

FRANKENTITS

A DRAMATIC COMEDY FEATURE
BY ELLEN T. MEISER

LOGLINE

From the shitty and the funny to the lonely bits, an imaginative millennial grapples with breast cancer. Will she reject life or embrace every single part of it?

SYNOPSIS

DAY 2. Last night, SARAH HAMMOND-CHANG—a vibrant 31-year-old—found a lump in her boob. Today, on an angry walk with her dog, Banjo, through their suburban neighborhood in Loma Linda, California, she finds herself stomping through the “fuck you” stage of grief¹, the first steps of her cancer journey.

DAY 111. “Death by 1,000 Cuts,” that’s the ancient Chinese torture method that chemo is pretty damn close to—a bunch of small symptoms that seem to multiply exponentially and drain every drop of life from you. But Sarah is finding relief in solo dance sessions in her bathroom to Mexican big band music and filthy rap, where she transports to different realities and contorts her body in ways that even a modern dancer would consider questionable.

DAY 165. Sarah is buoyed by those around her: TY, her surgeon husband, her MOM, and LULU, a fellow patient who becomes her, “Boob Guru.” With them by her side, she appreciates some new life lessons: the joy of nose picking; how steroids feel like meth; what to do when your vagina is as dry as the Gobi Desert; and how much she’s loved.

DAY 200. Well... fuck. Pressures of life (and death) fracture her relationship with Ty, whose work and sympathy fatigue pull him away; and Lulu, who has gone MIA.

DAY 212. Today is the day. The day of her double mastectomy and the day to confront both people she loves. Luckily, unspoken truths help resolve things with Ty, but the situation with Lulu delivers a shock: her cancer has returned. This triggers an immediate shift in the friends' relationship— Sarah becomes Lulu's Boob Guru.

DAY 213. Awake from surgery, Sarah can’t quite recognize her new body. A call to Lulu, though, brings ease to her mind about her new “Frankentits.”

DAY 312. With the whirr of machines at Sarah’s last radiation appointment and a prayer to all higher spirits above (including aliens, if they’re listening), Sarah’s story closes. Does she survive or are her ashes sprinkled somewhere? We don’t know, and survival’s not really the point. See, this is a tale about the trek of cancer. It's not ‘The Fellowship’ or ‘The Return of the King’ from Lord of the Rings. Nope. This is ‘The Two Towers.’ And Sarah’s trek continues...

It's tough. Any cancer story is. But Sarah tells hers with a raw truth and irreverent sense of humor you've never seen before.

WHY NOW?

Anyone facing illness—including the hundreds of thousands of women diagnosed and treated for breast cancer every year—contemplates the issues in this story: mortality, love, gender, relationships, treacherous bodies, time. And it can be lonely. Frankentits will be their companion, a story that sits by their side as they travel along their own path.

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¹ Elisabeth Kubler-Ross seems to have missed this stage in her research.