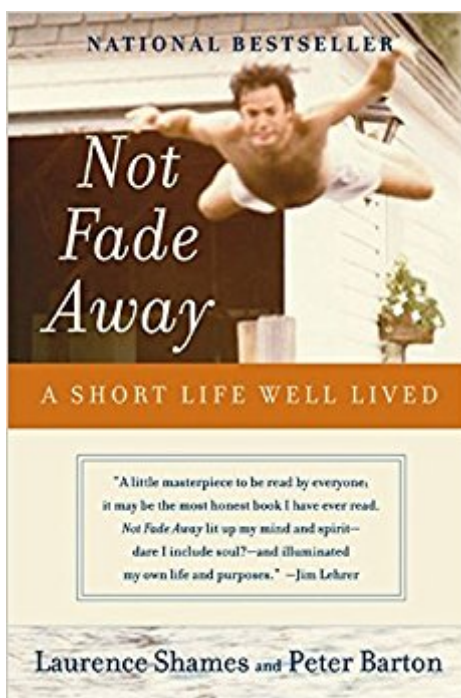


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# Not Fade Away: A Short Life Well Lived



## Synopsis

Some people are born to lead and destined to teach by the example of living life to the fullest, and facing death with uncommon honesty and courage. Peter Barton was that kind of person. Driven by the ideals that sparked a generation, he became an overachieving Everyman, a risk-taker who showed others what was possible. Then, in the prime of his life—hugely successful, happily married, and the father of three children—Peter faced the greatest of all challenges.

Diagnosed with cancer, he began a journey that was not only frightening and appalling but also full of wonder and discovery. With unflinching candor and even surprising humor, *Not Fade Away* finds meaning and solace in Peter's confrontation with mortality. Celebrating life as it dares to stare down death, Peter's story addresses universal hopes and fears, and redefines the quietly heroic tasks of seeking clarity in the midst of pain, of breaking through to personal faith, and of achieving peace after bold and sincere questioning.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I'm hardly the first person to notice that there is only the present, constantly," writes Barton in this extraordinary memoir. "The present moment is lived, and relieved; written, and rewritten. Every previous version still inhabits it." What gives this insight and the many others that follow uncommon power is the ever present fact that Barton, a pioneering entrepreneur in the cable television industry, was dying of stomach cancer as he wrote them. Alternating chapters with mystery writer Shames (*The Naked Detective*), Barton, who died in September, 2002, at 51, offers us—and his wife and three children—his final rewrite of a life filled with the optimism and idealism of his generation. Barton

tells us how it feels to die while the party is still raging, offering us glimpses of a life that packed in everything from being a professional ski bum to working as an aide to New York State governor Hugh Carey to huge success as a visionary businessman (Barton helped found MTV, among other achievements). Readers will be knocked out by his honesty and his utter lack of self-pity or sentimentality. The "gift" of terminal cancer, according to Barton, is that "it doesn't kill you all at once. It gives you time to set your house in order.... It gives you time to think, to sum things up." Setting his house in order included taking his family for a balloon ride at dawn. Summing up what matters, he reminds us that it is the large and small moments of pleasure and love, those very present moments, that redeem us in the end. This is a very beautiful book about how to live. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Peter Barton and Laurence Shames, the graceful writer he persuaded to help him tell this tale, have produced a worthy monument, a book about how to live, and how to die."--Ken Auletta "This is a wise, funny, and intensely true book--a generous gift from an amazing guy to those of us who are so busy getting through life that we sometimes forget why we're living. Sooner or later, we'll all make the journey Peter Barton took; now, thanks to him, it doesn't look so scary."--Dave Barry "A little masterpiece. . . a book to be read by everyone. . . . [It] may be the most honest book I have ever read. . . . Some of [the] phrases and sentences literally took my breath away. . . . [Not Fade Away] lit up my own mind and spirit--dare I include soul?--to consider my own life and purposes."--Jim Lehrer "You couldn't know Peter Barton and not know he would face dying in the most adventurous and original way. . . . This is a book full of insight and comfort, wisdom and hope."--Barry Diller --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I loved this book. It will remain a classic on my shelf and I will give it to friends who might be going through a difficult time at the end of their lives. Peter Barton was a fantastically successful man in the business world, amassing a fortune in his 30s through investments in Cable TV during its early years. Yet money for its own sake was never his main motivation. His father had died suddenly of a heart attack leaving him with his mother and two siblings at an early age. He did all he could to take care of himself and pack as much passion into every year of his life as he could from an early age. He married and had three children. He became a very devoted family man who cherished his family life. The biggest irony was he found out he had stomach cancer in his 40s. As he became less well he decided to allow Laurence Shames into his life to co author a memoir of his last months. He

wanted his family to remember his thoughts and accomplishments, his advice, the risks he took, his successes, but also some dangerous or perhaps not so well thought times in his youth too. He was so open, so unguarded, such an admirable person. It was a privilege to get to know this man, and he chose the perfect co author. Laurence Shames helped fashion a beautiful memoir.

This is a great book. I bought it to read when a friend of mine was suffering with cancer, along with a book by Father Jim Willig, "Lessons from the School of Suffering." Both helped me better understand what my friend was going through. Peter Barton was, most obviously, a tremendously charismatic character with a zest for life. The author does a masterful job of telling Peter's story, not dwelling too heavily on anything irrelevant so as to portray a clear vision of the man in the mind's eye of the reader. We follow Peter from childhood through his successes and eventual brilliant career with Liberty Media to his heartbreaking experience with stomach cancer, a devastating disease that befell him in the prime of his life. After reading Mr. Shames' book, I wished I could have met Peter Barton. "What a guy, what a tragedy," I thought. I found a video interview with Peter on the Internet, made during his time at Liberty Media, and I could see the magic Shames portrayed in words. He appeared to be every bit the energetic, charismatic entrepreneur with a love for life and a smile that could melt snow or sell you ocean-front property in Boise, Idaho. "So long, Peter," or should I say, "So short, Peter?" You shall not fade away. Easy reading and a well-told story. I highly recommend this book.

I loved this book. I am very much a type A driven personality. This book made an incredibly impact on my life by poignantly reminding me to focus on what is important. Peter Barton's reflections are heartwarming and moving and are easily transferable to the reader's life. I highly recommend this book to anyone and everyone. Especially those driven people in our lives who are always focused on the future or the next great accomplishment.

This is a great book on life, the purpose of life, and why you should live life with a sense of urgency. You will not be able to put this book down and you will cry at some point as you read it. It is very good. Read it and then GO LIVE!

Loved this book. Totally candid first hand account of a full life cut short - stories, lessons, reflections of one unique man's final days in his own words. This book will have you smiling, laughing, and in tears. A great read.

What a wonderful book. I lost my father to cancer rather quickly. He was from the old school of not talking about what he was thinking in regards to his treatment or feelings. This book gave me comfort in knowing that he was scared, but possibly had accepted some of his journey. The book brought on tears of comfort helping me, my brother and sister know what he was thinking. "no one ever got hurt flying"

It was an OK read. A few philosophical lessons sprinkled throughout. Mundane and repetitive at times with respect to his love for his family.

Moving, thought-provoking...a challenge to all of us to live life to the fullest and to recognize how precious it is. Laurence Shames went from a professional relationship as a co-writer with Peter Barton, to a personal relationship with a friend who faced death with optimism and a smile. Read it! You won't think about death--or life--the same way again.

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