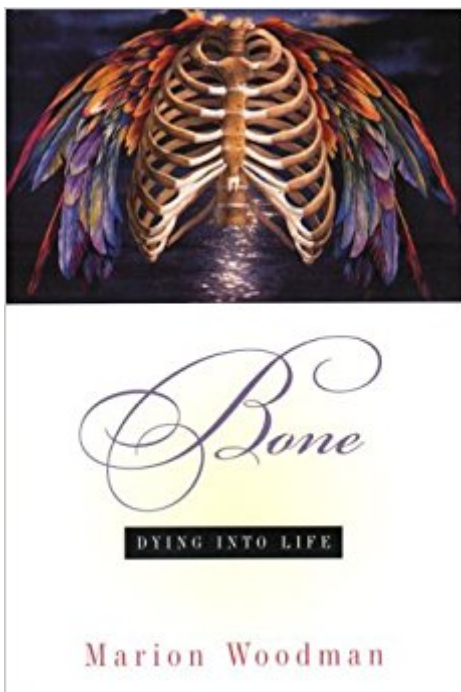


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# Bone: Dying Into Life



## Synopsis

A rich and intimate journey into one of life's most challenging experiences from an acclaimed author and analyst Marion Woodman is renowned as the ultimate chronicler of women's experience. In her latest work, she combines her trademark insight with a personal lesson in wisdom and strength. On November 7, 1993, Marion Woodman was diagnosed with uterine cancer. *Bone* is the story, told in journal form, of her illness and healing and of the journey to transforming herself. More than a meditation on illness, *Bone* offers insights into healing and the role of art and poetry in the soul's journey to balance and wholeness. Woodman is extraordinarily honest about the factors she feels led her down the path to cancer, physically and spiritually, over the course of her early life. She also details the harrowing aspects of her journey and how she ultimately returned to health. Filled with art, line drawings, quotations from Rumi, Emily Dickinson, William Blake, and others, *Bone* is a unique and sensitive testament to the human spirit and to the tremendous courage of this extraordinary woman.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When she was diagnosed in 1993, at the age of 65, with uterine cancer, the author drew on the resources of alternative healing as well as conventional medicine in her fight against the disease. A Canadian writer (*Addiction to Perfection*) and Jungian analyst, Woodman is also known for her New Age feminism and frequent appearances with poet Robert Bly, with whom she coauthored *The Maiden King*. Reproduced here is the journal she kept from November 1993 to March 1995 that

documents the internal spiritual struggle her illness triggered. She details how she used imagery, took herbs and supplements prescribed by nontraditional healers and, in addition, followed their dietary strictures in order to fortify her body to withstand the recommended radiation treatment (including a painful and harrowing 48-hour ordeal). Woodman's diary entries are filled with introspective ruminations, mythological allusions, references to Jungian archetypes and the divisions between the masculine and the feminine, which will have the greatest appeal to those who are familiar with her work. Although Woodman had the support of her husband and friends during her illness, she was haunted by the recent death of a brother from cancer, her osteoporosis worsened and she was also later threatened by a new tumor that proved to be benign. Woodman has recovered from her cancer; those who have been similarly afflicted will appreciate her courage and determination to reclaim her body and spirit. 8-city author tour. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Jungian therapist Woodman had long suffered back pain and increasingly limited mobility when, in her mid-sixties, she learned she had uterine cancer. She presents her battle with the cancer in journal form, including marginal line drawings, photographs, and quotations from Emily Dickinson, William Blake, Thomas Merton, and others. The entries span from November 1993 to April 1995, and encompass wrenching physical and emotional suffering. Woodman endured hours of brutally invasive radiation that almost drove her mad with pain. She agonized over using Western medical practices to save her life, for she felt she was being untrue to the divine goddess Sophia and the healing rituals, incantations, and nutritional programs she had long trusted. Furthermore, afraid of being dismissed as an elderly New Age freak, she struggled to communicate with unbelieving doctors as she wrestled for inner balance. Her continuing back and leg problems eventually led to the discovery of a bone tumor. Throughout, she managed to maintain her humor and dignity, eventually deepening her understanding of suffering and the human spirit. Whitney Scott Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Marion Woodman is a woman to be admired and her experience with cancer is inspiring. She shows vulnerability and expresses her mindset and thoughts like I've not encountered before. I've read and re read this book and started in on a couple of her others. A Jungian analyst, she speaks the language of the subconscious for herself and others so concisely. I love her! This is a great book for anyone. You don't have to have cancer or know anyone with cancer to benefit from this book. Being a woman will help you identify with her amazing perspective, but it's not necessary. Classy, sweet,

strong woman with vinegar humor at times;)

Marion woodman is a treasure who in this discourse through her illness never loses her insight to the joy of life. Great read for anyone who wants to prepare for their own ending.

Once I picked up this book I could not put it down until I finished it completely, then I went back and made notes on it. My own world view is different than Marion Woodman's but I picked up some valuable insights from this book anyway. It also contains the most horrific account of a cancer treatment I have ever read anywhere. It makes me shudder weeks later just thinking about it. Marion Woodman's own beautiful personality shines through this book. It will also inspire you to try to eat ten servings of the brightly colored vegetables and fruits a day. Go ahead and buy it, it is well worth it.

Marion Woodman's journal (November 1993 to April 1995) during her struggle with uterine cancer contains, at one level, the story of her illness and healing, and at another, her beliefs that guided her journey. These are interspersed with very human perceptions and descriptions like `...that blissfully unaware diabetic woman for a roommate. She did tests all day with totally crazy results and ate boxes of chocolate cherries her daughter brought her all night. I remember lying ... watching her silently, systematically licking her lips over one chocolate cherry after another. I remember being startled when I realized I wasn't chuckling over that little morsel of Divine Comedy... It was my loss of connection to the dark feminine and her lust for life and creativity.' Throughout the book Woodman's long-standing advocacy for the integration of matter (body) and psyche comes strongly to the fore - at different levels - as does her deep, inner wisdom. If death is the meaning director of the cycles of life and ultimately life itself, then this is an appropriate book to hone our sensibilities towards those ends. Alongside the author we can find our inner archetypes, whether for transformation or honour, to give them their rightful place in our on-going journey towards wholeness while creating our own supportive practices in the presence of the unavoidable final curtain call. But, the final resolution (on April 1, 1995) for moving from that place of feeling stuck and into life again seemed more literary than psychologically faithful to me, which in this regard left me disappointed as the value of Bone definitely lies in its contributions at the psychological level. Even so, this is a book very worth reading if you want to age with consciousness.

This intimate look at Marion Woodman's experience through cancer is profound. Written in her

compelling personal style, it takes the reader on the journey as a kind of confidant. I couldn't put it down.

A great book of one of the most important Jungian therapist. She tells with simplicity, sincerity and courage her descent into her soul's deepness while she struggles with a dangerous cancer.

Most insightful

*Bone* by Marion Woodman is the autobiography by a woman faced with death. Marion faced one of the scariest things anyone is ever faced with, cancer. She guides you with her day to day life in this terror. She was diagnosed with uterine cancer in November of 1993. Marion had worked her whole life trying to care for and manage a good and healthy well being. She wondered how could her body do this to her after everything she had done for it? Throughout the book Marion tries and connects with her body. By connecting to her body she believes she can free herself from cancer, even though she feels as if she doesn't have cancer at all. Radiation therapy she considers as a toxin for her body. Radiation gives you burns, leaves you feeling weak, and with one miscalculation can damage other organs leaving her with permanent damage. Even though Marion has her beliefs about radiation therapy she continues on with the treatment; she is able to eliminate the uterine cancer. Feeling free from this horrible disease she continues to live her life joyfully, and she reconnects with her body and soul. Later on she develops pain in her back when she walks. She is diagnosed with severe osteoporosis and osteoarthritis in her lower back. Marion's scans also showed something else. Marion had a tumor on the inside of her sacrum. The doctor figures the cancer has metastasized, but it is too dangerous and impossible to biopsy the tumor to give them the results. Given this news Marion is only given a certain amount of time to live. She seeks the opinion of another doctor and he suspects it is not cancer. So Marion continues to struggle walking and moving, left with great pain, but insists on living her life, thankful she is alive. *Bone* is a fantastic book that showed me an insight of a cancer patient. It showed and explained some of the popular cancer terminology such as metastasized and explains what brachytherapy is and what happens during the procedure. Lastly it doesn't explain how and why tumors form, and why people have to go through this awful disease. But overall I recommend *Bone* to others who want a better understanding of the day to day life of a cancer patient. This book greatly affected me personally. My grandpa had terminal cancer. Even though I watched him go through the pain and suffering, *Bone* showed me the thoughts and concerns that run through a cancer patient's mind. They too are afraid

and don't understand why this has to happen to them. Marion connected with her body, and I want to do so as well. This book has shown me that caring for and connecting with my body is very important. I must take these steps now in order to live a joyful life.

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