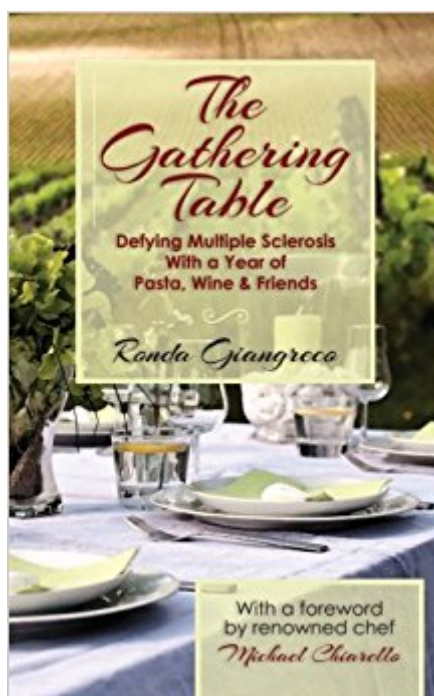


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The Gathering Table: Defying Multiple Sclerosis With A Year Of Pasta, Wine & Friends



Synopsis

Just back from her latest adventure at a cooking school in Italy, Ronda Giangreco was a healthy, vibrant woman busy planning her next big dinner party. She and her husband had spent the day sampling wines in the Napa Valley with friends. Life was good. One day later she was a disabled woman. A diagnosis of sudden onset Multiple Sclerosis would be difficult for anyone to accept. But for Ronda and her husband it was a particularly cruel twist of fate. MS had killed his mother. Told she might not be able to walk for much longer, she asked herself the question, "then where should I walk now?" Her answer was to the kitchen! As an avowed "foodie", she had always found her joy in front of a stove. But when she made the audacious vow to her husband that she would create a big Italian feast every Sunday night for an entire year as a means of warding off this disease, he thought she had lost her mind. It began with a simple idea. What if she tried to cook a meal for eight people every Sunday throughout 2010? With steaming plates of pasta she would attempt to triumph over Multiple Sclerosis one week at a time. She began by sending out an email invitation to all of her friends and soon added to the guest list scores of new people anxious to join in the fun. Each week the first six who accepted the invitation would join them for an evening of laughter, good food and plenty of great wine. They never orchestrated the mix of people, allowing fate to create interesting "pairings" of dinner guests. Over the course of fifty-two weeks, they heard stories that made them weak with laughter and others that brought tears to their eyes. And they ate...mountains of gnocchi, meatballs and her guest's favorite: homemade ricotta with fresh-baked bread. The story of her journey through the pain and confusion of Multiple Sclerosis, coupled with the healing balm of her lovingly prepared meals is told with humor, grace and heartwrenching honesty. This book will have you running to the kitchen for your own remedy to life's challenges. As the famous chef, Michael Chiarello, Ronda's cheerleader and inspiration for her meals suggests, "Take this book and learn from the gifts she is sharing. Commit one or fifty-two days with those you love and start your legacy now."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

i bought this because i had been and do suffer with ms type symptoms and was searching desperately for any information from the usual repetitive publications that i could learn anything helpful from. this book was so helpful and it pleasantly surprised me and left me less focused on how bad i felt and more focused on trying to find answers to my symptoms and made me keenly aware of how much God has blessed us with so much in so many waysthere's just no way to measure the worthno way to compare.....God's blessings...they're abundant everywhere. i really enjoyed this book. it was easy reading with a nice flow and you could almost picture each page as if you stepped right in and joined the living journal. this was really nice.

I was so touched by Ronda Giangreco's *The Gathering Table*. Many people when facing a debilitating illness may curl up and fade away from friends, from life. Ronda approached 2010 with the intention of defying MS, to remain herself as long as she could. The fatigue that comes with MS can be so debilitating, but Ronda persevered on the hottest of days (the worse for those with MS), one meal at a time, she made it to the finish line and then some. I hope others will enjoy this book for the many gifts it holds and find themselves inspired. My other hope is that this book finds its way onto the big screen, it's a classic!

It's an interesting way to fight MS.

It resonated a lot of life experiences of other personal friends who have suffered with/through this disease. It also stirred up emotional family memories for me not related to her disease.

What an uplifting story! *The Gathering Table* is about gathering courage, great food and old/new friends to live life to the fullest while doing battle against a debilitating disease. Thank you Ronda for sharing your story and inspiring others along the way.

While one cannot walk in Ronda's shoes, her inspirational book allows a glimpse of what her life was like since the stunning news of her diagnosis and finding her life changed in so many ways. She opens her life with no holds barred, sharing her most personal and intimate journey in poignant moments. Her joy of life, her humor, optimism, and love of people are evident in her decisions in dealing with MS. We learn that the most priceless moments are the ones we take time to share a meal, to share a laugh, to find out about someone's life, to take one day at a time and that tomorrows are not a given. I love this book for its honesty and how well the book flows from one moment to the next of her life. When I read the book, it is as if Ronda was sitting in my living room sharing her story with me face to face.

I really enjoyed this book. It was suggested reading for my book club and the author is coming to speak at our women's club in April. I wasn't really looking forward to reading it - but ordered it on my Kindle and thought...Well I'll give it a try....I do love to cook - but I was concerned that it would be just too depressing. But... it was such a great read - I could not put it down. It made me laugh, it made me cry and it truly made me realize how precious life, family and friends (old and new) really are. Her wit and courage are amazing. She is truly and an incredible woman and I'm looking forward to hearing her speak about her life. This is a "must read" for all of us.

I savored every chapter of this book like the author savors her food, wine, friends, and life itself. Sort of an "Eat, Pray, Love" meets "Tuesdays with Morrie". One can only handle the intensity of her vulnerability and pain by the humor, passion, zest for life, and downright honesty with which she delivers her tale. She sent tingles down my spine more than once. Through her experience, we see ourselves in mirror-like clarity, and we like what we see. I wanted the book to go on and on. And I'd like to be part of the conversation at one of her dinner parties (sorry..."gatherings"). Looking forward to more from this author.

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