

“Cancer made my life better”



You've followed Erin Zammett's leukemia diary in *Glamour*—now her new book chronicles her intense, intimate journey.

“NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU PLAN, things aren't going to go the way you pictured them,” says Erin Zammett, 27, a *Glamour* editor who was diagnosed with a deadly cancer, chronic myelogenous leukemia, in 2001. “The good thing is, sometimes they turn out even better.” Example number one: While undergoing treatment with the then-new drug Gleevec, Zammett started keeping a diary in *Glamour*, which moved millions of readers. Now she's turned her insights into a book, *My (So-Called) Normal Life: How I Learned to Balance Love, Work, Family, Friends...and Cancer at 23*, due out this month. Example number two: Cancer took the edge off her driving perfectionism. “I used to want to be amazing, special and fabulous,” she says. “Now I'm happy just to *be*.” She and her family, including sister Melissa, 29, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2003, have raised \$70,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; Zammett also serves on the board of the G&P Foundation for Cancer Research, cofounded by songwriter Denise Rich, who lost her daughter to leukemia in 1996. “Erin shows young people they *can* survive this,” says Rich. Now in complete remission, Zammett is planning a July wedding to her fiancé, Nick Ruddy. She says with all sincerity, “My life with cancer is better than my life was without it.” —REBECCA WEBBER



A cancer diagnosis at 23 inspired her to help others.