

# Shadows

## Introduction

Before I was diagnosed in October 2010 with invasive lobular carcinoma (one of several forms of breast cancer) I knew precious little about the subject. Quite frankly, I think I always felt if I got too close, understood too much, the demon would come to get me.

Certainly I have noticed women with wigs, hats and scarves adorning their heads and realized they must be going through chemotherapy or radiation or both.

I've watched pink clad parades of walkers making their way around the city sidewalks and "got it" that they were attempting to raise money to find a breast cancer cure.

But I didn't have the slightest insight into how complicated the process of trying to fight breast cancer would be. I didn't have the tools behind me to be able to make informed decisions without a real struggle. My due diligence had to be performed on the fly, sometimes having to just accept the luck of the draw.

As a single person, I had no "one" partner, no "one" friend to help advocate for me and there is no "one" medical advisor, no "one" pamphlet or booklet that can provide a simple overview of what is on the horizon. Notwithstanding that, a person facing this test will be given gads of complicated sounding, "pathologically-verbalized" reading material.

Shadows, is simply written and very straightforward. It covers the gamut of what to expect and how best to navigate through the medical labyrinth that a patient will be facing. It removes "complicated" from terminology and does it all by telling a very personal story. Mine.

Whether you are struggling with this disease personally or are associated with someone who is, Shadows will help you understand the road ahead.

Let me be your advocate. My name is Gio (pronounced Jo) Iannotti and I'm bound and determined to be a survivor.