



The Body Broken: A Memoir

Lynne Greenberg

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In the tradition of William Styron's tour de force *Darkness Visible*, *The Body Broken* is a gorgeously told and intensely moving account of one woman's extraordinary odyssey into a life of chronic pain—and of the unyielding resilience of the human spirit.

At age nineteen, Lynne Greenberg narrowly survived a devastating car crash. When her broken neck healed—or so everyone thought—her recovery was hailed as a medical miracle and she returned to normal life. Years later, she seemed to have it all: a loving husband, two wonderful children, a peaceful home, and a richly satisfying job as a tenured poetry professor. Then, one morning, this blissful façade shattered—the pain in her neck returned in the most vicious way. A life with physical agony ensued.

Greenberg realized that she had been living for years on borrowed time. As she and her family navigated an increasingly complicated web of doctors and specialists, Greenberg taught herself to fight her own battles—against a medical system ill-equipped to handle patients with chronic pain, and against the emotional pitfalls of a newly restricted life. Drawing on her family's support, her own indomitable spirit, and an intense connection to the poetry she taught, Greenberg found the strength to return to a productive and satisfying—if irrevocably changed—life. This deeply personal saga takes us to the heart of a family's struggle to survive a crisis, and shows us how, at the most profound levels, such an odyssey affects a patient's marriage, the ability to parent, family, work, and friendships.

The Body Broken is a powerful, lyrical story of one woman's remarkable determination and breathtaking courage, as she puts mind over matter in the struggle to reclaim her life.

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