



Life's That Way: A Memoir

By Jim Beaver

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A remarkable memoir that shows the capacity of the human heart to heal after the challenge of having to say goodbye.

Even the hardest lessons contain great gifts.

Jim Beaver and his wife Cecily Adams appeared to have it all—following years of fertility treatments, they were finally parents and they were building their dream home and successful Hollywood careers. Life was good. But then their daughter, Maddie, was diagnosed as autistic. Weeks later, Cecily, a non-smoker, was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer. Sadly, after 14 years of marriage, Jim became a widower and a single dad.

Faced with overwhelming grief, Jim reached out to family and friends by writing a nightly email—a habit he established when Cecily was first diagnosed. Initially a cathartic exercise for Jim, the prose became an unforgettable journey for his readers. *Life's That Way* is a compilation of those profound, compelling emails.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Beaver, an actor, playwright and film historian, collects a series of riveting, heartfelt e-mails chronicling the courageous cancer battle of his beloved wife, Cecily, from her diagnosis of lung cancer to her death in little over a year. Unafraid to examine their life together and his acting career as a performer on two popular TV dramas, the role of Ellsworth on *Deadwood* and Bobby Singer on *Supernatural*, he kept family and friends informed with his nightly online messages of Cecily's deteriorating status and the bittersweet childhood of their autistic daughter, Maddie. The revealing e-mails depict the somber travail of Beaver on the horrific death watch of his wife, and detail the roller-coaster ride of emotion from hoping for a speedy halt to the disease's onslaught to experiencing the dark abyss of loss. After the death of his father during this time, he writes: This year of writing has freed me from the shackles I don't know I could have borne otherwise. While this cancer memoir often chills the reader to the core with pain and frustration, it offers countless reasons to cheer Beaver as a remarkable man, a loving husband and a responsible single parent. (Apr.)

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Review

"Jim Beaver, the laconic character actor best known as the appealing prospector, aEllsworth, a on "Deadwood" has written a compassionate, funny, searing, and ultimately transcending memoir chronicling a year of tragedy, grief, and survival that would send the strongest of men, even an ex-marine and West Texas preacheras son, to their knees. As Jim puts it, aIam no Job a though I think we went to the same school.a That his story is so compulsively readable, inspiring, and ultimately hopeful is due entirely to Jimas bracing honesty, dry humor, and deeply felt humanity. Read this book, tell your friends about it, and then go hug your loved ones.a

a Robert Schenkan, Pulitzer Prize winner for "The Kentucky Cycle,"

aTo have known and read this man over these years, reveals to me I knew nothing of what love could and should be.a

aEdward Asner

aWhen this journal first appeared, I learned to keep a jumbo-size box of tissues at the ready. You will crya and laughaas Jim unwraps his unvarnished heart and soul. It will evoke memories of everyone who ever touched your heart and remind you to talk from your heart to the people who mean something to you.a

aRussell Friedman, coauthor of "The Grief Recovery

Handbook" and "When Children Grieve" "Jim Beaver, the laconic character actor best known as the appealing prospector, aEllsworth, a on "Deadwood" has written a compassionate, funny, searing, and ultimately transcending memoir chronicling a year of tragedy, grief, and survival that would send the strongest of men, even an ex-marine and West Texas preacheras son, to their knees. As Jim puts it, aIam no Job a though I think we went to the same school.a That his story is so compulsively readable, inspiring, and ultimately hopeful is due entirely to Jimas bracing honesty, dry humor, and deeply felt humanity. Read this book, tell your friends about it, and then go hug your loved ones.a

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About the Author

Jim Beaver is a writer and actor who recently starred as Ellsworth on HBO's Emmy Award-winning series

Deadwood. He played simultaneous roles on the hit shows *Supernatural*, *Big Love*, and *John from Cincinnati*. He will next be appearing on *Harper's Island*, a new show to air on CBS in 2009. Beaver is also a nationally recognized playwright and stage actor, writing and acting in award-winning productions. A Vietnam vet and a native of Laramie, Wyoming, Beaver was married to Cecily Adams (daughter of Don Adams) from 1989 until her death in 2004.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Phyllis Kelly:

The publication with title *Life's That Way: A Memoir* contains a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This specific book exist new understanding the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to you to know how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you in new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

Sarah Ford:

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