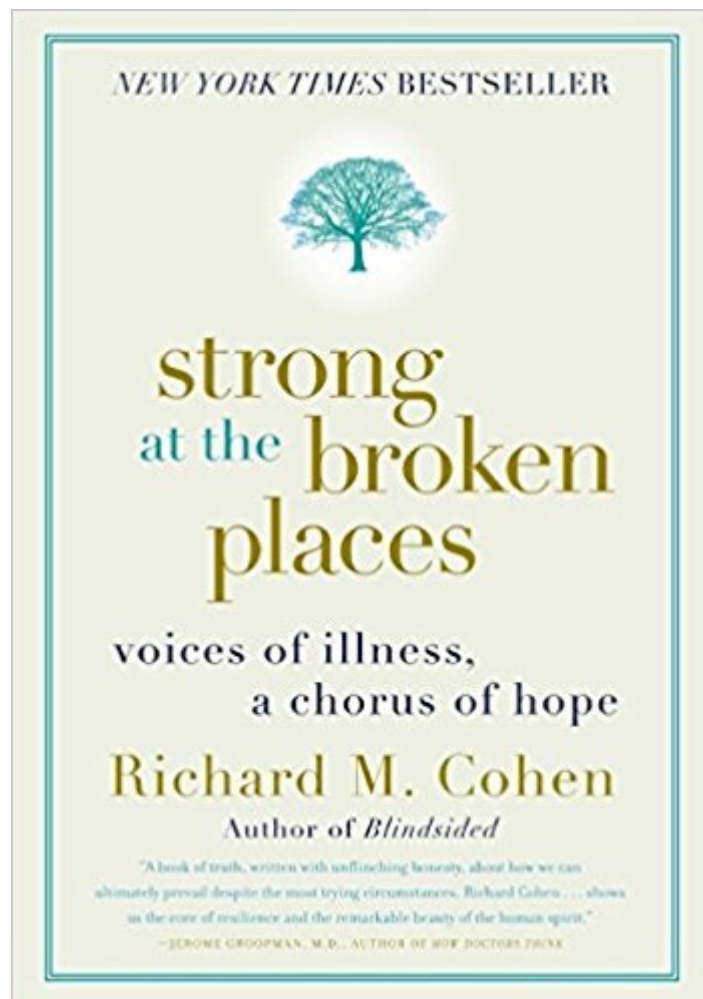




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# Strong At The Broken Places: Voices Of Illness, A Chorus Of Hope



## Synopsis

The bestselling author of *Blindsided*, Richard M. Cohen spent three years chronicling the lives of five diverse "citizens of sickness": Denise, who suffers from ALS; Buzz, whose Christian faith helps him deal with his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; Sarah, a determined young woman with Crohn's disease; Ben, a college student with muscular dystrophy; and Larry, whose bipolar disorder is hidden within. Differing in age and gender, race and economic status, all five are determined to live life on their own terms. In *Strong at the Broken Places*, Cohen shares these inspirational and revealing stories, which offer lessons for us all—on self-determination, on courage in the face of adversity and public ignorance, on keeping hope alive. We are all strong at the broken places—stronger than we think.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Extraordinary." (Larry King, *Larry King Live*) "Career journalist Cohen doesn't flinch from probing for truth about relationships, money, fear, and death. One only hopes that, with their group presentation to a class of Harvard medical students, these five taught young medicos as much as they could teach Cohen and, through him, us." (Booklist) "The strength of these profiles derives from Cohen's focus on chronic illnesses that, as he notes, are not 'sexy' and generally 'do not resolve themselves'....these are stories dense with quotidian details." (Washington Post) "This unusual book gives a voice to the voiceless--the chronically disabled who, in our

health-conscious society, are defined by their disease....In this advocacy book, written like a personal journal, Cohen tells their stories....Strong at the Broken Places ends on a note of hope. — (Providence Journal)

Richard M. Cohen's distinguished career in journalism earned him numerous awards, including three Emmys and a George Foster Peabody Award. He lives outside New York City with his wife, Meredith Vieira, and their three children.

Great read for anyone with a chronic disease. Always need to know there's someone else like yourself.

This book gives you a snapshot into the lives of 5 chronically ill people. It's encouraging but I also caught myself sighing & saying 'wow' when learning what these people do daily to keep on keeping on. I'm sure it's an eye opener for people who have never had the experience of anyone close to them dealing with a serious illness. I have MS myself but still learned so much from this book. Something for everyone. Richard Cohen spent a lot of time developing relationships with the individuals & also got to know their families. Mr. Cohen deals with chronic illness himself. Maybe that's why he has the ability to draw out honest responses & give a heartfelt look into the lives of these 5 exceptional people. Heroes in my book.

This is an excellent follow up to Richard Cohen's first book, which focused on his diagnosis of MS and then Cancer. Strong at the Broken Places follows five individuals' stories, interviewing them and their family members with sincere interest in both learning from them and in sharing with readers what was learned. Perseverance, courage, faith ... all of these shone brightly in each story, along with the sobering colors of realism. Cohen also hosts a website where people with chronic illnesses can share thoughts and questions with each other. The URL is [...], and I recommend it to anyone who has read or is interested in previewing these five stories.

A wonderful insight into a terrible illness!

Richard Cohen's personal experience as a journalist, and with the challenges presented by chronic illness, gives this book extraordinary credibility. As he interviews five people, each with a different illness, we view their unique struggles, sources of strength, and the effect on their relationships with

family, friends, and strangers. It is an enlightening and fascinating read, especially for those who have, or know someone who has, a chronic condition like cancer, ALS, muscular dystrophy, Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, or mental illness. The concluding meeting of the five interviewees is a testament to the strength that empathy and hope can bring to the human spirit.

This book was required reading for a family development class which focused on the family and disabilities. This book is a heartfelt read. It is easy to get through and the print is large. I would recommend this book for professionals seeking to understand the impact of disability on the family, or anyone interested in furthering their own understanding of the topic.

I loved the way Robert painted a picture of each person in the book and their individual struggles as well as the commonalities. The only thing that I didn't like was in my own struggle, this made me depressed at times. My story was a little too close for the 'comfort zone'.

A fantastic - sad but true, book. I think anyone who suffers from any form of chronic illness will get comfort from this book and be able to relate to it on many levels. Everyone who enjoys the luxury of good health should be forced to read it. It raises important topics about certain illnesses and coping strategies, but tends to focus (too much) on religion for my liking. It's a brave and noble piece of work, well worth the price of admission.

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