

Hampton's honesty, courage, and humor are the fuel for this candid journey as she looks at difficult issues like family dynamics, physical appearance, sexual attractiveness, and dealing with one's own mortality. A valuable resource at the end of the book offers practical guidance in typically taboo subjects such as preparing for the possibility of death. In this book, nothing is hidden, nothing is glossed over.

Early reviews of *Slapped Awake* have been enthusiastic, being compared by one reviewer to Raymond Carver's *A New Path to the Waterfall*, Jean Bauby's *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, and Reynolds Price's *A Whole New Life*. Kathy LaTour, Editor-at-Large for *CURE* magazine wrote, "There aren't many manuscripts that capture me the way *Slapped Awake* did. Debbi Hampton's writing style and willingness to look at tough issues of living with metastatic breast cancer while growing a family made for compelling reading."

Deborah Hampton has worked as an editor of a national children's magazine, a medical and science writer and editor, and writer of fiction and non-fiction for children and youth. Her work has appeared in *CURE* magazine, *The Piedmont Literary Review*, *World Order* magazine, *Brilliant Star*, and *Child's Way*. She is currently working on a collection of essays with a working title of *With Death on My Shoulder*. Her career has also included work as a philanthropy professional in the non-profit sector, musician and vocalist, and registered nurse. She and her family live in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Slapped Awake” Offers New Insights into Breast Cancer

Slapped Awake, a powerful new book chronicling one woman’s ongoing fight with breast cancer, has been called a welcome addition to literature dealing with transformation in the face of life-changing, life-threatening circumstances. This compelling memoir, subtitled *Living with Breast Cancer: A Journey in Poetry and Prose*, was released in April by Chattanooga author Deborah Lang Hampton.

When diagnosed with breast cancer in her early 40's, Hampton found herself confronted not only with medical and treatment decisions, but larger issues about what it means to be a woman, to be fully alive, and to make sense of suffering. The persistence of her disease for more than a dozen years, including its spread to other parts of her body, has forced her to create a life that includes cancer as a partner and potent teacher.

In a departure from the typical memoir, Hampton weaves her original poetry, as well as the poetry of ancient Sufi mystic Jalaluddin Rumi, with deftly crafted prose not only to tell her story, but to offer a map into the “enemy territory” of cancer. She looks cancer square in the eye, offers no compromises, and sets an example for others on how to meet this life-changing challenge head on.