

“Not much intimidates you once you’ve been blown up,” quips bombing survivor Emily Lyons.

The photograph on the front flap of this book was taken about 6 weeks after the attack. Emily was blind, disfigured, unable to stand, looked to be 100 years old even though she was 41, and was in constant pain. She was also smiling.

Life’s Been a Blast is a poignant, first-person account of nurse Emily Lyons’s life before and after the January 29th, 1998 bombing of the clinic where she worked in Birmingham, Alabama.

Emily survived against all odds, though she sustained major injuries including the loss of her left eye. She has undergone 21 excruciatingly painful operations, with more in her future.

White supremacist, anti-gay, anti-abortion extremist Eric Robert Rudolph murdered Birmingham Police Officer Robert “Sande” Sanderson and critically injured Emily when he detonated a dynamite bomb by remote control.

Forensic evidence linked Eric to bombs at a family planning center and a gay bar in Atlanta, as well as the murder of Alice Hawthorne at the 1996 Olympics by the largest pipe bomb in history.

Two brave eyewitnesses identified Rudolph at the scene of the Birmingham bombing. And so began the most expensive and intensive manhunt on American soil, costing 30 million dollars and lasting more than five years. During his time in hiding, Eric had a one million dollar reward on his head and was on the FBI’s Top Ten most wanted.

To show support for the fugitive, Eric’s brother intentionally cut off his hand, proving there is way too much chlorine in that family’s gene pool!

In yet another of this story’s many twists and turns, Rudolph was dumpster-diving when rookie officer Jeff Postell captured the million dollar lottery ticket.

Even though imprisoned, Eric still endangered countless innocent people by leaving a bomb and 250 pounds of dynamite behind in North Carolina.

Rudolph ended his taunting letters to the media with “Death to the New World Order,” but was not nearly so brave when it was his turn to face death. Emily agreed not to seek the execution of her attacker in exchange for the location of the explosives.

The cowardly serial murderer was able to avoid execution, but will die in prison serving 4 consecutive life sentences without parole. His final days will be spent buried deep in an underground Colorado supermax prison along with the Unabomber and Oklahoma City’s Terry Nichols.

A gripping tale of one of the most highly publicized crimes in history, this is also a love story. Emily and her husband Jeff met in college, dated, broke up, married others, and finally realized they were meant to be together.

As Emily makes her way through disfigurement, horrible pain, and a life of limited vision, she is comforted by Jeff’s commitment to “For better or for worse, in sickness or in health.”

No matter which side of the abortion issue you are on, you will be inspired by this story of love and courage.

This memoir is about not just surviving, but surviving with a smile. Life knocks everybody down. What counts is how you stand up afterwards.

Emily Lyons is a survivor of domestic terrorism. *Life’s Been a Blast* signals a new beginning for Emily, now lecturing nationwide.

www.emilylyons.com



[See the Flaps link for other photos]

(Continued on back flap)