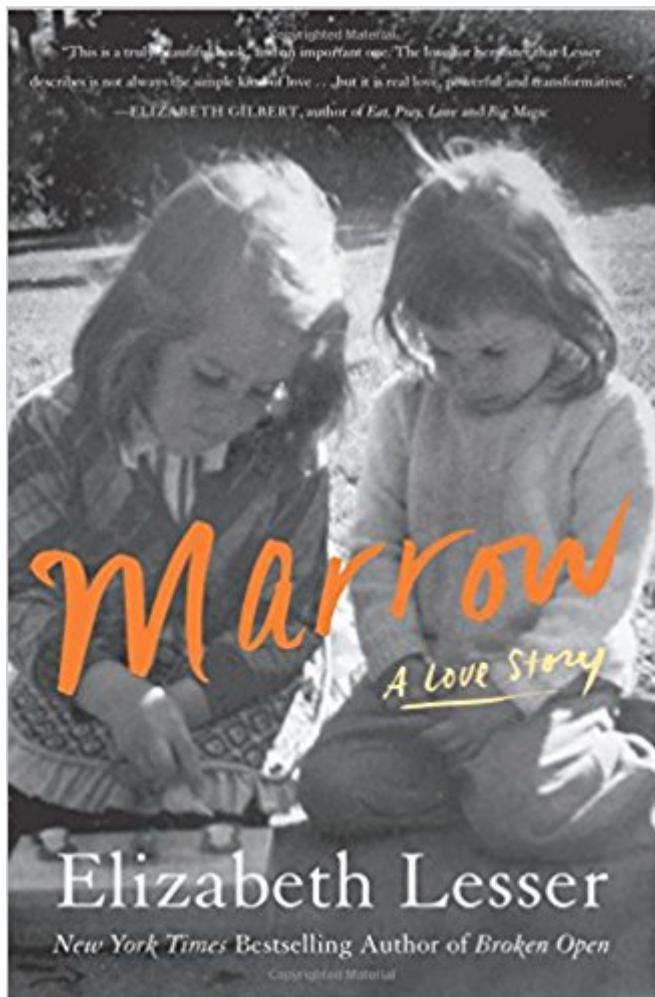


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# Marrow: A Love Story



## Synopsis

The author of the New York Times bestseller *Broken Open* returns with a visceral and profound memoir of two sisters who, in the face of a bone marrow transplant—“one the donor and one the recipient”—begin a quest for acceptance, authenticity, and most of all, love. A mesmerizing and courageous memoir: the story of two sisters uncovering the depth of their love through the life-and-death experience of a bone marrow transplant. Throughout her life, Elizabeth Lesser has sought understanding about what it means to be true to oneself and, at the same time, truly connected to the ones we love. But when her sister Maggie needs a bone marrow transplant to save her life, and Lesser learns that she is the perfect match, she faces a far more immediate and complex question about what it really means to love—“honestly, generously, and authentically.” Hoping to give Maggie the best chance possible for a successful transplant, the sisters dig deep into the marrow of their relationship to clear a path to unconditional acceptance. They leave the bone marrow transplant up to the doctors, but take on what Lesser calls a “soul marrow transplant,” examining their family history, having difficult conversations, examining old assumptions, and offering forgiveness until all that is left is love for each other’s true selves. Their process—“before, during, and after the transplant”—encourages them to take risks of authenticity in other aspects their lives. But life does not follow the storylines we plan for it. Maggie’s body is ultimately too weak to fight the relentless illness. As she and Lesser prepare for the inevitable, they grow ever closer as their shared blood cells become a symbol of the enduring bond they share. Told with suspense and humor, *Marrow* is joyous and heartbreak, incandescent and profound. The story reveals how even our most difficult experiences can offer unexpected spiritual growth. Reflecting on the multifaceted nature of love—“love of other, love of self, love of the world”—*Marrow* is an unflinching and beautiful memoir about getting to the very center of ourselves.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When I finally closed the cover of this book, I found I had taken a journey through a life I never expected to be privy to. No, it wasn't sister Maggie's life, but rather the inner soul and sanctum of Elizabeth Lesser's. My ulterior motive was to learn about the fierce love my own sister has for me, the love I suspected the Lesser sisters had for one another. I so wanted to know about Maggie from beginning to end, her life and the life that was taken from her so soon by mantle cell lymphoma. I wanted a glimpse into the spirit behind those beautiful eyes that peered into the camera as she played her fiddle, the ones that darted around as she danced in celebration of life. Admittedly I was disappointed because a glimpse is all I had of Maggie. I felt I really didn't get to know her and wanted to, yet her strong spirit was evident. There are some diary-like entries written by Maggie that let me know how she felt, yet somehow they felt somewhat reserved.

âœSuddenly,â • Elizabeth explains âœit feels daunting to drill deep into my relationship with my sister than to have my bone marrow extracted.â • This relationship was somehow alluded to, but not really explored, least ways from Maggie's point of view. Perhaps in time I'll return to the pages of this book when I'm ready to take to heart the lessons Lesser has to impart about life, about love. They were deep, powerful, and strong. The ones I felt the strongest about were snippets from Maggie. She wanted those extra thirty years she was robbed of and, most importantly of all, she learned to âœlive while leaving.â • The lessons in this book aren't for those who literally are living while leaving, but for those who need to learn to live more fully in the here and now.

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