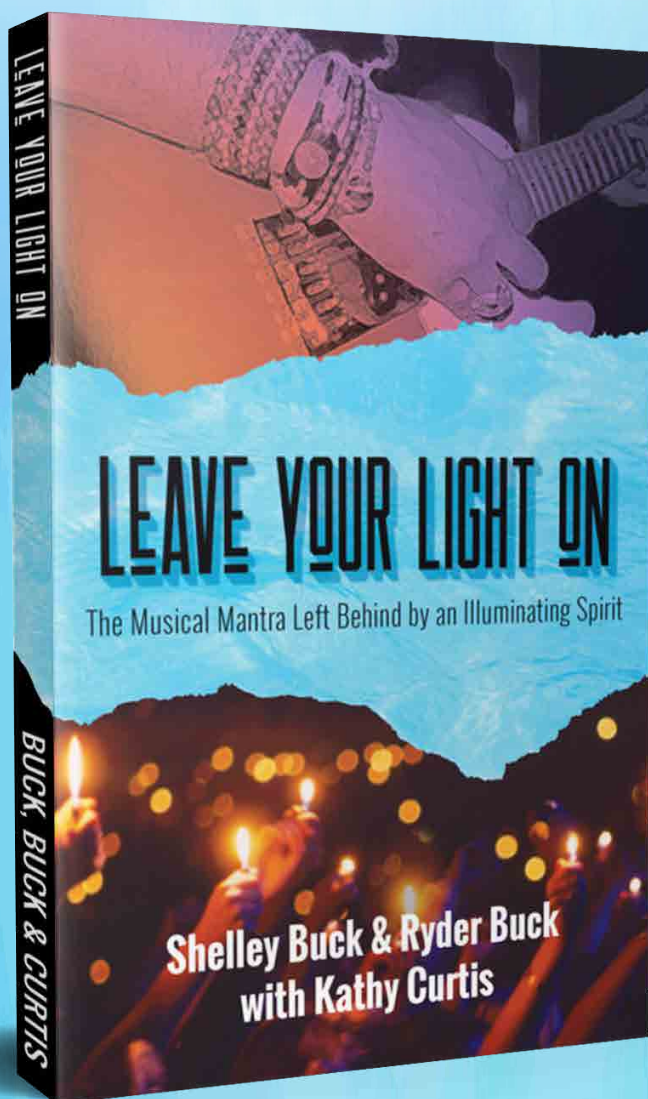


MEDIA KIT



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“Leave Your Light On is a truly inspirational tale of love and loss, extraordinary happiness and profound sadness. It’s the story of Ryder Buck, who filled the world he lived in every day of his life and left his family and friends with a lasting energy and spirit that will never be doused.”

- BOB IGER, CEO THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

TITLE

LEAVE YOUR LIGHT ON

The Musical Mantra Left Behind
by an Illuminating Spirit

AUTHORS

SHELLEY BUCK & RYDER BUCK
WITH KATHY CURTIS

 Website: LeaveYourLightOnBook.com

 Facebook: Shelley Buck

 Facebook: Ryder Buck

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 Instagram: @shelraebuck

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE



MEMOIR



PARENTING



CANCER



INSPIRATION

SAMPLE TOPICS

Talk to Shelley Buck and Kathy Curtis about the Buck family's journey with Ryder's cancer, parenting, relationships, dealing with grief, what it means to leave a light on for our loved ones.

Sample Q&A:

- What does it mean to "Leave Your Light On?"
- Tell a little bit about Ryder's story.
- What did you learn from Ryder and his battle with cancer?
- How did your relationship with Ryder change as he went through cancer treatments?
- Ryder kept chasing his dreams to be a musician even during his treatments. Why was it so important for him to play while going through something like cancer?
- How has your family changed in the years since he passed?
- Grief takes so many forms. How have you learned to deal with the grief of losing your child?
- You've credited Ryder as co-author for the book. What were his contributions?
- What is the Ryder Buck Scholarship Foundation?
- What do you hope someone reading the book can take from it?

ABOUT THE BOOK

TITLE: Leave Your Light On: The Musical Mantra Left Behind by an Illuminating Spirit

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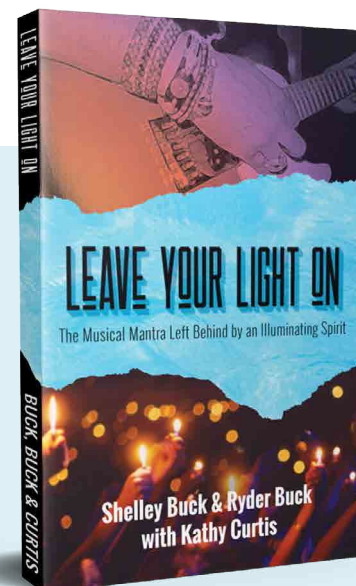
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"After seven rounds of chemo, I lost my hair, but not my love of livin' life ..."

Singer and songwriter Ryder Buck was a young man with an unstoppable dream to lift people up through his music. But a threatening cancer diagnosis showed that life had other plans. While the disease should have beaten him, Ryder rose above it all to live from a place of passion. Then fate stepped in.

"Leave Your Light On," is the song Ryder wrote that became his mantra. In this uplifting and powerful story, meet an unforgettable character determined to accept his own quirks and flaws with humor. You'll see a parent-child relationship tested by unrelenting disease. And you'll get a guide for shining your light, no matter what life or death throws your way.

Though it wasn't cancer that took Ryder, it was the catalyst that helped him grow into the shining spirit he became. His journey of love, courage, and truth will convince you that there is no challenge big enough to keep you from putting your special touch on the world...if you simply leave your light on.

AVAILABLE FROM



"Leave Your Light On is a beautiful and heartbreaking journey that highlights the lessons we learn from profound loss. Shelley and Ryder teach us that despite the weight of life's most tragic circumstance, wisdom, perspective and humor always find a way to rise to the top. "

- KRISTEN BELL, ACTRESS

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

"No matter when you encounter Shelley Buck, it is impossible not to be somehow transformed. Her raw willingness to trust, share and guide is all evidenced in this new memoir, where she recounts the unforgettable journey of love, struggle, loss and discovery, led by her son, Ryder."

- THOMAS SCHUMACHER, PRODUCER OF THE TONY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL, THE LION KING , PRESIDENT WALT DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

SHELLEY BUCK

Shelley Buck was born into a creative family in the Midwest and moved to California after college to follow her dream of working for Disney. It was there she met and fell in love with her husband, Chris, who worked in animation. After they married and had their first child, Ryder, she stayed home to be a full-time mom to him and the two brothers who followed.



She is a storyteller and artist, which she expresses through her original jewelry at ShelRae Designs. When Ryder was diagnosed with cancer and the journey went to unimaginable places, she poured her heart into writing their story. Her lessons in parenting through these tribulations, combined with the power of Ryder's larger-than-life spirit, offer profound messages for living in the light.

KATHY CURTIS

Kathy Curtis moved into Shelley's neighborhood when they were both 12 years old and an instant, lifelong friendship took root. She has worked as a healing artist and writer since 1991. Her programs support the transformation of grief, illness, and emotional barriers through creative expression. She is the author of Invisible Ink, a memoir about her own journey through grief. The unique writing process that brought her so much healing has since become a successful program, online and at various venues in the Midwest.



Kathy's intimate connection to the Buck family, combined with her writing and healing background, made her the perfect person to partner with Shelley on the creation of this book.



RYDER BUCK

Ryder Buck lived a short but charmed life on the west coast, where he practiced yoga, fell in and out of love, and formed an indie band, Ryder Buck & the Breakers, that made waves all across the LA area. After a 9-month battle with cancer, Ryder emerged disease-free and fearlessly followed his dreams of changing people's lives through his music. When tragedy met him on a dark highway, the light he had so fiercely protected throughout his life became limitless. His words and songs continue to carry that light forward. Ryder received the Flame of Hope Award (posthumously) from a local cancer facility where he and his band played for cancer survivors.



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BOOK EXCERPT

The light I'm about to share with you was earthbound, and now it's not.

It came to life at Ryder's birth in 1990, shone brightly, flickered, and sometimes singed my lashes. It found its fuel in fits and starts, but it never dimmed. In the middle of the darkest passage, it became inextinguishable.

Ryder was an entertaining and exasperating character. As he grew older, his sense of mischief grew. Followed by wisdom. Followed by more mischief. His life was charmed, and yet it took unexpected turns that devastated us both.

Through it all, there was this light.

He understood what that meant long before I did. In fact, only in hindsight could I fully grasp what he was trying to show me his entire life.

How can we find our own light in a life that constantly distracts us from ourselves? Do only certain people have that ability? What role does our inner light—or that of our children—play in how we make our lives count?

These are the questions that drove me to tell this story. I could sum it up for you, but perhaps it would sound cliché.

If I let Ryder show you, instead, it might be like one candle's flame lighting another. It might leave you feeling the warmth of your own light in a way you never have.

He would love that. And I don't think he'd mind that I've shared both his charms and his flaws, so you can see how human he was while shining the light that made such a difference in this world.

We are so conditioned to see people from the outside, as though their behaviors and personalities are all there is. But when we can see the light within ourselves and others, it changes everything.

That is what Ryder knew—that living from a place of passion and purpose fills us with light both here and into the beyond.

If you're going through your own challenges, maybe Ryder can inspire you to see your situation in a new light. That's what he did for everyone who knew him. That's what he did for me.

CANCER'S THUD

"I've got good news and bad news."

Life was humming along in the Buck household. Ryder was studying music at the Musicians Institute in Hollywood. Woody was studying musical theater in his sophomore year at the University of Michigan, fueling his dreams of performing on Broadway. Reed was a sophomore at La Canada High School, honing his own voice and acting chops in their excellent choir and theater programs. Chris was in his final year of production on FROZEN, his third and soon-to-be award-winning role directing animated films.

I had my fingers and heart in every detail of their lives as the hands-on wife and mother of this creatively driven family. I cherished my role of orchestrating our home life so they could be happy and successful. It fit me well. In between all the chaos, I was grateful for my jewelry design business into which I poured the extra love and creativity that I still had roaring through me after tending to their needs.

On this particular day, I was at Reed's high school painting graphics on a sports building. My phone rang in mid-brush stroke. It was Ryder, saying he had some good news and some bad news. Which did I want first?

"The bad news? OK, I have cancer."

"The good news? It's the kind that can be cured!"

"Wait! WHAT? Slow down. Where are you?!"

Ryder had developed a rash, which is what led him to see the doctor. During a routine exam, the doctor found some firmness in his testicle and did an immediate ultrasound. The ultrasound showed cancer, but as Ryder said, the prognosis looked good. He'd need surgery within a week to have the tumor removed, and then he'd find out about a treatment plan.

FROM THE BEGINNING

Ryder's surgery to remove the cancerous tumor was successfully completed one week after his diagnosis. While we waited to get opinions from oncologists and select which cancer center we'd go through, Ryder squeezed every last drop out of his days and nights, mostly away from home.

Though Ryder gave me little insight into these forays, I surmised from a sandy towel and a wet dog that he'd been to the beach. Since his guitar was always with him, I knew he was making music somewhere—either publicly on the streets of Pasadena, privately on a mountaintop, or with fellow students from Musician's Institute. One thing never wavered, though. He was never home to say "good night" or up early enough for a "good morning."

I found out months later that Reed had been terrified Ryder would die on the operating table. He lived with that fear alone, inside of him, which broke my heart. And this left me with the ache I would feel so often in the months ahead about just how limitless the depth of a mother's love is when faced with the unknown.

PRAISE FOR **LEAVE YOUR LIGHT ON**

"Leave Your Light On is one of the most honest, visceral, and inspiring books about love, loss, grief, and survival. There's no greater loss than that of a child, but Shelley Buck turns her loss into a gift for the world. She gives us the light of her son to carry with us as he inspires us to live our best lives."

- **JENNIFER LEE, CCO WALT DISNEY
FEATURE ANIMATION**

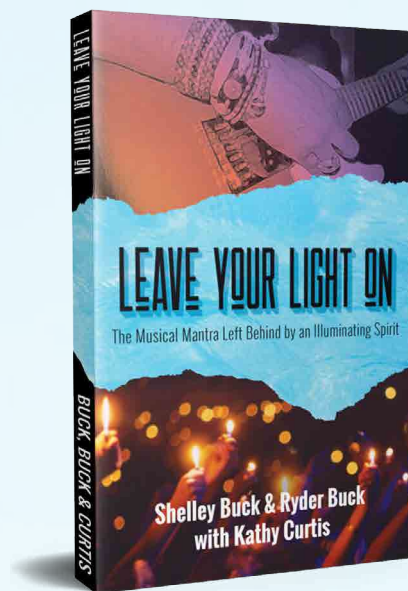
"This searingly honest memoir in all its sadness, tragedy, and humor unleashes powerful emotional forces and a profound understanding of loss, and the cost of loving unconditionally. By turns poetic and pragmatic, but always illuminating, as Shelley shares her story we become part of the family on the journey from denial to acceptance, from pain to a deeper understanding of the true meaning of love."

- **ALFRED MOLINA, ACTOR**

"A bittersweet and heart wrenching tale of a young man's journey into consciousness through physical hardship. It is a story that will inspire everyone to find the light in their own lives, and to cherish every day of the journey that leads them to it."

- **PETER SEGAL, DIRECTOR, TOMMY BOY, 50
FIRST DATES, GET SMART**

"Shelley's unfiltered realness made me laugh and cry in the same sentence, and reading Ryder's story makes me want to put down the sheet music and just JAM. Shelley's managed to show both the human and superhuman sides of herself AND Ryder. He is both a magical figure with an otherworldly poetic existence and an equally lovable



and aggravating human being. I am changed forever by hearing Ryder's story, I feel like I know him."

- **JONATHAN GROFF, TONY AWARD-
NOMINATED ACTOR FOR HAMILTON,
FROZEN 1 & 2**

"Take this journey with Shelley, Ryder and the courageous Buck family. You will come away forever changed. As I read the last page, I found myself infused with a kind of spiritual lightness and peace. It was as if Ryder, himself, had come and whispered in my ear, "Life is beautiful. Live it large and let it sing."

**KRISTEN ANDERSON-LOPEZ, OSCAR-
WINNING SONGWRITER, FROZEN 1 & 2,
COCO**

"This amazing memoir comes straight from a mother's heart. Ryder Buck's light has hardly dimmed. In fact, it shines brighter than ever. You could warm your hands on it."

- **CHRIS ERSKINE, AUTHOR/COLUMNIST**

"As a kid, I couldn't wait to grow up and be released from my parents' grip. As a parent, I cannot fathom letting go of my teenager. This book is undeniably relatable. It is a story about transition."

- **JAMIE S. ROBERTS, CASTING,
WALT DISNEY FEATURE ANIMATION**

"... a mother's wrenchingly honest and beautiful love letter, not only to the son whose spirit sings to her from the other side, but also to the two sons and her soul mate who remain with her here."

- **BRENDA CHAPMAN, WRITER/DIRECTOR**

"Shelley pays beautiful tribute to her boy; in so many ways it's the story of Apollo, the god of music, truth and healing, as seen through his mother Leto's loving eyes."

- **KEVIN LIMA, WRITER/DIRECTOR/
PRODUCER**

"A profound and emotional book that is both life-affirming and uplifting, it details the inspiring journey of Ryder Buck, a creative, charismatic, and courageous young man, who lived life to its fullest and did so on his own terms in the face of overwhelming odds. Shelley Buck gives a brutally honest account of her sometimes contentious (but always nurturing and loving) relationship with her proud and independent son who refused to ever give up. Ryder's music and spirit live on in this extraordinary book, and the reader will come away better for the experience, feeling as if they'd gotten to know a unique and giving individual whose shining light left a profound impact on the world."

**HOWARD GREEN, WALT DISNEY
PUBLICIST/ HISTORIAN**

PRAISE FOR LEAVE YOUR LIGHT ON

"I'll never forget the moment I encountered the light that emanated from Ryder Buck. He was strumming a guitar on top of a popular hiking trail. He asked if he could play a song for us, and we experienced a lovely moment of live music performed by a stranger. This book is a beautiful tribute to a beautiful soul. It is a story of courage, hope, determination and tenacity, of finding light in the mountains and valleys of grief and reserves of strength within. Anyone reading this book will feel the warmth that defined Ryder, and will be touched by the grace that he and his mother discovered in themselves and each other... an unforgettable read!"

- CATER LEE, BROADCAST JOURNALIST

"The light I'm about to share with you was earthbound, and now it's not' - Wow! Infectious and heartfelt, LEAVE YOUR LIGHT ON celebrates the extraordinary life of Ryder Buck and his passion for life, family and music. This unimaginable journey of a mother capturing her son's soul and spirit into a limited amount of words is remarkable. A true testament to the immense power of a mother's infinite love and devotion."

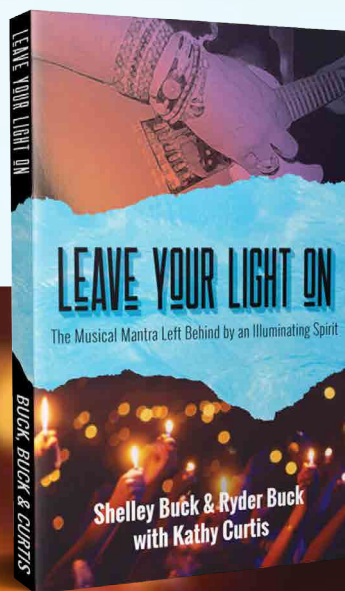
- PETE DONALDSON, LITERARY MANAGER

"To be close to the Buck family is to be forever warmed by their light. So, when the clouds block out the sun and the waves toss and the tide rips and you finally crawl your way to shore, come and sing a song of love, joy, peace, and hope with us around Ryder's fire...everyone is welcome."

- DR. WARREN BROWN

"A mother's celebration of a son she lost too soon and a deeply felt story of motherhood; a moving account of a son's search for health while trying to find who he was; and finally a quilt of memories of love between parents and children that lives beyond mortal lives."

- JOHN MUSKER, DIRECTOR, WALT DISNEY FEATURE ANIMATION, THE LITTLE MERMAID



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