
Introduction

Days of Youth

As I contemplate Felicia's life, I marvel at how constant and steadfast she was. From the beginning to the end, her hopes and dreams were consistently the same. Sometimes, she was so earnest, it hurt to see. When I think of how in the last stages of her cancer, she was still unwilling to waste a single moment of her life, working as if the hospital were her office... This trait of hers was evident from the days when Felicia and I were just classmates and friends.

Life Abroad

Despite Felicia's outstanding contributions to scientific research, she experienced a great deal of unfair treatment simply by virtue of the fact that she was an Asian woman. However, she faced all of these obstacles with an iron will and dealt with them one by one, never once admitting defeat. The most difficult war that Felicia ever waged was that against breast cancer. As her closest companion, I walked alongside her every step of the way. The emotional pain that she experienced in this journey is one that is certainly difficult to put into words.

Transition Period

Felicia's love for her family enabled her to stand up, face difficult treatments one at a time and survive many close brushes with death. The Felicia that I saw took full advantage of the life that she was given, fueled herself with love, and succeeded in helping many other fellow cancer victims. Her determination enabled her to battle against cancer, and what is more, to fight for her life for thirteen years.

Fighting Cancer

Felicia was both a scientist who researched on anti-cancer drugs and a patient who knew the pain of cancer treatment. In the laboratory, she always made the utmost effort in her research; she was hopeful that she would be able to obtain results that could offer people a cure for cancer. If high dose chemotherapy and autologous bone marrow transplantation together could be a potential cure for cancer, she was willing to offer herself as a trial. Besides curing her own cancer, she might be able to serve as an example of a successful treatment case.

Fighting to the End

Before closing the coffin lid, I caressed Felicia's cold face and gently kissed her lips. My eyes brimmed with tears. The transparent coffin cover now separated Felicia and me. The children cried silently and tears fell from their eyes. There were tears running all over my face as well. Felicia was really gone. Heaven knew even in the last moment Felicia had not given up. In this lifetime, she had really lived her life wholeheartedly, but now she was ready to embark on a new journey. I would never see her again; she and I could only meet in our dreams.