



Courtney with her mother, Marci Hart

My name is Courtney Hart and I am 26 years old. I have read several of the inspirational stories on the website and my heart was warmed by each and every one of them. Like these mothers and their families, my life too, has been affected by this terrible disease. However, my mother Marci Hart, was never diagnosed-- I was. At the age of 24 I was diagnosed with stage IIIc ovarian cancer. After an extensive surgery, I underwent 6 rounds of chemotherapy, Taxol and Carboplatin, as well as hospitalizations for various infections and complications that came after it. My mother was there the entire time. Staying with me in the hospital, up early every morning with me, making sure I was eating and taking my medications, bathing me, and assisting me in everything I could not do myself. She always tried to be strong and reassure me that all would be okay; yet, there were many times I saw her cry wishing that she could take my pain upon herself.

A mother should never be faced with the thought that she could lose her child. But unfortunately, this disease made my mother confront that possibility. I understand first-hand how difficult this disease is for the person who lives it, but no one ever tells you how hard it is to see just how it pains the people who love you. I was full of a lot of fear and doubt, and even though my mother felt those same things, she always made sure she was strong when I needed a rock. She knew I feared how sick I looked and she never allowed me to believe it about myself. She knew how heartbroken I felt at the loss of my fertility and she always encouraged me and told me I would one day too, be a mother. She tried to make me feel just how I had always felt, as though this was something passing through, as though this could never be something permanent. For that, I will always be grateful.

I am still feeling the awful effects of this disease. When I am anxious and afraid, she calms me. When I need reassurance, she is there. She comes to every appointment and always makes me feel just like a mother should-- like the world is a safe place, and nothing can ever hurt me.

Written by Courtney Hart