

Pink Ribbons

핑크 리본

Joana A. Park

박좌진

** This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, businesses, places, events and incidents are products of the author's imagination or are used in a fictitious manner. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events or real is purely coincidental.**

이 소설의 작품이다.

이름, 캐릭터, 비즈니스, 장소, 이벤트, 사건은
저자의 상상력의 제품 또는 가상의 방식으로
사용된다.

실제 사람, 생활 또는 죽은 사건이나 실제 어떤
유사성은 순전히 우연입니다.

Copyright © 2017 Joana Jin Park

Cover by PPKorea

All rights reserved.

Dedications

To my sweet Kaia Rei, Meemah loves you to the moon and back...

Jordan, Kelsey and Alannis, I couldn't ask for better kids, you guys are the ultimate. I love you!

To my mom and pa, I love and miss you...

Kim JunMyeon, your care and words inspired me to be strong. Thank you for being such a great leader. 내 수호 천사... I love you...

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Mr. H, Mr. Kim, Roger Tresemer, TaeMyeon Park, Soora Park, Kristen Pasistor, Amber Avants Pruitt, Safaa Meliani, Tasmia Tasmin Tamanna, Dr. Hartzell, Dr. Kim and family, National Breast Cancer Foundation, Park Productions Korea, American Cancer Society, Korea Breast Cancer Society & ExoLs Worldwide

박찬열(ChanYeol), 김준면(SuHo), 변백현(BaekHyun),
김종인 (Kai), 김민석(Xiumin), 김종대(Chen), 도경수 (D.O.),
张艺兴 (Lay) & 오세훈 (SeHun), 사랑과 희망의 선물에
감사드립니다. 당신은 진정으로 사랑 받았습니다...

Pink Ribbons



3 Small Words

Isn't it crazy how three small words can make
or break your existence?

I love you, I hate you, and you have cancer.

In any circumstance in life, they are all hard to
comprehend.

I stared off as I heard those the words echo in my head.

“Josephine, your test result came back and you have cancer.” The doctor said.

I glanced towards the window and took a deep breath.

“It’s not a death sentence, we can aggressively fight this and you can live a long cancer free life.” The doctor added.

I think I nodded my head in agreement but I’m not really sure. A total numbness overcame me.

I smiled and began dressing as my doctor explained what we would do next to "fix this" like she said.

My mind blocked out much of what she said because it was trying to comprehend my diagnosis.

I just knew I was about to have the greatest fight of my life.

“I will make arrangements to start treatment a.s.a.p. The front desk will have info for you, ok?” She continued.

I nodded again as I grabbed my purse.

“You can do this. You are a strong woman” The doctor reinforced.

I slowly walked towards the reception desk to get my next appointment date then I seemed to float towards the elevator.

“Is this what shock felt like?” I thought to myself.

It all felt make-believe.

I began walking; I don't know where I was going. I just walked, and walked, and walked.

In no time I was in the downtown shopping area.

Everyone looked so happy to be shopping for the holidays, and then there was me.

Just standing right in the middle.

While shoppers zoomed past me like I wasn't even there.

Just frozen, wondering, would I even be here for the holidays?

As I glanced up, I smiled when I realized I was standing in front of the wish tree.

“Really? What are the chances?” I said to myself as I stared all the way up to the top of this enormous tree.

“Make your wish here.” The sign read.

“Hmmm? I wish to experience true love before I go. I mean if I go, either way, go or stay, that’s my wish.” I said with my hands clenched together and my eyes closed.

I slowly opened my eyes as the lights on the tree twinkled.

“Wow, that’s a great effect! Maybe it’s working on my wish.” I said with a giggle as I marveled at the tree.

I looked around and began walking again.

“What am I doing here?” I said unsurely.

I took a deep breath and hailed a taxi.

“Yeouido Park Centre,” I said as I entered the taxi.

I looked out the window quietly as I rode home. It’s funny how life comes into perspective when you get news like this. But like the doctor said I wasn’t handed a death sentence, just a small detour in my life.

So why was I suddenly feeling total hopelessness? In one second I went from a strong independent woman to orphaned baby bunny in the forest.

As I arrived home, my roommate Charlie was sitting in the lobby reading.

“What are you doing here? Are you stalking that hot concierge again?” I asked with a smile.

“OMG! NO! I forgot my key again and that attendant will not let me in. He acts like he’s never seen me here before.” Charlie replied frustrated and pointing at the front desk clerk.

“How long have you been here waiting?” I questioned as we walked towards the elevator.

“Oh about an hour,” Charlie replied.

Our attention was drawn to the television in the lobby. We both stopped and looked at the lighting of the wish tree.

“OMG! I was just there.” I thought.

“Look it’s your baby, Myeon. He’s about to perform. His angel voice is perfect for this song.” Charlie admired.

“Look at him in that grey tweed suit, oh that voice.” I swooned.

We stood there and just watched. Charlie really just watched. I was fangirling internally.

“So where were you coming from?” Charlie asked.

“I had a doctors' appointment today,” I replied with a cheery tone.

"I hope everything is good with you," Charlie responded.

"All is peachy," I replied with a smile.

That was all I can really say because I really didn't know
how to tell her the truth.

"Well I just came to change; I'm going to the gym," Charlie
informed as we both walked into the apartment.

"Oh ok. I'm going to shower and relax for a bit. Don't
forget your keys." I replied as I dropped my purse on the
floor and walked into the bedroom.

I usually kept my curtains drawn but today the sky looked
magnificent.

"Wow! Look at that sunset. Beautiful" I said as I glanced
out our 11-floor apartment window.

"See you later JoJo," Charlie yelled through the door.

“Yeah later! Be careful. And don’t forget.” I yelled back.

“Yeah, yeah my keys got them. Bye.” Charlie interrupted.

As I undressed, I looked at my face in the mirror. I then lowered my vision to my breasts. I gently felt around but I felt nothing.

“Could it have been a mistake? They look normal to me.” I thought to myself.

Just as I got in the shower, it hit me. I began to sob uncontrollably.

“What am I going to do? This isn’t fair! Why me?” I said as I cried.

I sat with the shower water hitting my head for over an hour. I felt angry. I felt sad. I felt defeated. I felt hopeless. So many thoughts came and went but one stayed and kept repeating itself.

“JoJo, if you fight, you can beat this!”

As I got out and dried myself off. I looked in the mirror again and said out loud "I WILL fight this!"

Suddenly I hear tapping on the door.

"You ok in there, bae?" Charlie said as she returned from the gym.

"Mhm. I'm coming out now. Hey if you have a sec, can we talk?" I replied.

"Oh yeah, I'm too sweating just let me wash up and I'll be out a.s.a.p," Charlie answered.

We smiled at each other as we passed each other in the doorway.

"Hey, are you sure you are ok?" Charlie said.

I nodded yes, smiled and walked into my bedroom.

"I'll be right out," Charlie assured.

I sat wrapped in my towel with a million thoughts going through my head. How do I tell my best friend what's going on? I don't want to worry her but I'm so scared and she is all I have.

After a few minutes, Charlie comes out towel drying her hair.

"Ok, what's up bae? You seem worried." She asks.

I took a deep breath and then I began to stutter.

"JoJo, Are you ok? What's up? You are scaring me." Charlie asked concerned.

"I have breast cancer," I said in a quiet voice.

"What?" She replied.

"I have breast cancer," I repeated.

Charlie sat there in silence for a second.

“How? I mean. Oh my goodness!” Charlie stuttered.

I smiled to hide my tears.

"Oh, JoJo." She said as she hugged me.

“You are going to be ok, right?” She added.

"I hope to be," I whispered.

“What do you mean you hope to be, you will be! We will fight this.” Charlie added.

She got up and began pacing.

“What happens now?” Charlie added.

"The doctor has scheduled me for surgery," I replied.

“Ok, ok. When?” Charlie replied as she looks at her calendar on her cell phone.

“Next week. I’m having a lumpectomy.” I mumbled.

“A what?” Charlie said concerned.

“A lumpectomy is the removal of only the tumor and a small amount of surrounding tissue,” I explained.

Charlie nodded with interest.

“Then I will have radiotherapy. Then the doctor said we’ll play it by ear.” I added.

“Ok. I will call off work to be with you.” Charlie said quickly.

“No, no it’s not necessary.” I countered.

“JoJo, I’m going to help you through this whether you like it or not. So shut up and take it.” Charlie said as she hugged me.

A week had never gone by so fast before.

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

