

3 Jan. '15--I begin this year as I ended last year, fighting pain and mostly losing. 9:30 AM and this is my first attempt at anything useful, having spent the morn in an easy chair with both legs propped up. Meanwhile the back pain is severe enough--

2 PM that it forced me ~~xx~~ to quit this. I've taken morphine 45 min. ago to see if it will lessen the pain, (am already starting to go a little woozy with it), while the 2nd nearly violent pain I've been trying to deal with, in the right leg, feels like it's there waiting.

So while I have so much to be thankful for--starting with Carol, who does whatever is the feminine of yeoman's work; she's just ~~x~~ in from cleaning the driveway gutter drain, a snotty job I've always done--I'm really torn apart by these 2 pains. This is Sat., and Mon. morn I will bombard all 3 doctors ~~xx~~ with emails seeking help.

9 Jan. I am witnessing true love. Carol has done every chore brought on by my afflictions without complaint. ~~Thanks~~ heavens the morning finally came, maybe on the 5th or 6th, after I'd been a woozy pain-ridden wreck the day before, when she took her first look at me in the morning and said, "You look better!" And I said, "You look better because I look better."

"Better" is relative, ~~xx~~ as I still have back pain even if it has lessened, and the right leg is an achy concern. Have just experimented with soaking the foot and applying as much ~~mint~~ hot-water washrag as I could to the leg, ~~then~~ then rubbing in VapoRub (I'm in old pajama bottoms). But I am better, as everyone tells ~~me~~ and tells ~~me~~, and I have to start working on becoming as normal as possible and not merely perfecting the "cripple" maneuvers that I can see are a trap.

Y'day was good to us. Liz called, "loving" the ~~ms~~ as they do in NY. Her office emailed the S&S royalty ~~my~~ statements which showed we have \$11,000+ coming, the ebook boost past the usual ~~\$2,000~~ \$2,000 or so the past years. And Carol learned plenty about her New Kindle, how to fetch email on it even.

12 Jan.--Blessed news from Chen: both the protein and light chains decreased, in the latest monthly blood test. That means his strategy of increasing the Cytoxan along with Pomalyst worked. Now to see what he has up his sleeve on the 14th when I tell him I feel I can't tolerate any more neuropathy, according to this painful right leg and some finger stiffness.

16 Jan.--This goddamn back is treacherous, not too bad y'day when I drove myself to the barber and similarly got a lot of things done. Today there's a stabbing pain on ~~the~~ the righthand side. Appmt w/ the back doc Andersen on Tues., and I hope he sees some way to get me ~~put~~ out of being this crippled creature I've become.

I've slogged at finances the past couple of weeks, and finished with that today by taking a \$12,000 gain in my Roth IRA stocks. Oddly, that account is the one where we've made chunks of money. with this and the Amazon \$17,000 gain.

On another medical front, Chen has me ~~maxi~~ using more gabapentin to tame the legs neuropathy, and we'll have another phone talk next Wed. about the next step in cancer treatment.

Feb. 2--With luck, I may be liberated from this ungodly back pain ~~in~~ on Fri. the 6th, when I undergo a vertebroplasty to shoot cement into my lumbar fractures. It will be something like 15 weeks of this pain by then, not helped by the probable neuropathy in my right leg.

Despite the pain, I persevered on Becky's ~~extensive~~ editing of the ms and added my own, and it's packaged up to go to NY tomorrow. Also, largely thru Carol's work, we have Mark Wessel appraising our archive, preliminary to selling it to a library.

From: carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>
Subject: **Re: the bad news and the good news**
Date: January 23, 2015 7:57:17 AM PST
To: "Saletan, Rebecca" <rsaletan@penguinrandomhouse.com>



I shall try to keep up my faith that the phantom manuscript will materialize encrolled in penciled perfection.

He who serves that only sits and waits, heh heh--
Ivan

On Jan 23, 2015, at 7:40 AM, Saletan, Rebecca wrote:

Well the bad news is I got greedy last night and figured I'd drop the ms at the FedEx near my house, which would give me time to enclose another couple of chapters I was finishing up on. I know their timing so well I knew just when to leave my house to make the last pickup – or so I thought. Turns out I use FedEx so rarely these days that I had missed the fact that they'd moved up their last pickup by an hour as of last March. So I'm so sorry but no package today. The good news is, I look to be on track to finish the whole thing today, so you'll have it all tomorrow (Saturday) morning. Then I'll get you the revised catalogue thingie – er, thinger.

Apologies,
B

Rebecca Saletan
Editorial Director
Riverhead Books
Penguin USA
375 Hudson Street, 4th floor
New York, NY 10014-3658
t 212 366 2908
f 212 366 2922
www.penguin.com

Feb. 7--At last, I have no back pain. Dr. Maxin's vertebroplasty, putting a cement into the 3 fractures, did the trick miraculously. More anon, when I have more energy.

8 Feb.--So the nightmare of back pain is over, after nearly 3 months. Now I have a different set of pains, shorter-lived I hope, across the chest, the strain I did in exercising with 3# bsr bells and aggravated by 2 hours face down during the vertebroplasty. Dr. Maxin was terrific in every respect, explaining the procedure to us beforehand and then checking me afterward. A wild card thrown into this is that my blood test showed a ~~hematocrit of 18~~ hematocrit reading of 18, and 20 is the danger level. They contacted Chen, and he ordered a transfusion of 3 units. Again, it was a slow ordeal, with nearly a 4-hour wait until the blood arrived, and then the transfusions went on until 1:15 AM..

I simply stayed in the recuperation unit the rest of the night and C picked me up as soon as it opened.

Our ~~few~~ friends have been great thru all of this. Tony & Lee and the Laskins have brought meals, David Williams & Marjorie will do so tomorrow night, Linda & Syd here to be fed the next night, then Patricia Britton of Book-It brings something. Their concern is really heart-moving.

18 Feb.--This damnable but spring-has-sprung winter goes on, Sharon of Grp Health homecare just ~~left~~ left, leaving me with another set of exercises. She and I agree I'm doing well, but I think there are still 2-3 weeks before I'll really be walking, to whatever mod and extent.

Meanwhile Chen furloughs me week by week, and remarkably, my blood readings haven't moved significantly, the serum protein actually declining a bit. But before long he's going to have to put me on a new regimen of carfilomide infusion along with Remalyst and Cytosan, and that may be hellish.

Dex

Feb, 27--Another "whew" day as Dr. Chen's quickly ordered X-ray of myescapular area ~~stx~~ "looks fine." i.e. no pain myeloma. He doesn't know what the hell is causing the below the shoulder blade, and told me to see a clinic doctor, which we're doing tomorrow with the only appointment we could get, unfortunately not with our stalwart Dr. Kato.

So, on we go, trying to get an answer to the mystery pain, and then will come the day that Chen "re-introduces" the cancer medications.

Note

The February 27 entry was Ivan's last. After that, his health went downhill at every turn. Spontaneously broken ribs, three on the right side, and some weeks later three on the left, produced extreme pain. Edema, and the neuropathy in his right leg worsened, so that he had to keep the leg elevated.

The new regimen of cancer treatment, with a cocktail of drugs, failed to stop the myeloma, and it impaired the kidneys. No more could be done, and he came home with hospice care. Friends visited regularly and on April 9, 2015, he died quietly in his sleep, after 10 days in his own room, looking out over the Sound and the Olympics.

Eight days before our 50th anniversary. The love of my life.

Carol Daig