



# Beautiful Battlefields

*Bo Stern*

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## Beautiful Battlefields Bo Stern

Bo Stern realizes life is full of fierce and unexpected battles. When her husband was diagnosed with a terminal illness, she knew she had found her Goliath. With winsome sincerity, Bo points to the battle plans available to us in Scripture and to our God who brings beauty from the struggles we face.

## Beautiful Battlefields Details

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Author : Bo Stern

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# From Reader Review Beautiful Battlefields for online ebook

## Susan says

Sometimes life throws a curve ball. Sometimes we are able to adjust our stance in time and clip it a few yards out. We waiver for a moment and are able to bounce back with relative ease, with no major consequence. Sometimes, we shift our weight, dig our heels, keep our eye on the ball and despite our best effort, strike out with an exasperated swing.

And then, there are times, when it all happens so suddenly we don't even have time to react; we are completely caught off guard and left to wonder "What the heck just happened?"

The latter is the context in which author Bo Stearn finds herself. Sitting in the doctor's office reviewing test results, she encountered a whopper of a curve ball in the form of a terminal diagnosis: ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

In the pages of Beautiful Battlefields, Ms Stern conveys, through precious vulnerability, the ways the carefully constructed foundations of family, friendships, finances, faith, and future have all been impacted and altered in response to the paralysis systematically overtaking her husband, Steve's body, and the tender ways God is journeying with them in the midst of this crisis....

[Full review is available by clicking here.](#)

*(I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher via Litfuse Publicity Group in exchange for an honest review.)*

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## Gail Welborn says

\*\*\*Bo's amazing walk with Jesus in her Goliath size fight\*\*\*

Bo Stern's account of the war declared on her family the day after she celebrated her forty-fifth birthday demands to be read cover-to-cover, then slowly savored in weeks to come. The Bend, OR teaching pastor writes about the day her and her husband Steve met "...an enemy so fierce and foul..." they named him "Goliath." Their opponent's appropriate name forecast the difficult challenges that lie ahead. Where they would learn "...the most beautiful things come out of the hardest times." Their yet unfinished true story is told in—Beautiful Battlefields.

They met "Goliath" in the doctor's office when Steve returned for additional neurological tests after initial treatments hadn't changed his condition. When they entered the room Bo thought it would be something minor, yet she soon felt a sense of dread creep into the room as the doctor probed Steve. She quietly texted her sister "...Steve's not okay. Please pray."

Eight months and multiple tests later the doctor gave their "Goliath" a name— "Amyotrophic Lateral

Sclerosis—Lou Gehrig’s disease” more commonly known as ALS. The terminal motor neuron disease would affect Steve’s muscles and eventually his ability to eat, swallow, speak or breathe. The devastating diagnosis was “...an emotional and psychological minefield...” that sent Bo to her knees with the enormity of what she, her beloved husband and family faced.

Emotionally charged decisions, whether to pay for an expensive drug that might “buy Steve an extra three months of life “or how to “bank” Steve’s voice for use with a “speech device” and when...Full Review: [www.examiner.com/list/beautiful-battl...](http://www.examiner.com/list/beautiful-battl...)

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## Sunflower says

Available in both ebook and hardcopy, "Beautiful Battlefields" is written for women who feel like their lives is anything but calm waves hitting the shores of their lives; Sharing about her own "Goliath in her life", her and her husband, battling his diagnosis of ALS ((Lou Gehrig’s disease), Bo Stern talks about experiencing that Goliath of not understanding or having that simple, "Why" and instead dealing with, "It just is", that can leave us all, often feeling tired and frustrated by the end of the day.

Filled with powerful scripture, personal insight into her emotions and experience as she and her husband, come to terms with ALS, "Beautiful Battlefields" is both an inspiration and encouragement for those hard days that we all experience, either in short waves of our lives, or in daily moments.

Broken into two parts:

Discovering Beauty In The Hard Places

Strategies For Growing Stronger Through Every Battle

Bo Stern shares with the reader, both godly wisdom and human emotions as she shares through personal insights and lessons of both God's goodness and the will of the human spirit.

This is a book about applying biblical wisdom in one's life and I found the book both touching and humanizing as she shares down to earth wisdom and her love for the Lord, that is clearly seen throughout the book.

I enjoy the end of the book, where she left a clear reference of scripture to quickly find in one's own bible for comfort and strength and there are many moments throughout, "Beautiful Battlefields" that left me reaching for the tissue box, both weeping with joy and sadness in the power and strength of her words.

"Beautiful Battlefields" is not just a book for those who many find themselves dealing with stress or crisis, but a reminder how no matter what circumstances, you may face, God is there and will see you through those times.

Filled with examples of biblical heroes who faced their own crisis with God's help, this is an inspiring book to share with others, and to keep on one's bookshelf (or e-reader) to be reminded, that no matter what...God

is going to see you through life's "Goliaths".

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## **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Beautiful Battlefields

Author: Bo Stern

Pages: 192

Year: 2013

Publisher: Navpress

What a testimony that is transparent, bold and encouraging with the author not putting her battlefield above anyone else's! Bo Stern writes a compelling thesis for believing God while in the throes of a battle. This work of nonfiction exalts the Lord while sharing what He has taught her. In our society, we tend to put in place a hierarchy about anything and everything, including trials and suffering. Funny, but we won't find any of that in the Word of God. The battlefield is level and the enemy is against everyone. I appreciate so much the authenticity of the writer, sharing her family's battle from every day to yesterday to tomorrow. Steve, her husband, was thrust into a battle with ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease. No matter where we are in the journey of our life here on earth, news like this can knock anyone down, but not necessarily out.

At various times as I was reading, I wanted to shout an "amen" to what I just read for I found out some of these same truths as Bo. The book is not a novel; it isn't frilly nor does it have "pat" answers. It conveys real truth. How do any of us live today when we are sideswiped with a battle we didn't see coming nor did we want? How do we live the next moment when it seems like the battle has been going on so long we want to quit for a while? Ever feel like that?

Before you decide whether to read this book or not, know that it isn't about "major" battles or hardships. Daily life, until we get to heaven, is filled with different battles where we can learn about ourselves and our God (if we choose) and come out transformed. Whether our battle is in a relationship, marriage, financial trouble or a host of others, it matters not what the specific battle is as much as it depends on how we live each moment. If we aren't experiencing a battle right now, are we open to the Lord leading us to someone who is? Battles don't always end quickly; in fact, some of them can last a very long time. For me, the field I was on was and is beyond my ability to put into words. I can't say that I would gladly do it again, but I wouldn't miss the truth of Him that I now know because He was there.

If you choose to read this writing of Bo Stern's, you will gain an understanding of battlefields that perhaps you hadn't known before. There are two main parts entitled: Discovering Beauty in the Hard Places and Strategies for Growing Stronger through Every Battle. No one should miss this golden opportunity to learn how to do well in a battle or how one can help someone who is in the midst of a battle. I highly recommend Beautiful Battlefields for all who long to honor the Lord wherever they are on their journey in life.

My rating is 4 ½ stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

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## **Pamela Harner says**

A book that teaches us to rejoice during our battles.

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## **Lisa Marie says**

Everyone gets these experiences in our lives that leave us blindsided, the moments that make us tempted (or even do) yell at God, "WHY ME!?" These are the battles we fight. These are the struggles that Bo Stern presents and faces in her book "Beautiful Battlefields."

Bringing us into the personal and painful struggle she and her family face as they deal with an unexpected medical diagnosis of a terminal illness of her husband and best friend, Bo shares her insights of how God can use even these horrible and unfathomable experiences to be made beautiful. Comparing these events to the image of the giant of Goliath, a picture is painted of us standing against an imaginably scary foe - and having to decide between running or standing strong in faith.

The first half of the book introduces us to the whole concept of seeing the beauty in the battle - of how God is still working, how we can see that despite the pain, how we can trust and obey. The second part is all about the tools needed to get to that point - for how to be strong and what things we need to have to get there.

Over and over again, Bo compares our individual Goliaths to battles and wars from the Bible, using the examples of each of these to show us how God can use every circumstance. She shares her experience openly, with raw emotion and vulnerability, understanding too that each person has their own battles and each is incomparable with each other.

What I really love is that each chapter is relatively short - without huge elaborate extras, straight forward and completely readable. Each one ends with both some things to think about and also a step of action - which at first glance can seem too easy, but turns out to be deep and thought provoking.

If right now is the time you look at your life and want to cry out, WHY, LORD? ... grab this book and start reading. God is good. Bo shows us how she has been learning to walk in obedience and faith throughout the hardest season of her life - and challenges us to follow along in the journey with her.

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## **Rachel Burkett says**

So much truth laid out on these pages straight from experience. I almost need to read it again so I can firmly remember and hold on to them when I need them!

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## **Jennifer says**

This one took me awhile because I kept putting it down and picking it back up as I needed it. It's a hard read (and maybe unnecessary or unhelpful) if you are in a "happy place" in your life. But I'm telling you: when you're in a hard place, this is a good book to have on the nightstand. And when happy days return, you'll be

wiser for the experience - and the words that Bo has shared to help you through it.

Each chapter ends with a few questions for consideration. Usually I find that this kind of thing is pretty lame in a lot of self-help books, full of predictable softball questions. But I thought her questions were astute and thought-provoking enough to actually make them worth answering. I think the whole book may be worth a second read. Read it once for comfort and encouragement. Read it again and study the Scriptures mentioned and answer the questions asked.

Bo's husband, Steve Stern, passed away this summer, by the way. (He had ALS.) I was in the middle of this book, on the same week that 2 of my friends died of cancer, when I got the update. My husband had just been through a period of suffering as well. I think that experience only deepened my appreciation of Bo's words. They held true.

Bo is also found at [www.bostern.com](http://www.bostern.com). I highly recommend reading her there also!

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### **Rubie says**

most amazing book! so insightful and hope giving no matter where you are or what your battles are something in this book will make you cry, think and rejoice!

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### **Teresa says**

For those who are looking for a light in the storm, Bo Stern's book "Beautiful Battlefields" is a must read.

Through this book, Bo tells the story about how her and her family has dealt and is still dealing with her husband's diagnosis of ALS. The story also follows her journey as she turns to the Bible trying to find the why's of this debilitating illness.

Beautiful Battlefields is appropriately titled. The book tells about the battles of the Bible and looks at the heroes and how they turned and followed God when all else looked bleak. It shows that there is hope and when everything else seems to be falling apart, God is still there, strong and true with a plan for each and every one of us.

At the end of the book there is a "quick reference" guide of specific scriptures that you can turn to for reference. She categorizes the scriptures too such as those just starting the battle, in the middle of a battle, etc. This is really handy for those who need that little extra inspiration to get by.

This book is not just for those who are facing a crisis. There was so much I took from this book. I guarantee that there will be something you can take as well.

I have recommended this book to all my friends. I hope that they get the same enjoyment out of reading it as I have. I encourage all of you to buy this book. Stand on your battlefield and shine knowing that God is with you every step of the way!

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## **Pamela Strickland says**

Encouraging, real, personal and practical Truth. Thank you, Bo Stern, for writing this book.

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## **Sheryl M. Baker says**

Beautiful Battlefields is a book of hope and encouragement for those experiencing tough, tough situations. Bo Stern's husband was diagnosed with ALS, and as she and her family experienced the affects of this incurable disease, she wrote this book to encourage others going through similar experiences. Bo shares her feelings and experiences, and then helps her readers create a battle plan where God is in charge and directing each next step. Each chapter ends with questions "Worth Pondering" and then a section called "Worth Doing."

Beautiful Battlefields isn't just a book about someone else's struggles, but a book and guide to help the reader through their own. Definitely a book worth reading.

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## **Valerie Caraotta says**

The title Beautiful Battlefields seems a bit eccentric except if you were taken on a journey with God, saw His hand move miraculously in the middle of affliction, and came out loving Him more and deeper even though circumstances did not change. Such is the case with author Bo Stern, as she shares her heart and soul in this book, so that we too can be comforted in knowing our heavenly Father cares, knows, and will show Himself strong when we are at our weakest.

Faced with the devastating news of her husband Steve's diagnosis of ALS disease, she found herself in what she terms as "the fight of our lives". Things and life did become different; through it all however she and Steve have learned to live each day with a generous heart as both purposed to share God's goodness in the middle of their battlefield. Through this trial she has witnessed gifts and supernatural notes that testify He knows what she is going through.

This is not a book simply to tell her story but to encourage you in your battles to know that both joy and sorrow can exist simultaneously. She teaches that time needs to be spent wisely, to live each day and love what God puts inside of it, and to not be afraid to take risks. The most profound statement she made to me regarding the battle at hand is that God has built provision in every minute where she will need it. It's a comfort in knowing that He does not leave us without equipping us with strength and endurance for the battle at hand.

Bo Stern, I am convinced, is a person chosen by God to connect with the masses in conveying truths that our battles do not have to define us but that, if we would but change our paradigm we can embrace God fully and love others through our pain that otherwise would paralyze us in self-centeredness.

You will learn other important things such as:

- How friends can multiply your strength in the middle of the battle.
- Benefits that can be derived from sorrow
- How generosity can increase your courage and faith in God's provision



-The pitfalls of bitterness, unforgiveness, and untempered anger

You will gain a better perspective on suffering while being encouraged and thoroughly strengthened for any circumstance that lies ahead. This book will serve as one of the best God-inspired trophies one can present to others. Plunge in this hard to put down book and conclude, as I did, that out of the ashes of our sorrows await opportunities that glisten for His glory.

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## **Create With Joy says**

Have you ever gone through something so heart-wrenching that you've wondered – if only for a moment – how a loving God could allow something like this to happen?

Are you in the midst of a battle so huge that your faith is stretched beyond measure on a daily basis?

No matter what circumstances you find yourself in, take heart – you are not alone!

Bo Stern knows what it's like to battle giants. She is currently in the fight of her life as she and her husband wage war against ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) – a disease for which there is currently no cure.

Yet even in the midst of her battle, she is there to uphold and uplift you during yours through the release of her wonderfully encouraging book, *Beautiful Battlefields*.

*Beautiful Battlefields* will guide and strengthen you through your darkest of days. The book is divided into two parts:

Part One, *Discovering Beauty In The Hard Places*, reaffirms God's goodness and shows how God uses trials to create beautiful things in our lives. These chapters will bless you as Bo shares lessons from others who have successfully faced their battles, and help you to draw strength from your own life as you learn to apply biblical wisdom to your situation.

Part Two, *Strategies For Growing Stronger Through Every Battle*, teaches us how to navigate through all aspects of our battle and to avoid battle wounds such as bitterness that can affect us long after we've left the battlefield.

In addition to the personal lessons she shares, *Beautiful Battlefields* includes questions to ponder, activities to complete, and Scriptures to prepare for battle.

If you or someone you know is in need of a deeply moving book that will speak to your heart and nourish your spirit – I highly recommend *Beautiful Battlefields*.

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the publisher for review purposes. I was not compensated for this review nor was I required to write a positive review. The opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

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## Nancee says

Bo Stern is a teaching pastor in Bend Oregon, where she has experience teaching others how to meet and do battle with the giants in life. Having been through her own battles over the years, Bo has developed valuable techniques in taking on giants through tough times. Steve, Bo's husband of 27 years, had been a strong and healthy man who recognized the onset of some muscle weakness. Numerous medical tests eventually confirmed a diagnosis of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Bo had met her Goliath. The ALS giant was the biggest and toughest of any foes she had encountered in the past, and threatened her to the core. Bo chose to fight her giant with prayer and walking through the battlefield with God at her side. Her experiences and teachings prove that beauty can sometimes only be found in the midst of the toughest times, and God's love is unconditional.

"Beautiful Battlefields" is written in two parts, "Discovering Beauty In The Hard Places," and "Strategies for Growing Stronger Through Every Battle." Bo presents biblical illustrations of battles fought and beauty found. She gives examples of how to develop perspective, endurance and joy even through the bumpy, shaky battlefields of insecurity, through the security and love of God. From there she reveals opportunities to discover peace through prayer, listening and obeying. Building a support system is an integral part of seeking strength from trusted, selfless, devoted friends. Throughout the book are points to ponder and suggested activities for taking positive action on the battlefield. The use of positive memories of God's goodness and grace develops strength and assurance that God's grace is a stronghold in battle.

The author writes with conviction and passion regarding the use of appropriate tools to meet our giants on the battlefield, including illness, financial hardship, marital discord, dysfunctional families, drug or alcohol abuse, physical abuse, guilt, etc. These tools can be utilized in all situations, no matter what those giants represent. Practical ideas and spiritual tools are described as a method for experiencing the beauty of God's love and His presence throughout the battles we face. This is a beautiful, informative and spiritual testimony of valuable techniques to be utilized in every day situations as well as when meeting Goliath on the battlefield. It's a transformation from bitterness to beauty.

DISCLAIMER: I received a copy of this book from LitFuse Publicity Group, with no expectations regarding a positive review. All opinions expressed are mine, and no compensation has been received for this honest review.

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