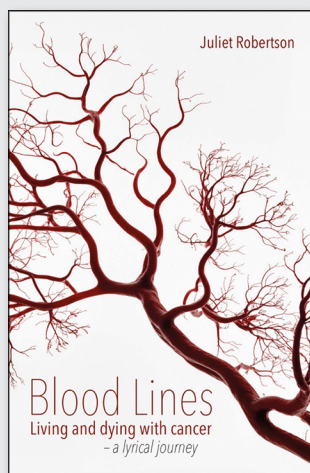


P R E S S R E L E A S E

"Blood Lines is a handbook for living and dying well, delivered with grace, fortitude and humour".

– Sue Burge, Writer and Mentor.



Blood Lines

Living and dying with cancer - a lyrical journey

By Juliet Robertson

ISBN: 9781781354322

Price: £14.99

Published by: Crown House Publishing

Date of publication: June 2025

A poignant collection of poetry exploring Juliet Robertson's experience living with terminal cancer, filled with courage, humour and unwavering hope.

When my blood became ink, words began to flow: **Charity poetry collection for living and dying well**

In December 2020, Juliet Robertson received an unexpected and devastating diagnosis of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), an aggressive blood cancer. Her first round of chemotherapy began promptly on New Year's Day 2021. Remarkably, Juliet has long outlived her original prognosis of a few months, but despite periods of remission, she is now receiving supportive care for her terminal prognosis.

Courageously navigating chemotherapy and hospital visits, Juliet discovered an unexpected source of strength: poetry.

Dipping in and out of poetry anthologies given to her by friends inspired her to compose her own poetry as a way to make sense of her illness, treatment and prognosis. "It provided the cognitive stimulation I needed and a cathartic release for processing my thoughts and feelings about having cancer," reflects Juliet. She discovered that through sharing her poems she was empowered to have necessary, but not easy, conversations with family and friends.

Juliet's debut poetry collection, *Blood Lines: Living and dying with cancer – a lyrical journey* is a poignant, heartwarming and vulnerable exploration of her journey through the various stages of living with AML. Juliet's resilience and positivity are evident throughout, providing a shining example of how to live with adversity.

A mix of heartache and hope, this collection is filled with an array of different poetic forms that balance humour with honesty. Juliet intertwines notes, poems and striking imagery to craft a deeply layered narrative.

This book boldly confronts taboo subjects, delving into the medical intricacies of illness and the concept of death with unflinching courage. It opens up difficult conversations on living with cancer, which will resonate with and, hopefully be of comfort to those who have personally received a diagnosis, as well as their family and friends.

Juliet will be donating her royalties to Maggie's, a charity that provides free expert cancer care and support in centres across the UK and online.

"Robertson does a beautiful job of sharing her experience while embraced in the unenviable task of coming to terms with her own mortality. A gift of wisdom, straight from the heart of the wound."

**– Dr Lisa Cherry, Trauma Informed Consultancy Services and author of
*Conversations That Make a Difference to Children and Young People***

P R E S S R E L E A S E

About the author



Prior to her diagnosis, **Juliet Robertson** was an education consultant specialising in outdoor learning and play and the author of two popular books, *Dirty Teaching* and *Messy Maths*. She has been an Independent Thinking Associate since 2011, delivering inspiring training days and workshops on outdoor learning in schools across the UK. In 2024 she was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Education from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh in recognition of her pioneering work and significant contribution to education.

She has written updates on her health journey which can be read here: <https://www.caringbridge.org>

She expands upon her poetry here: <https://julietrobertson.substack.com/>

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Articles and interviews available

Juliet is available for interview, expert comment or by-lined articles on a range of topics, such as:

- When life doesn't stop: the reality of managing a prolonged terminal prognosis.
- Finding a creative outlet for living life with cancer.
- When your "new normal" isn't normal or new.
- When "Sadmin" becomes "Gladmin" – the relief of getting everything in order.
- Do I really want a living funeral?

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