, and Gerri, with dogged determination, stood up again and again for what they needed—tirelessly researching options, reaching out to friends, family, and anyone who could help, resisting the status quo, and always thinking in terms of *we*. Together they tell their story, back and forth, punctuated throughout by Gerri's top 50 tips for how to be an advocate: #1 Trust your intuition. #6 Create a battle plan. #15 Get copies of records. #26 Make doctors speak in a language that you understand. #33 Don't schedule surgery during the holidays. #49 Remember, this is not a dress rehearsal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is life changing for people who are helping a relative deal with a serious illness. I expected it to make me sad. Instead, it uplifted and empowered me. By sharing their journey, Gerri and Brian Monaghan give others a beautiful gift. When A Loved One Falls Ills explains the vital role

a patient advocate plays in the treatment of a seriously ill patient. It provides a myriad of helpful strategies for fighting illness with courage and humor. I am grateful the Monaghans shared their story and I had the good fortune to stumble upon this amazing book. If you know of a family struggling with a serious illness, don't send flowers. Buy them this book!

I love the book ... and I love them! Taking their personal struggles public to help others in similar situations is a selfless gift that most of us would not be able to create and share! I wish them many happy and healthy years together!

This book literally helped save my husband's life! I can not begin to tell you how relieved I was to find a tiny spark of hope after my husband also received a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Gerri & Brian's guide was something that empowered me and gave me guidance. Without this book, I don't know that I would be sitting here next to my husband and best friend. It's hard even now to look back at the very difficult 8 month journey. I know writing this book had to be at times therapeutic and at times excruciating, but the Monaghans have done so in order to benefit all other caregiver/patient teams. I can't thank them enough!!!

This book is a must have for anyone facing medical challenges. A step by step guide that is both wise and thoughtful in its approach and recommendations for facing, and beating a potentially deadly disease. No concern or question is too simple or too complex for this most courageous of couples! Join Gerri and Brian in celebrating life with love, laughter and great insight. When illness knocks on the door, there is no one more important than your advocate. May we all be or know a Gerri Monaghan when the going gets tough, and may we all approach an illness with the strength and optimism of Brian Monaghan.

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