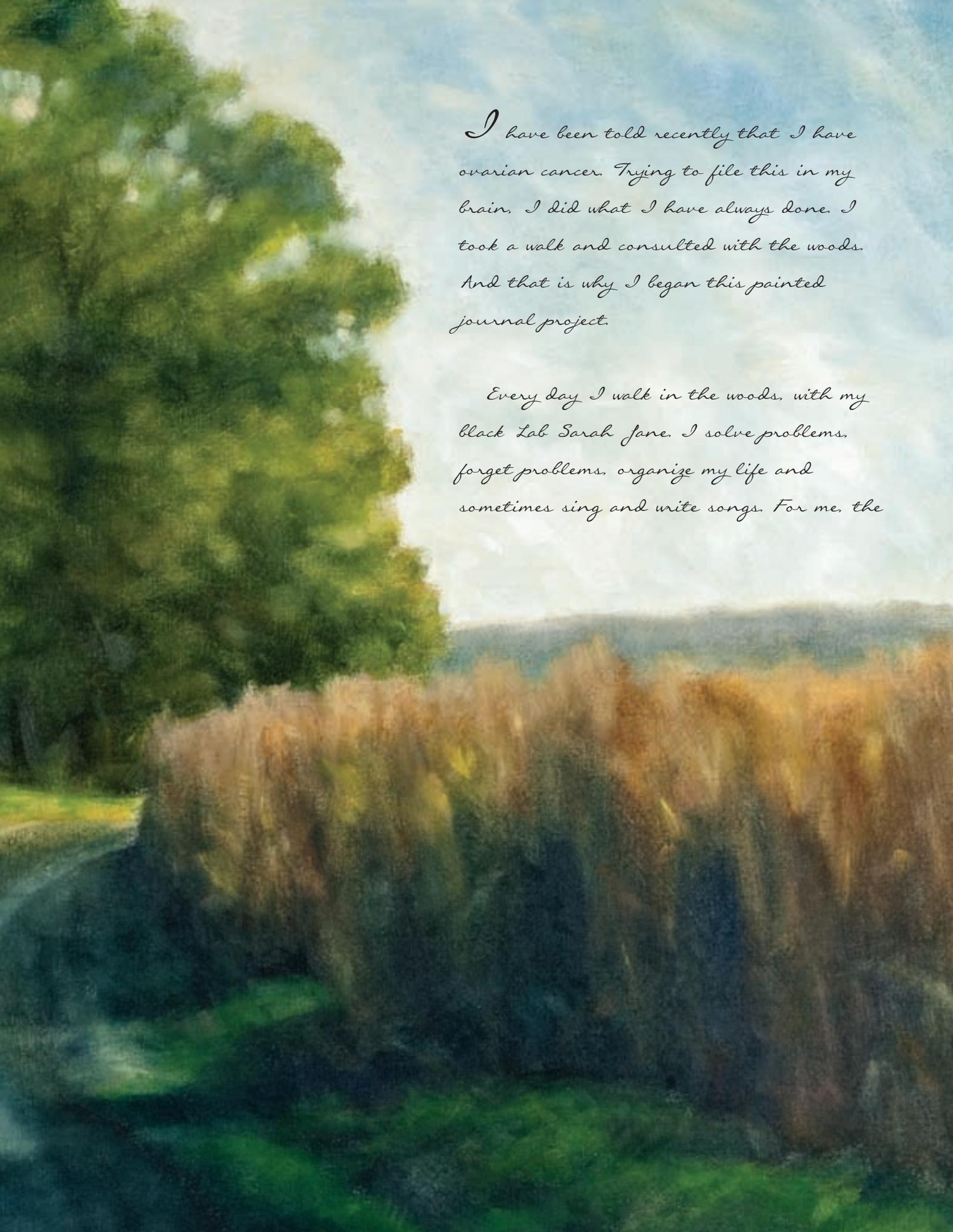
The background of the cover is a painting. It depicts a path that starts in the lower right corner and leads towards a large, open field of tall grass or wildflowers. The field is a vibrant green with some yellow highlights. In the background, there is a dense forest of trees, rendered in dark, muted greens and blues, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The overall style is impressionistic and atmospheric.

Lost
in the
Woods

JOURNAL ENTRIES AND PAINTINGS BY
MICHELE GREEN



I have been told recently that I have ovarian cancer. Trying to file this in my brain, I did what I have always done. I took a walk and consulted with the woods. And that is why I began this painted journal project.

Every day I walk in the woods, with my black Lab Sarah Jane. I solve problems, forget problems, organize my life and sometimes sing and write songs. For me, the

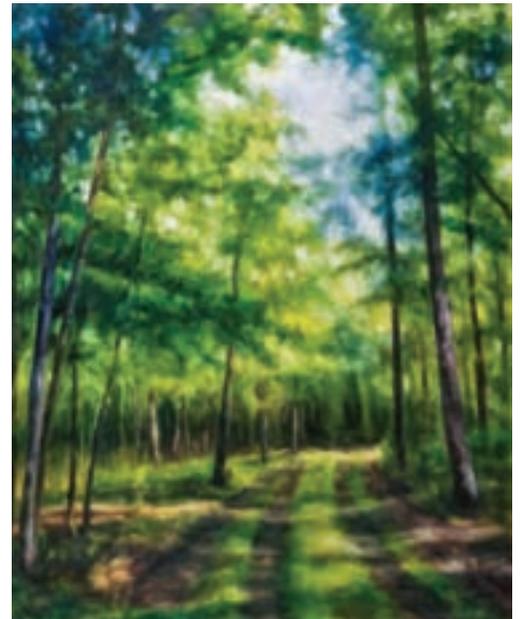




woods act like a clearinghouse for my mind. I grew up and played in the woods. I built forts and slew monsters. I always thought I would live there by now, preferably one without chiggers.

I think it was the artist Georgia O'Keefe who said paintings can say the things you can't find the words for. I think I'd better stick to painting.

The Dulany Manor Tract has quickly become one of my favorite places to walk. It gets really dark the farther I go in there. I have walked fifty miles in the Blackbird Forest and have yet to see another soul. It's odd that people only seem to notice the trees during the fall season. I find my eyes are full with tree colors that change by month, day and hour.



They say that there are several emotional stages you go through with any cancer diagnosis, shock, denial, anger, fear. It changes what you know to be true in your life. I don't know what is true. I don't know anything anymore.



*Lately, the walks don't seem to help me much. I still have a lot of mending to do, physically and mentally sort out where I am going. I do know that life isn't a dress rehearsal and I've had a fun ride. This isn't the end of my journey. I have a lot of walking, painting and banjo pickin' still left to do. **OD***



MICHELE GREEN IS A FREQUENT CONTRIBUTOR TO OUTDOOR DELAWARE. SHE WANTS READERS TO KNOW THAT SHE IS CURRENTLY DOING WELL. "I HAVE A VERY GOOD OUTLOOK PERSONALLY AND AM LOVING AND LIVING MY NEW LIFE."