

Download Our Cancer Year

Our Cancer Year is a nonfiction graphic novel written by Harvey Pekar and Joyce Brabner and illustrated by Frank Stack. Published in 1994 by Four Walls Eight Windows, Our Cancer Year (an offshoot of the cult favorite comic book series American Splendor) relates the story of Pekar's harrowing yet successful treatment struggle to overcome lymphoma, as well as serving as a social commentary on events of that year.

Upon this reading of Our Cancer Year, I noticed that dairy figured prominently among mentioned foods in the book. Most readers of this review will view this paragraph as more quack than quirk, but I invite serious-minded researchers to check out PubMed for "IGF-1" (found in cow's milk) and "neoplasms," for instance. This book was written before rBGH was introduced into cows, which has resulted in even higher levels of the IGF-1 hormone in our diet.

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Our Cancer Year portrays the diagnosis and treatment of Harvey Pekar's lymphoma against a backdrop of domestic upheaval and the momentous political and social events of the first gulf war.

The year is 1990; a lump in the groin which Harvey had ignored has enlarged and his wife convinces him to have it checked out. It turns out to be a lymphoma and thus begins the yearlong chronicle.

Harvey Pekar, jazz critic and author of the autobiographical comic series American Splendor (the basis of a 2003 film of the same name), died in July this year.

Overall, we see that the majority of cancer deaths occur in those over 50 years old; 46 percent of cancer deaths in people aged 70+ years old, closely followed by 41 percent aged between 50 and 69. The distribution of deaths across the age spectrum has changed notably since 1990; the share of deaths which occur in those aged over 70 has increased by 8 percentage points, whilst the share in ...

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