

PRESS RELEASE

**NON-FICTION BOOK PUBLISHED ON LOVE, LOSS AND GRATITUDE**

*Leaving the Life: A True Story of Love, Loss and Gratitude* by Patrick McKenna Lynch Smith was published in 2013 by Chimalis LLC. This memoir is a brutally honest exploration of love, pain, faith, loss and survival.

*Leaving the Life* chronicles the tragic circumstances of Patrick and Claudia, as they are forced to make terrible choices in response to a shocking diagnosis. In the midst of grief, the author touches the cheek of madness, but manages to escape the embrace. There is an unexpected happy ending that not even the author saw coming. Smith said, "While, in the end, it was an honor and a privilege to have this experience, I hope to never have another one like it. I wrote the book to save my life. I hope it will move, touch and inspire others."

*Leaving the Life* is available on the author's website [www.patrickmlsmith.com](http://www.patrickmlsmith.com), through libraries and bookstores, and also on Amazon.com. (Available in paperback: ISBN 978-0-9890086-9-3, 398 pages, \$10.95 and as an eBook, eISBN 978-0-9890086-8-6, \$5.99)

The book is ideal for:

- Anyone who wants to see what it is really like when life as you know it unravels.
- The millions of people whose lives have been affected by serious illness, especially the caregivers.
- Anyone who has experienced loss, including widows and widowers in search of a story they can relate to.
- Friends and family trying to understand what caregivers and the bereft experience.
- Medical professionals, such as doctors, nurses, hospice workers, clergy, social workers and counselors.

The author lives in northeastern Connecticut. He graduated from the University of Colorado with a B.S. in Anthropology. In between writing, he has worked as a commercial fisherman and in the building trades.

Smith served as a guest lecturer at Laurelynn Martin's "Write Your Life" seminars, was selected for a scholarship for the prestigious Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, and has written marketing copy. The author is available for speaking engagements, book readings and signings. Smith is currently working on a novel.

## What readers have said about Leaving the Life:

"It was heart wrenching, beautiful, inspiring and humbling. I marveled at your deep thoughtfulness and use of the English language.... It was a captivating, tragic story, yet you were able to connect with the reader in a deep, profound, life-affirming way...." ~ Laurelynn Martin, author of *Searching for Home*

"The book hooked me from the introduction.... It reads like a novel – and in some ways I wish it were fiction as then these events would not actually have happened...." ~ Beth Schwaner

"I couldn't put it down. I felt like I was watching a train wreck, and was emotionally drained at times, but I loved reading about your life together and how you handled the horror of it all." ~ Karen Chapuis

Brilliant! It read like a thriller. I was moved and inspired. ~ Reva Seybolt, Hands-on Healer

"I don't have words to express my gratitude, my awe, not only for what you have lived through, but the elegant humanity of your writing. You take us with you into the dark terror of a living hell.... I was moved to tears." ~ Lisa Davidson

I have never before read a book where I knew the ending but was so immersed in the journey toward the final page that I lost perspective of time. ...I felt like a reluctant voyeur witnessing his inner pain at loss and his struggle to live. His honesty makes this a healing journey for the reader as well, as it is a book about life and love. ...I will recommend this book to everyone.... ~ Dr. A Coyle, Clinical Psychologist

Powerful and Honest: Leaving the Life is one of the most poignant books that I have read, a transparent rendering of the author's own experiences during his wife's illness and death. We journey with Patrick and Claudia through the medical and family and community systems as they face and fight her cancer together. I have already recommended this book to a person who is grieving the death of his wife, but I equally recommend it to any who are interested in the human response to death and loss, and the journey through grief to hope.~ Jonathan S, Chaplain (Bereavement counselor)

"The best and most original book I've read in a long time." ~ Larry E. Zimmerman, novelist, author of the Amston Lake mystery series

# Leaving the Life



*A true story of love, loss and gratitude*

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Patrick McKenna Lynch Smith

