

# Horrifying 'lottery' explored

**Panorama**  
BBC 1

EVERY week 300 women in Britain die of breast cancer – a horrifying and unnecessary statistic, according to Panorama reporter Stephen Bradshaw.

To prove his point he introduced three elegant, intelligent, sane women in the prime of life with one thing in common. They are victims of the "breast cancer lottery" Bradshaw says exists.

Lesley Elliott, a mum in her 30s, laughed as she used the word "dying" in the wrong context. Cancer may be eating away at her body, first her breast and now her lungs, but her eyes sparkled and her smile was warm and genuine.

But Lesley was exasperated with the lack of

*Last night's  
television*

**TIM LUSHER**



care; two doctors had failed to detect the early signs of breast cancer. "I might as well have gone to see a plumber," she said.

It's a mysterious disease with no miracle cure. GPs seem to be in a maze with no guidelines to tell them who to refer for specialist examination.

We have one of the worst breast cancer survival rates in Europe and nothing seems to be done to reduce the frightening death toll.

Newquay victim Simone Renvoize had cancer in both breasts, but mammograms at Treliske Hospital, Truro recorded no suspicious features.

Simone, like Lesley and fellow sufferer Suzanne, is angry. A grandmother and an aunt both died of breast cancer. Warning bells should have sounded. They didn't.

"There are lot of women quietly dying," said Simone. But Lesley, Simone and Suzanne are not quietly dying. They are fighting for themselves and others who are losing the lottery. Their story was told without hysteria but the facts were plain to see.

During the programme, one more woman would have lost her life.

★ Today's highlight: **The Oscars** (BBC1, 9.30pm). We will all know the winners and losers by now, but darlings, there's nothing like the real thing.