The Cancer Culture Chronicles
by Rachel Cheetham

ABOUT
The Cancer Culture Chronicles is the collected writing of Rachel Cheetham, who died in February 2012, aged 41, of metastatic breast cancer. Rachel began her blog in June 2009 after her second recurrence of breast cancer, and continued to write until her death.

The book fearlessly, ruthlessly and, at times, humorously looks at the world a terminal breast cancer patient has to endure. The constant and debilitating treatments and the constant and debilitating culture. When she died Rachel’s husband, Anthony Moro, said that Rachel had ‘set out to be the cancer industry’s worst enemy.’ And that she did. Day after day, post after post. Pointing her informed, articulate and opinionated pen at breast cancer charities and self-promoting activists who ‘race for the cure’ but put diminishing funding into research – and none at all into metastatic research; pretending everything will be all right if we ‘stay positive and think pink.’

Rachel’s blog was read by thousands during her life, and now we want Rachel’s words to reach millions and be an important contribution to the global discussion about how exactly we can stop breast cancer killing so many women.

THE BOOK
Rachel’s posts expose precisely why thinking pink won’t make things all right; how and why it won’t be all right. Ever. At times this is not an easy read - as her world shrinks with the progression of the disease, some readers may find her detailed reporting harrowing. But no one seriously concerned about dealing with the epidemic that is breast cancer can afford not to read it.

The Cancer Culture Chronicles has been compiled and edited by her mother Mandy Cheetham, and her friend Sarah Horton. The book contains all of Rachel’s blog posts in their entirety, with notes and resources. It also contains tributes from Rachel’s cyber-sisters, family and friends, with photographs, and is illustrated with original sketches by Sarah Horton. The Afterword has been written by Gayle Sulik, author of ‘Pink Ribbon Blues, How Breast Cancer Culture Undermines Women’s Health’.

Available from October 2012, this is a 5x8 hardback book, 384 pages and available at cost from Blurb.com, price $30.95 (£21.50) plus shipping. If you like the book please consider supporting the following organizations with a donation in memory of Rachel.

Breast Cancer Action w: bcaction.org
METAvivor Research and Support, Inc. w: metavivor.org

THE EDITORS
Mandy Cheetham
Mandy is Rachel’s mother. She lives in Perth, Western Australia. As a life long librarian Mandy was particularly concerned to see that Rachel’s writings on her blog, The Cancer Culture Chronicles, be given a permanent home in the form of this book.

Sarah Horton
Sarah is Rachel’s friend, a fellow breast cancer patient and blogger, and author of ‘Being Sarah’. She lives in Liverpool, England and was one of Rachel’s closest friends during the final year of her life.

Sarah and Mandy thank Rachel’s husband Anthony Moro for his support and encouragement in publishing Rachel’s blog as a book.

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