

“Don't let the "C" word scare you—**CANCER IS A BITCH** is smart, funny, hopeful, and as much about life, families and self-discovery as the cancer that prompts it. I loved this book: Read it!”—**Sara Gruen, author of WATER FOR ELEPHANTS**

Dear Colleague:

In **CANCER IS A BITCH: Or, I'd Rather Be Having a Midlife Crisis (Da Capo Lifelong Books; October 1, 2008; Hardcover; \$22.00)**, writer Gail Konop Baker takes the reader through her experience of being diagnosed with breast cancer, her lumpectomy, and the recovery that caused her to re-examine the entire trajectory of her life. But don't stop reading this letter right now, thinking you've heard all this before: this is much more than a cancer memoir. It's a memoir about what it means to hit midlife and realize this *is* your life, wondering about the choices you made—and the ones you didn't make. Throughout the book, Konop Baker writes with raw honesty about the difficulties of marriage, the challenges of motherhood, and the struggle to be a writer and creator while making sure that everyone's needs are satisfied. It's a book that any woman can identify with, no matter what her personal experience with “the c word” might be.

Konop Baker has an incredibly fresh voice, which virtually pulls the reader into the book and through her story. With a remarkably observant eye, she captures the truly absurd, hilarious, and heartbreaking aspects of her life throughout her breast cancer experience, and tells the unvarnished truth about the aftermath as well.

As part of an interview, Konop Baker can discuss:

- How to help a family member, friend or colleague who has been diagnosed with cancer
- How to share your cancer experience with your children
- What to say—and what *not* to say—to someone who has been diagnosed with cancer
- Why a woman's sex life after cancer is even more important than her sex life before
- Things she wishes she knew about cancer before her diagnosis (and no one ever tells you)
- Why she uses humor throughout her book to deal with such serious issues
- Her own cancer experience, and what it taught her about living life going forward
- How to turn personal crisis into inspiration for yourself and others

Gail Konop Baker lives in Madison, Wisconsin, with her family. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in *LiteraryMama.com*, *Talking River Review*, *The Potomac*, *Mota*, *The Danforth Review*, *Madison Magazine*, *Yankee Pot Roast*, *Wisconsin Trails*, *Xanadu*, *Womansong*, *Pudding Magazine*, *Glass Review*, and an anthology funded by the Ohio Arts Council. Her *LiteraryMama* column "Bare-breasted Mama" made its debut in October of 2006.

CANCER IS A BITCH will be released to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It's a memoir that will touch any woman who has struggled with her own choices, and wondered if she is living the life she meant to live. I'll call soon to discuss the coverage possibilities.

Best,



Angela Hayes

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