

Crazy, sexy... cancer?

It's quite the feat to laugh in the face of a deadly disease, but that's what Kris Carr—the woman behind the new documentary *Crazy Sexy Cancer*—does every day. She sat down for some soul-searching and black humor with *Glamour* staffer and leukemia patient Erin Zammett Ruddy.



My coolest, craziest cancer pal, Kris Carr, left

In 2001 Erin Zammett Ruddy, now 29, was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), a cancer that until recently proved fatal for many patients. For five years, she's chronicled her experiences in these pages. Now she's in remission, very pregnant and eager to give props to a woman who keeps her going.

As you read this, I may have already had my baby; the little guy is due to arrive any day now! I could easily fill this column with all the ups and downs of my last trimester. The ups: Number one, my cancer miraculously hasn't returned, even though I've been off Gleevec—the drug that put me into remission—for seven months. I also loved my pre-parenthood “babymoon” in the Bahamas, the guiltless ice-cream eating and nightly foot rubs from my husband, Nick. The downs: stretch marks, heartburn, people telling me I look like I'm “ready to pop.”

But enough about me. There's someone I really want you to meet: Kris Carr, one of my favorite fellow cancer survivors, whose autobiographical documentary, *Crazy Sexy Cancer*, airs August 29 on The Learning Channel. We met three years ago through Kris' cousin Suzanne, *Glamour's* photo director. Kris, who's 36, has epithelioid hemangiioendothelioma (EHE), an extremely rare vascu-

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lar cancer that's invaded her lungs and liver. Like my cancer, hers struck out of the blue: Four years ago she was coming out of a yoga class and felt a searing pain in her side. Unlike me, though, there is no proven treatment or cure for Kris. And doctors can't say how long she has to live.

Kris' disease is slow moving, but she wasn't going to wait around for the worst. She went looking for a cancer specialist, and told everyone she was treating it as if she were hiring someone for a Fortune 500 company—“Save My Ass Technologies, Inc.,” she called it. Can you see why I love her? She also sold her apartment in New York City and hit the road to educate herself on alternative healing. As she traveled the country and met with nutritionists, researchers and spiritual gurus, Kris, a photographer and former actress (she's done Budweiser Super Bowl spots), documented everything with her video camera. She also interviewed other cancer patients she met along the way, which is how I got to be in the film along with my sister, Melissa, who is still in remission from Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Now Kris has finished her movie *and* a book, *Crazy Sexy Cancer Tips* (a nitty-gritty guide to facing cancer head-on—Sheryl Crow wrote the foreword!), so she had plenty of time to catch up with me. *(continued on page 287)*