

# **The Gift (of Cancer)**

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I was given a gift, wrapped shabbily,  
it was non-returnable, non-refundable!  
Reluctantly I accepted it.

In it I found courage I never knew existed  
and a patience far beyond anything ever experienced.

I was given the ability to trust a stranger with that most dear to me,  
and an endurance for the unknown.

I was given unconditional love of family and friends,  
always there, never stopping, never faltering.

I was given many prayers from far and wide,  
and the warmth of knowing I am truly cared about.

I was given a fond farewell of my modesty and vanity,  
and the acceptance and love of an imperfect body.

I was given a strong shoulder to lean on when that  
shoulder had once grown distant,  
and laughter and good times, more special than ever before.

I was given many new friends,  
wonderful, courageous people I am so very proud to know.

I was given warm sunshine and beautiful green grass,  
blue skies, and sparkling city lights.

I was given things to see,  
that once before were ignored.

I was given the chance to wake up,  
instead of sleepwalking through life.

I was given every glorious day to enjoy,  
every month to savor, every year to rejoice.

I was given the gift of life,

I was given cancer.

*Linda Nielsen*

Linda's journey <http://www.choosehope.com/cms-category/linda-s-story>