



BOTH SIDES OF THE SHEETS

Annie Armitage

Annie Armitage was a successful career nurse, with a dedication to quality nursing and care as taught during her rigorous training in the 1960s. Taking her skills, Annie eventually worked as a consultant to the Department of Health, advising on the quality of nursing care in the NHS.

However Annie had been diagnosed with Lupus, an illness that effects over 50 000 people in the UK; is more common than Leukemia, yet is virtually unheard of by the wider population. Lupus usually causes great pain, serious organ damage and is potentially fatal. At 26, Annie was given 5 years to live – she fought to look after her two young children while dealing with the insidious illness.

As Annie became increasingly ill, she was able to reflect on her changed situation as a patient not a nurse. During the time she was in hospital under treatment she started to wonder how the standard of nursing had slipped so drastically since her own training. Her experiences as a Lupus sufferer – and previously as a nurse – have given her first-hand experience of the quality of care experienced in NHS hospitals.

Annie's observations and knowledge make this essential reading – not just for those suffering from Lupus, but also for anyone concerned about standards of nursing and care in hospitals, as well as those experiencing long-term incurable illness

PUBLISHED 01 Nov 2010

£8.99

ISBN 9781848764866

Distributor: ★Orca Book Services. Tel: 01235 465521. Email: tradeorders@orcabookservices.co.uk

BIC subject category : VFJB – Coping with illness and MCQH - Nurse/Patient Relationship

Paperback 344PP 216x138 mm Portrait

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