

# BIOGRAPHY

## Labar Laskie

### Author of ABOVE THE DIN: Diary of the HepC Wonder Drugs

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Labar Laskie is an admitted Jill-of-all-trades. She has earned her living as a professional singer and songwriter, postal worker, human resource specialist, graphic artist, photographer, street artist, administrative assistant, personal assistant, bookkeeper, dog walker, and café barista. To name a few. She is relieved to be retired from all of it now and lives with her husband in Chicago. *Above the Din* is her first book. In it, she chronicles her 15-year journey from hepatitis C diagnosis to cure in 2014. Laskie did extensive research on the disease that almost claimed her – its causes, symptoms, treatments, and financial repercussions. Humor, illustrations, and personal anecdotes aside, if she was pursuing an advanced degree in hepC, *Above the Din* would be her thesis on the subject.

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## INTRODUCTION

I had been clean and sober for fifteen years when I learned that my liver was engulfed in chronic, active, degenerative liver disease - not due to my alcoholism. I was infected with the Hepatitis C virus.

At the time of my 1999 diagnosis, hepC was the new disease on the block and, if allowed to progress unchecked, amounted to a possible death sentence. Between 1999 and 2014, I tried every trick in the book - except the standard AMA-recommended treatment of ribarvirin + pegylated interferon (Chapter 13: "Combo Mombo") - to make sure that sorry outcome never happened. This diary documents my somewhat quixotic quest for self-cure. Perhaps my efforts kept me alive long enough to use the new wonder drugs; perhaps I just had a resilient immune system and lucked out. Who knows.

In any case, the irony didn't go unnoticed - that I had not had a drink in years and would probably die of liver disease. I was pissed as hell that I'd missed the party.