* **David's Cancer Diagnosis:** In December 2023, shortly after they hosted a housewarming party and took a holiday trip to Baltimore, David was diagnosed with aggressive Stage 4 metastatic melanoma that spread to his lungs, liver, and brain. The book includes a firsthand medical account written by David detailing his emergency room visits, immunotherapy, and CyberKnife radiation treatments.

6. Dual Tragedies, Legal Battles, and Moving Forward (2025–2026)

* **Brother's Sudden Death & Probate Dispute:** In July 2025, Malik's beloved brother Nauman died unexpectedly in California. Because Malik's health prevented him from flying, he attended the funeral via Zoom. Shortly after, a bitter family rift erupted when Malik's niece and her attorney attempted to file Nauman's estate as *intestate* (claiming no will existed), despite Nauman having left two wills. Malik hired a California probate attorney to defend his brother's wishes, resulting in his sister and niece cutting off all contact with him. A life insurance payout from Transamerica eventually provided Malik with financial breathing room.

* **David's Passing:** Simultaneously, David's cancer worsened in late 2025, requiring frequent 911 calls and hospital stays where Malik served as his primary caregiver. Unable to manage David's care alone as their lease ended, David returned to West Virginia with his father and passed away in hospice in October 2025.

* **Resilience into 2025:** Malik moved into his own apartment, invested in self-care (including completing Invisalign treatment in 2026), and continued attending D.C.-area LGBTQ socials. He closes the memoir reflecting on his ongoing health management with the motto: *"recovered but not cured."*

***The Search for the Trust (Late 2025): The author's power of attorney (Karina) located their late brother Nauman's 2018 Trust, but a California attorney named Serry refused to release it without a court order. A court order eventually revealed that Rajiv Chadha (a tax accountant friend) was named as the Trustee.

***Court Battles and Delays (Early to Mid-2026): Rajiv delayed taking official action and wanted the news published in newspapers, while another person (Seher) unsuccessfully tried to become the executor. In April 2026, Rajiv was officially named executor and

trustee, but probate was further delayed while he waited for a state bond and official letters of administration.

***Communication Breakdown: Once Rajiv officially took over, he stopped communicating directly with the author and their sibling (the only two beneficiaries), instead referring them to his hourly-paid attorney, Courtney.

***Frustration Over Questions (Late 2026): In October 2026, the beneficiaries received confusing questions from Rajiv's attorney about Nauman's properties, mortgages, and debts—information the beneficiaries felt the Trustee should already know or easily find through tax returns and credit bureaus.

***Current Concerns: With probate just getting underway and formal asset transfers months away, the beneficiaries are left feeling ignored, stressed about their financial future, and doubtful of Rajiv's responsiveness.