

BLOOD BROTHER MEDIA KIT

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Headshots





Book Image



BLOOD BROTHER

A Memoir

I had it all—until the fatal lymphoma. To maybe, just maybe survive, I had to find a brother who'd vanished thirty years before and hope to God that, if I could locate him, he would help me.

Bio

Shorter

With years of awards in medical and scientific publishing, as well as literary achievements, Susan Keller is uniquely positioned to write *BLOOD BROTHER*, a cancer memoir that explores medicine, family, faith, and survivorship. Her scientific work garnered awards from the American Medical Writers Association. On the literary side, her poetry has won regional and national prizes. Her fiction and essays have been published in on-line and print journals.

Longer

Susan Keller is the author of *BLOOD BROTHER*, a cancer memoir that takes an unflinching look at medicine, the heroic and the horrific; love and fury; questions of faith and an afterlife; forgiveness, and second chances. Readers will find hope and humor in her against-the-odds story.

Susan Keller has a degree from U.C. Berkeley in Immunology and Public Health and a twenty-five-year career as an award-winning medical writer and marketer. Her scientific work garnered awards from the American Medical Writers Association.

On the literary side, Susan's poetry has taken prizes in the Atlantic Review Poetry Contest and the Bay Area Poets Coalition National Contest. Her poem, *Had Ritual Required*, took first place in the Sonoma County Poetry Slam. Her fiction and essays have been published in anthologies and literary journals.

An excerpt from *Blood Brother*, titled *My Symptoms Glared in Neon*, was published in *Survivors Review*. Her dual background in science and literature makes the voice in *Blood Brother* lyric as well as credible.

Susan wrote a monthly column for the California Writers' Club newsletter on how to enter and WIN writing contests. Her column was read throughout the state and, based on this blog, Susan also spoke at CWC meetings as The Contest Girl.

Links to her poetry, fiction and nonfiction, as well as excerpts from *Blood Brother* can be found on her website at <https://www.susankeller.com>

Susan is currently working on a novel entitled *Flask*. An excerpt of *Flask* can also be found on her website. Please check out the first chapter of *Blood Brother* as well as an excerpt from *Flask* on Susan's website: <https://www.susankeller.com>

Book Description

Cutting-edge Western medicine fuses with the ineffable in my candidly naked memoir, *Blood Brother*.

Chemo vaporized every hair on my body. A drug-induced psychosis convulsed me to my core. An infection nearly killed me. I got advice from a urine-drinking cancer patient and was treated by a cadre of doctors—a few inept, others unwavering in their kindness and dedicated work for a cure.

But after months of enduring the most toxic and powerful medicines in the modern arsenal, my survival still depended on receiving a bone marrow transplant from Johnny, my hermetic, meditating, tripped-out brother no one had seen or spoken to in thirty years. How Johnny came back into my life is where the bizarre and inexplicable enters the story. *Blood Brother* also reflects on the meaning of those events against the bigger backdrop of fate versus an indifferent universe, the inexplicable, and, perhaps even, God.

Testimonials for *Blood Brother*

Beautiful Lessons for Doctor and Patient Alike

Thanks, and praise to Susan Keller for Blood Brother. Though facing a potentially fatal illness can be terrifying, it's also a priceless opportunity to learn, re-connect, and heal. Susan captures and shares these major life changes in a truly accessible way. The prognosis for her particular cancer was dismal and her recovery arduous. But Susan presents the process with insight and even humor and joy. Blood Brother provides beautiful lessons, for doctor and patient alike.

Amy Ewing, M.D.

The Physician's Powerful Role in the Patient Journey

As a cancer survivor myself, I had goosebumps as I relived Susan's experience learning the seriousness of her diagnosis and prevailing through treatment. A beautiful story of the strength of the human spirit and fierce determination to live. I hope that others who have been faced with a cancer diagnosis will also find inspiration, healing, and closure in reading this most compelling memoir.

As a physician, I trust that other medical professionals who read Blood Brother will understand the full scope of the Patient Journey and the healthcare providers' powerful role within it. This book is insightful and illuminating. I highly recommend it to all readers.

Joanna Mimi Choi, M.D.

A Must Read for Providers

From the first few engrossing pages, I was right there sharing Susan's extraordinary experiences with her. Blood Brother is a must read for oncologists and other providers who believe their only responsibility is to treat the patient's medical symptoms. It will inform and enrich the professional lives of those across the healthcare spectrum, adding depth and meaning to their days and producing better outcomes for patients. Blood Brother gives hope to those who've lost theirs—patients as well as practitioners. There are happy endings after all!

Meryl Luallin

CEO, SullivanLuallin Group

A Great Book for Patients and their Doctors

I spent all day Saturday and most of the night reading Blood Brother. It is truly an eye opener to see the whole illness process through Susan's memories and feelings, and to learn of her family story. This is a great book for anyone who treats patients and for patients and their families as well. It brings the Patient Journey into clear and dramatic focus.

Natalia Greyz, M.D.

Interview Questions: To Come