

Last Christmas Eve.

That was months ago.

To be fighting alone.

Mum...

I wanted to be sure...before I told anyone...

I didn't want this to be a false positive and worry anyone...

She could have told someone earlier.

She could have told dad.

She could have told Grandma.

She could have told you.

Does any know?

She never wants to trouble anyone.

No.

She fights her own battles...

...with a smile on her face...

...she is amazing.

Is it rumor?

...armed with courage and optimism.

...she is so brave.

No. Not yet.

In 2018, an estimated 1,753,350 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States and 629,640 people will die from the disease.

...and I love the smile.

What's the next step?

Chemotherapy and eventually a Stem Cell Transplant.

"It's just hair."

It's just hair, and eyelashes.

It's just hair, and eyelashes, and eyebrows.

It's just hair, and eyelashes, and eyebrows, and fingernails.

"It will grow back."

Despite advances in the treatment of many side effects associated with chemotherapy, doctors remain on issue that is difficult to resolve. Chemotherapy-induced alopecia (CIA) is a condition that can have profound psychological and quality-of-life consequences, resulting in anxiety, depression, a negative body image, lowered self-esteem, and a reduced sense of well-being. Patients who hear CIA may sometimes select regimens with less favorable outcomes or may refuse treatment.

That will buy me several years.

They say: "Everything happens for a reason."

Please let me be the first person to punch the next everything happens for a reason. I'm sorry you're going through this.

I wish I could take away your pain. Or at least take away the people who compare it to the time their hamster died.

How can I help?

This uncompensated care involves significant time and energy as well as requires performing tasks that are physically, emotionally, socially, and occasionally demanding. Indeed, caregivers are at risk for psychological lag, anxiety, depression, and hopelessness and physical fatigue, increased mortality, cardiovascular disease, poor immune functioning, and sleep difficulties complications. Although some studies of caregivers reported comparable rates of depression and anxiety to those of patients for whom they provide care, others have shown rates that surpass those of patients.

For example, rates of depression between 12% and 59% and anxiety between 50% and 59% have been reported in samples of caregivers, in comparison to those of depression between 10% and 23% and between 19% and 34% in the patient population. Additionally, between 40% and 70% of cancer caregivers reported clinically significant symptoms of insomnia, which negatively affect their mental and physical health, are frequently chronic, and may impair the normal grieving process among bereaved caregivers. These symptoms can increase the risk for chronic illness in caregivers, including cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Just keep doing what HE... be happy?

...

That sounds so cheer...

Kinda like mozzarella...perhaps cheddar...?

"None of us are getting out of here alive."

She always told me that...

...

I'm sorry.

Don't be...

...

Whatever you need...I'm here for you.

Always...

You're 19 years old, you don't need that.

My age doesn't matter.

She's my mom.

I would do anything for my mom.

Who wouldn't?

Life has a funny way of screwing up your best plans.

...

I'm going to fight.

I know.

...

I love you.

I love you too, mom.

Please...

...give me more time.