A photograph of a white wooden porch with a railing and a wooden deck. The porch is viewed from a low angle, looking down the length of the porch. The railing is white and has a decorative chain running along it. The deck is made of light-colored wooden planks. The background shows a grassy hill and some trees under a clear sky.

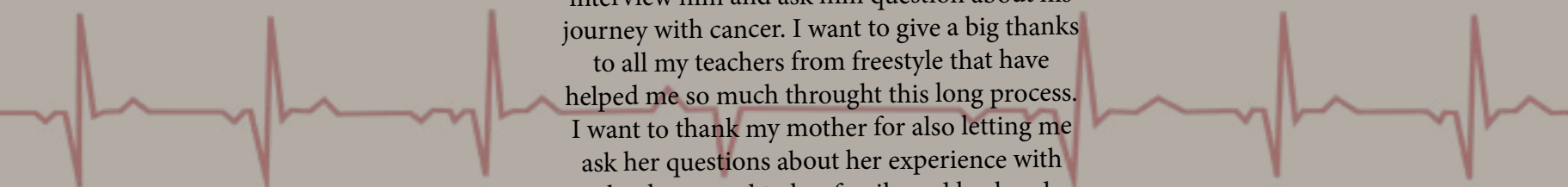
This book is dedicated to  
my loving father.







# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



I want to thank my amazing father who let me interview him and ask him question about his journey with cancer. I want to give a big thanks to all my teachers from freestyle that have helped me so much throught this long process. I want to thank my mother for also letting me ask her questions about her experience with what happened to her family and husband. This book could not have been created with all the help and support I had.

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# P R E F

This book began with a conversation with my father about his life and inquiries about a significant event in his life that affected everything. Then he began to speak about his battle with cancer and how it had affected him. He spoke about how difficult and life-changing cancer was for him. I spoke with my mum about her point of view on the matter.

The time and effort I put into this book to make it precisely how I envisaged it, to express the love and hard work in each page. I wanted to create something wonderful out of a difficult story.

There were times when I was stressed and unsure of what to do; I was lost. Then I chatted to folks in my immediate vicinity and solicited their perspectives, and ideas began to flow.

This book was an incredible learning experience for me because it allowed me to understand and acquire so many new techniques. It demonstrated how significant this book was to me; not only was it essential to me, but it was also personal because I was discussing my own father's experience. This led to the creation of this book, which depicts the love and battles that my family has faced, and how her family has remained strong throughout.



A C E



# INTRODUCTION



*Stan during cancer*



*During chemotherapy*



*During a hard time in cancer*

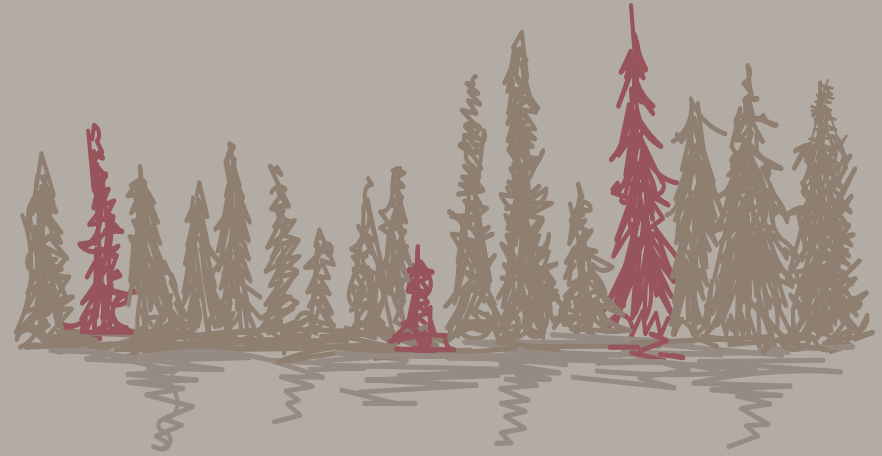


*the effects cancer has*



*In the hospital*

Stan de Boisset is a family man, he has 3 daughters, Mahaut, Ines and Louise, and an a wife that he loves with his whole life. As a family you would think they are perfect, their is no way they have struggles. The love they share is indescribable, they go out as a family, vacations, trips, walks in the park... They all have a connection between eachother that is unexplainable. But honestly, what is a perfect family? Because a family is the bond chapcterized by deep affection, respect, loyalty, and healthy attachment. Family is Love. So yes, if that is what a perfect family should look like then yes, we are. But then again what is love without the fights and the hard times between eachother, the arguments that turn into laughter between eachother. Those times where you all start yelling at eachother and you don't agree on anything so you start a huge argument that show the frustration that we have on one another, because I mean, are you really going with be all nice to your sisters and brothers all the time, no. Those fights and arguments show the love and the connection the family has between each other.



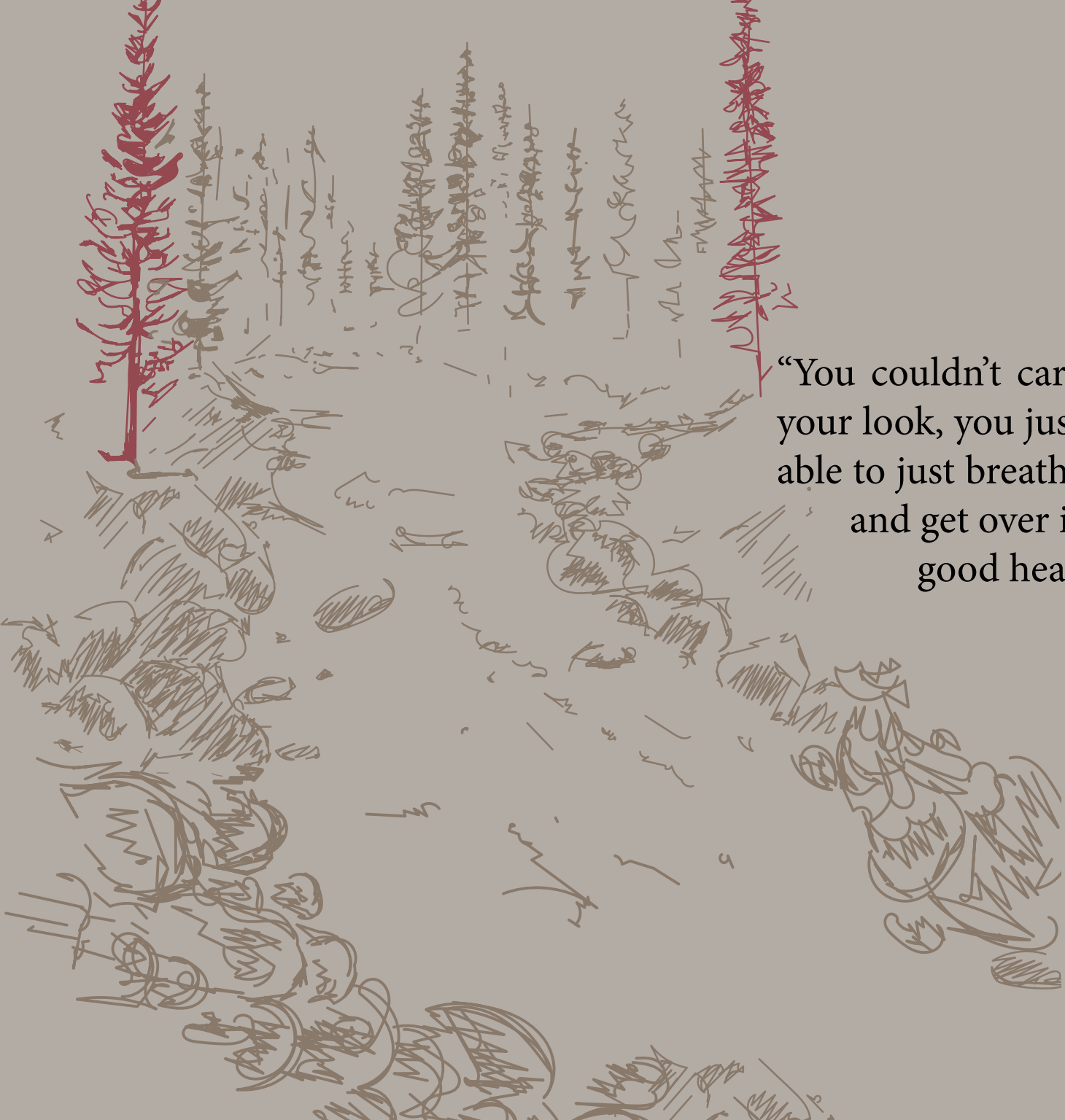
# DIAGNOSIS

Imagine going to the doctor and receiving this terrible news, the news that would transform your life, your hands shake, and your mind to places you never imagined they might go, your hands are sweaty and all you can think is what is wrong and what will happen. Is this bad? Will I be able to recover from this? What is going on?. The doctor may begin by asking about your personal and family medical history, followed by a physical examination. The doctor may request lab testing, imaging exams, scans, and other tests or treatments. A biopsy may also be necessary, as it is often the only way to tell if you have cancer.

Stan de Boisset is a family man, he has 3 daughters, Mahaut, Ines and Louise, and an a wife that he loves with his whole life. As a family you would think they are perfect, their is no way they have struggles. The love they share is indescribable, they go out as a family, vacations, trips, walks in the park... They all have a connection between eachother that is unexplainable. But honestly, what is a perfect family? Because a family is the bond chapcterized by deep affection, respect, loyalty, and healthy attachment. Family is Love. So yes, if that is what a perfect family should look like then yes, we are. But then again what is love without the fights and the hard times between eachother, the arguments that turn into laughter between eachother. Those times where you all start yelling at eachother and you don't agree on anything so you start a

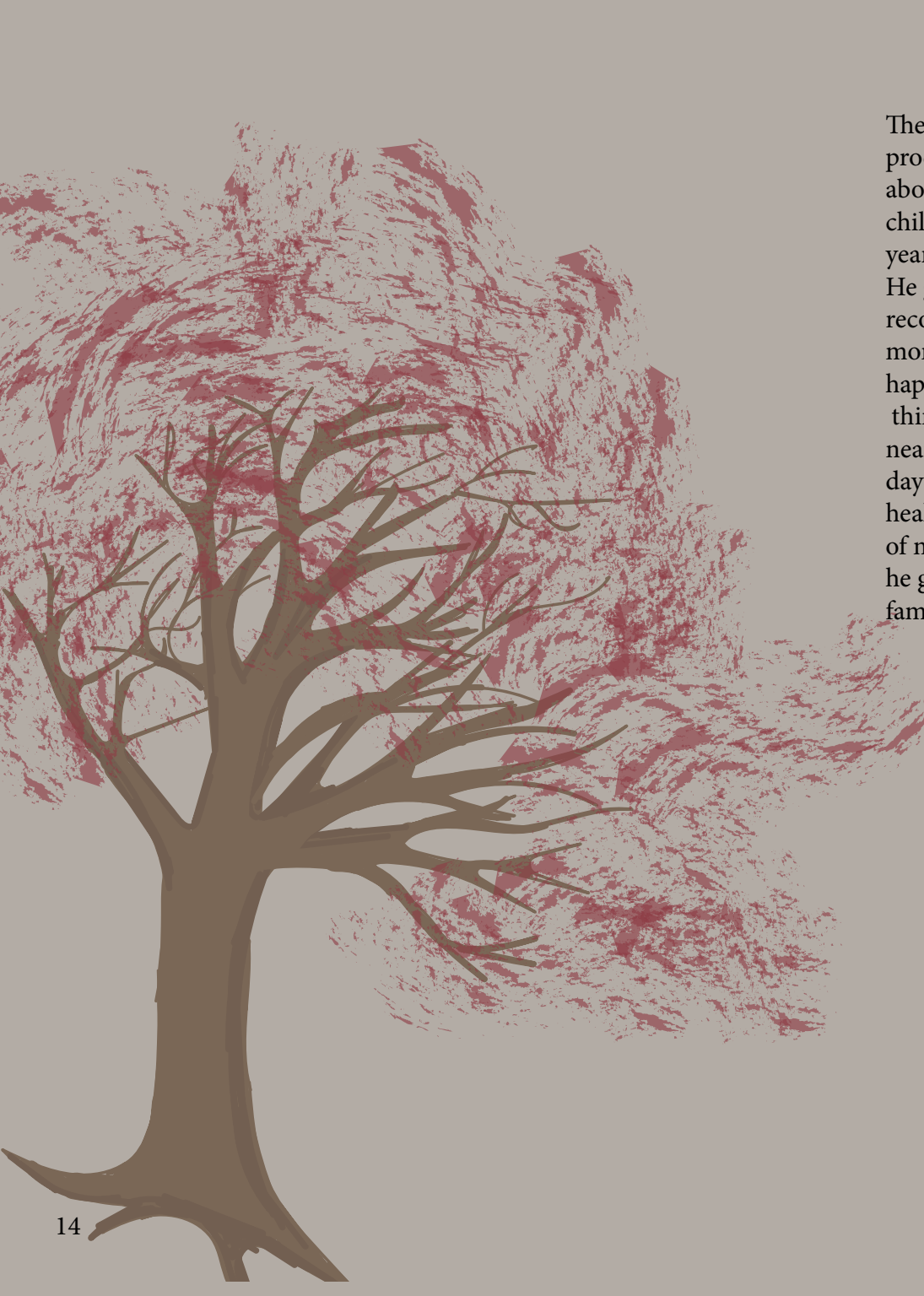
huge argument that show the frustration that we have on one another, because I mean, are you really going with be all nice to your sisters and brothers all the time, no. Those fights and arguments show the love and the connection the family has between ecahothor. The ending love you have for each other, because after every fight you laugh and someone will make a joke that will start to put a little smirk on everyones face. The smirk turns into a smile and that will turn into a laugh, and that end of the day everyone will forget what the argument was even about.

The doctor slowly explains to you what the proccesser that will follow, but all you think about is "But all I thought in my head was, my childhood because I was raised all my teenage years with my mother who had cancer"Stan. He glanced back at his life, looking at and reconstructing his old life with his mother, the moment he realized this was true and it was happening. His mother is thinking about what will happen to him in the near future. That was one of the most difficult days of his life. That sensation of losing your health, your body, and your mind in a matter of minutes. He knew this was really the instant he got the news. When the time came to tell his family, he didn't know how else to do it but to be honest. Most people have seen cancer patients,




“You couldn’t care less about your look, you just want to be able to just breathe a bit more and get over it with a good health”

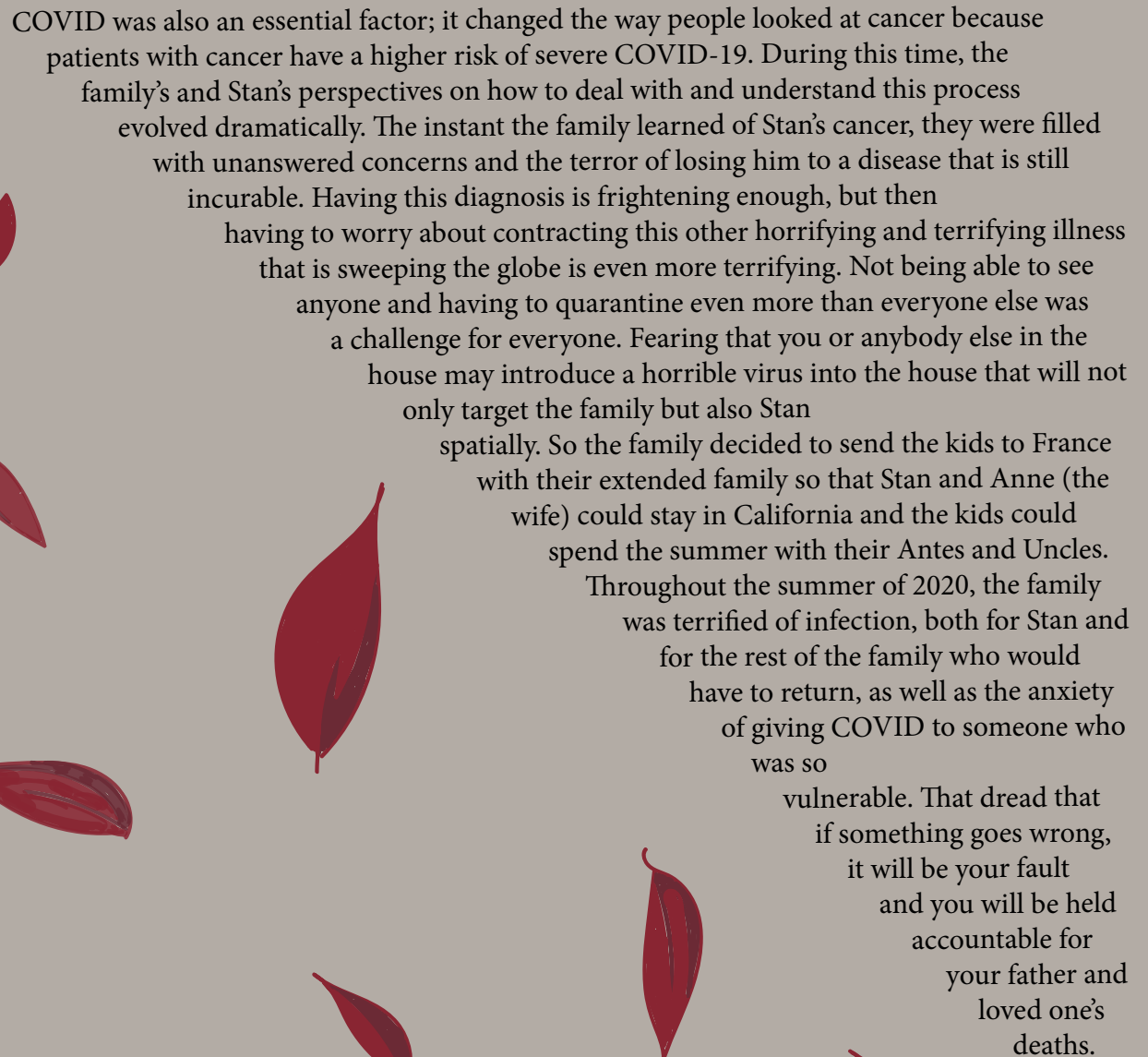




The doctor slowly explains to you what the processer that will follow, but all you think about is “But all I thought in my head was, my childhood because I was raised all my teenage years with my mother who had cancer” Stan. He glanced back at his life, looking at and reconstructing his old life with his mother, the moment he realized this was true and it was happening. His mother is thinking about what will happen to him in the near future. That was one of the most difficult days of his life. That sensation of losing your health, your body, and your mind in a matter of minutes. He knew this was really the instant he got the news. When the time came to tell his family, he didn’t know how else to do it but to



be honest. Most people have seen cancer patients, and movies and social media depict the dreadful effects of the disease, and the worst that can happen is death. As a result, the family has learned that there is a chance he will pass away. That's what they noticed in him. Stan can be described as a man who will not give up, who will deal with challenges with humor and jokes. Stan found it difficult to show and personify himself since he knew the process would drain and deplete his vitality. He didn't want people to judge him because of his diagnosis. He still wanted people to think of him as a happy, witty guy who is unafraid to face challenges.

The page is decorated with numerous red leaves of various sizes and orientations, scattered across the background. The leaves are stylized with visible veins and are positioned around the central text block.

COVID was also an essential factor; it changed the way people looked at cancer because patients with cancer have a higher risk of severe COVID-19. During this time, the family's and Stan's perspectives on how to deal with and understand this process evolved dramatically. The instant the family learned of Stan's cancer, they were filled with unanswered concerns and the terror of losing him to a disease that is still incurable. Having this diagnosis is frightening enough, but then having to worry about contracting this other horrifying and terrifying illness that is sweeping the globe is even more terrifying. Not being able to see anyone and having to quarantine even more than everyone else was a challenge for everyone. Fearing that you or anybody else in the house may introduce a horrible virus into the house that will not only target the family but also Stan spatially. So the family decided to send the kids to France with their extended family so that Stan and Anne (the wife) could stay in California and the kids could spend the summer with their Antes and Uncles. Throughout the summer of 2020, the family was terrified of infection, both for Stan and for the rest of the family who would have to return, as well as the anxiety of giving COVID to someone who was so vulnerable. That dread that if something goes wrong, it will be your fault and you will be held accountable for your father and loved one's deaths.

“You have to  
remember,  
we are all valuable.  
Anything can  
happen to us,  
cancer can mean,  
I work so hard.”

# HISTORY

“I’ve seen what  
death from  
cancer is and  
how painful it  
is for  
everyone”





*Mother and kids*



*mother son wedding photo*



*single shot*



*family & kids photo*

“My  
mother  
had  
cancer, so  
I believed  
that I had  
to do  
everything  
I could  
to stay  
healthy.”

This isn't the first time Stan has had to face cancer.

His mother was diagnosed with cancer at a very young age when Stan was a teenager. As a child, he did not understand exactly how hard it was for his mother and what she had to go through with the struggles of the chemo.

The fatigue, the loss of hair, and the pain wracked her body. He saw his mother every day get weaker and weaker day by day. He saw the person that gave him life lose herself in this sickness. There were days when it was really hard for not only her but for our family to see her completely drained out and then there were better days but the better days started to get rare throughout the end of her journey.

Stan had to face this

horrible ending of his mother's life with this sickness the thought that he had the same diagnosis as his mother not only scared end cell but he got scared for his family he was scared for his children that there was a chance they could feel what he felt as a child when he lost his mother. Stan was scared for Anne, disturbed by the thought that there was maybe a chance she had to continue this journey alone and raise three children without a husband. Even though the doctors told him they caught cancer early at stage 2 testimonial cancer, his mind wandered in places he never thought he had to think of.

This journey they had to go through completely changed the way he saw his teenage years with his mother.

To see and feel and understand what his mother had to go through, to now be in his mother's place and see his children and his wife go get him in a way they've never seen him, a man that is getting weaker and weaker by the day because of a diagnosis he did not expect to come this early in his life. he started talking to family and friends and talking to them about his mother people that knew her. he started opening up to more people to get as much support as he could get.

Those couple of months were not only draining on his body but also in his mind. his mind started going back in the past looking back on his life remembering moments she completely forgot as a teenager. The many days he was quarantined due to covid made it time for him to focus on himself and look into the future to see what he can do for his family.









F

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A life-changing incident like this can alter how someone thinks, acts, and learns. These events will have a significant impact on someone's life without them even recognizing it. The future is something you can't influence, and no one can predict what will happen, since you can shape your own destiny by just living day by day and making the decisions you want to make. You never know what will happen, but you can influence how your future unfolds as the days pass. This diagnosis has taught not only

Stan, but everyone close to him, how things can change in an instant, and that no matter what you do, something can always go wrong, and all you can do is keep living, loving, and caring... Fortunately, Stan's adventure did not end badly, but it should serve as a reminder to everyone that their health is extremely important, and that anything might jeopardize it, as well as their mindset and way of life. Cancer, for example, can cause you to reconsider your entire life, what you will change, and what you will have to do to enhance your life. Assist your family by demonstrating the best approach to keep safe.



From the perspective of someone who has spent the most time in Stan's life, there are more things to view in his life. Anne, Stan's wife and mother of three of their children, Mahaut, Ines, and Louise, has known Stan since they were both in school and they have been through many adventures together, both great and life-changing to the scariest things anyone can go through. They've been each other's shoulder to cry on, someone they can completely trust, and someone who will always be there for them when they need it. This procedure has presented them with a new challenge in their lives, one that will require hope and courage on both of their parts to remain supportive and cheerful during difficult times.

This has been one of the most difficult times in Stan's life, one that he never imagined he'd have to go through, and having someone by your side through it all is great. Anne had seen Stan in moments of terror and hopelessness before, but never as much as during the chemo procedure. Anne could never imagine what he was going through. It was depressing and difficult to watch the signs of optimism vanishing from his physique.

She wanted to help as much as she could, but nothing could make the pain and exhaustion of chemo treatment go away.

During this time, she tried to cheer him up by taking him on

walks to the beach, looking at nature, and eating out of the open doors. It's something he enjoys doing. Being outside, feeling the breeze on his skin, and having his brain and body free of pressure and tension. Hearing the water and the waves move with the breeze, hearing the birds fly through the air, and trees flowing side by side. This sensation of being unaffected by failure.

Anne could also see how, if he was depressed or attempting to show others that he was okay, he used laughing and jokes to do so; he has always liked to make people laugh and feel good. Never allowing his concerns to affect the enjoyment of others. This is a character trait that not only his family, but everyone who knows him can notice.

People think of Stan as a lively, adventurous, happy guy who isn't scared to do new things, but most importantly, he is upbeat and always strives to make others smile.

That personality was his savior at that time. He was aware of the dangers and challenges posed by Kemo, but he didn't want Chemo to take over his personality; instead, he wanted to see this as yet another challenge to overcome, which he did.



*family photo*

*wedding photo*



*family photo*



*starting chemo*

# CONCLUSION



*family & friends photo*



*In their 20s*



*2003: just got married*



*2004: one year before first child*

Going through something that you never thought you thought you had to go through is very hard to understand and be ok with. Something as big as cancer can truly change your life for better and for worse. People might not see cancer as a good thing but when someone goes through cancer it changes them, the way they think, the way they believe in things. Family is something that you can never replace, no matter what happens they will always be there, not like friends of relationships, family not only loves and cares for you but they are also your blood they will be there through hard as well as good times, that is a gift that people do not realize at first but the power family has. Especially when one of your family members goes through something really hard to go through, that is when your family is very important, having them by your side, support you and helping you in times of need.







# W O R K

de Boisset, Stan. 20 March 2022.

- Personal Interview.

de Boisset, Anne. 25 March 2022.

- Personal Interview.

# C I T E D



Mahaut has had a love for art for a long time. Freestyle Academy has given her a chance to show her art in a creative way. Mahaut has been painting and creating art from a very young age and has progressed through the years, she inspires to study in the design department, Her dream is to become an interior designer and expand her creative mind.

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



She loves her family very much and loves the times she spends with them, which is why she wrote about her father's journey as a cancer survivor.



