

How does a family's dream change when Mom is given 9 months to live. This situation sets up the drama between the characters and launches the audiences onto a suspenseful emotional rollercoaster. All key moments of this character-driven story are told through intimate verité footage. Filmmaker Rudkilde spent four years shooting this poetic, inspiring and intimately honest, even humorous documentary. Humor is revealed in the classic family fight about the Christmas tree that is too large to fit through the door, reflections on a sex-life without breasts and Anne's desire to build her own coffin. In awe we witness the grace with which Dr. Sitarik eventually has to tell Anne she has 2-6 months left to live. But even under the threat of a short life together, spousal challenges go on and during some difficult moments, we wonder if the marriage will last. Their son Liam is asking difficult questions: "When is Mom going to die?" Liam gives us an awe-inspiring glimpse into a 9 year-olds perspective on this scary world. By January 2008, Anne is no longer responding to medication and makes the decision to yield to death. We witness her heroic fight for time and as she shares her experience of physical pain, revises priorities, expresses regrets, and asks for forgiveness, Anne discovers what living life to its fullest means. *Stage IV* flows between lightness and sadness, courage and fear, love and anger in a turbulent yet ultimately serene journey of awakening to the present moment.