

Praise for *Come Back Early Today*

“In the world of Alzheimer's memoirs, a rarity--not, strictly speaking, a "happy ending," but a different tale from the usual bleak, grinding, downward spiral into unalloyed misery. Edward Theodoru, magnificent Roumanian gentleman, scholar, adventurer and lover extraordinaire, not quite like anyone else you've ever known, did life his way. And when Alzheimer's came along, he did it his way, too. Marie Marley tells the epic story of their decades-long association--which itself defies description--with humor, honesty, detail, and great love.”

- Eleanor Cooney, author of *Death in Slow Motion: A Memoir of a Daughter, Her Mother, and the Beast Called Alzheimer's*

“*Come Back Early Today* is the bitter-sweet love story of one couple's journey through the fires of Alzheimer's. But it's so much bigger than that. Ed and Marie's story reflects the heartbeat of love, the steady pulse of commitment, and the slow trickle of Alzheimer's. In this gem of a memoir, I remembered my parent's marriage, reflected on my own, and fell in love with two people I've never met. As we learn of Ed's transformation—from a vibrant intellectual—to a tender and confused man dealing with the devastations of this ravaging disease, we follow their journey. From the day-to-day frustrations of dealing with the medical community and all that caregivers face, to the intimate moments shared in the dark, *Come Back Early Today* teaches us how to live—and ultimately—how to die.”

- Carol O'Dell, Author of *Mothering Mother: A Daughter's Humorous and Heartbreaking Memoir*, Family Advisor for Caring.com

“Marie writes so poignantly of caregiving for her soulmate and life partner, Ed. Despite his cognitive and functional decline, Marie was able to maintain the essence of her beloved friend...Her story is a lesson for all who take on the caregiving role.”

- Clarissa Rentz, APRN, Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati

“Here's a memoir that lights up dementia with humor, with compassion, with a loving eye. The story is inherently fascinating: how a woman starts a romance with a man 38 years older, how they become the deepest friends, and how she looks after him when, in his nineties, Alzheimer's overwhelms him. It's not an easy story—but like a gathering storm, you can't look away from it. Marley has written a powerful, detailed, often lyrical book about love, and where it leads us.”

- John Thorndike, Author of *The Last of His Mind: A Year in the Shadow of Alzheimer's*

“I could feel the pain and the joy. I laughed and cried reading this book, which clearly expresses the pain and torment a loved one goes through as they lose someone they love to Alzheimer's disease. This book captures the subtle, daily disease progression all too often missed, ignored, or misinterpreted by families. Marie shares the experience of making the decision and moving a loved one to a facility in a real and loving way. Her story will allow families to learn from the experience of another--what does and does not matter to a person with dementia.”

- Susan Gilster, Executive Director, Alois Alzheimer Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

“A unique Alzheimer's story, passionately told. Vivid scenes of the chaos dementia brings. Then we see this transformed, and concluded with insight and grace.”

- Ann Davidson, author of *Alzheimer's: A Love Story* and *A Curious Kind of Widow*

“I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Marley while she was caring for Ed. Even after his death, her resilience and humor have continued and she is open to the lessons he taught her. I feel grateful that she has shared her story, which will inspire other caregivers and helping professionals to also be open to learning from individuals with Alzheimer’s disease.”

- [Irene Moore, MSW, Chair, American Geriatric Society Social Work Section](#)

“This memoir is admirable – a wonderful story, so beautifully written and so alive with Marie’s love for Ed and his for her. Reading this book on the fading of life in one so close resonated with me deeply. So many of Marie’s personal qualities emerged as she provided unstinting care for Ed based on the long love she describes that continued to the end and beyond, and which not even dementia could extinguish.”

- [Robert Smith, MD, Professor Emeritus and Founder, Department of Family Medicine, University of Cincinnati](#)