

Kim Loves Life



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Illustrated by Leslie Boonekamp and Natalie Nawrocki

Inspired by Anita Cutler



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The book is dedicated to Anita Cutler who bravely shared her story and inspired us all to take action.



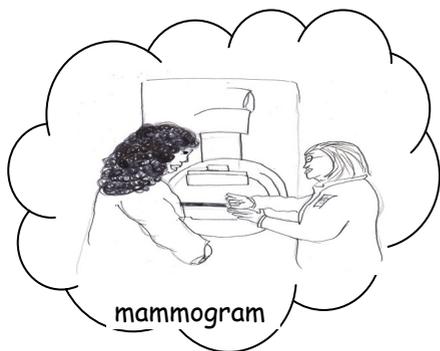
Hi, my name is Kim. I am 50 years old.

My life is good. I am happy.

I have good friends. I have a good family.



One day I got a letter. The letter invited me to have a mammogram at Breastscreen Victoria.



I called the phone number on the letter and made an appointment to have a mammogram at the Breastscreen clinic near my house.



I went for a mammogram.

The lady said, "We may invite you to come back for more tests if the doctors see something."



A few weeks later, I got another letter and was asked to go back to Breastscreen for more tests.



I spoke with the nurse there. She said that the doctors saw something in the x-ray and they want to find out what it is. One of the tests was a biopsy. It is the removal of some cells or tissue from your body to check if they are healthy.



After the biopsy I went to the specialist and she gave me the results. "It's not looking good, you have breast cancer."

I was sad. I was worried. I cried.

I love life.



The next day I had more tests.

The specialist said that the cancer had started some time ago.



She said, "You need to have a mastectomy."

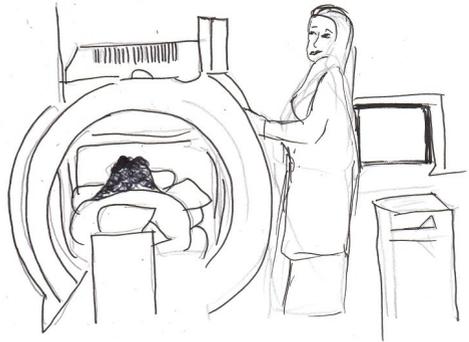
"What is a Mastectomy?" I asked.

The specialist said, "It is an operation when we remove all of your breast so the cancer will not spread."

I was so sad. I cried. I said, yes. I love life.



chemotherapy



radiotherapy

After the mastectomy the specialist said, "You need chemotherapy 8 times and radiotherapy 30 times."

I asked, "Do I need all that?" The specialist said, "Yes!"

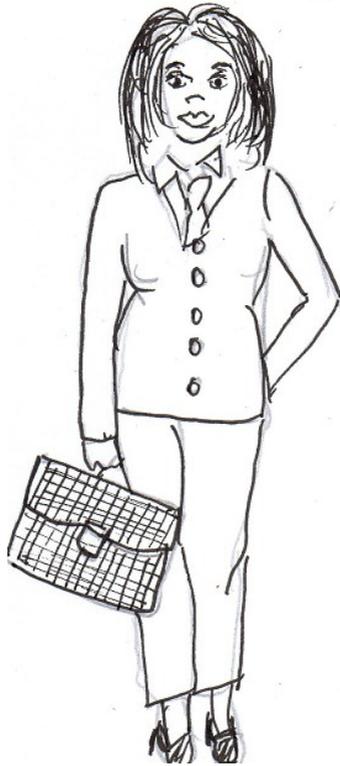


Everybody at the hospital was good.
They looked after me. They helped me
understand.

There was a lot of information.



At home I told my family and friends.
They were sad and worried.



I did not want to think about the cancer so I went back to work and life.

I worked three days and also went to the hospital for treatment.

The treatment made me sick and I lost my hair.



long and straight



red



short with curls

I bought some wigs. I bought three beautiful wigs.

One wig was long and straight. One was a red colour and one was short with curls.

Kim ??????????????????????????????



Wearing the wigs was fun. When I wore a different wig people were confused.

People asked me about my cancer and I told them about it.

It was good to tell people my story. It helped me, and it helped other people.



After 8 months of treatment, I was getting very tired. I had to stop work.



After the treatment, I had another test.

Good news!

They could not find any cancer.

My family was happy, my friends were happy and I was happy.



Life is good now.

I am so glad I had a mammogram.

What can you do?

- Get to know the normal look and feel of your breasts.
- See your doctor if you **notice** any unusual changes.
- If you are aged over 50 you can have a free mammogram at BreastScreen Victoria every two years.
- For more information or to book an appointment with BreastScreen Victoria visit **www.breastscreen.org.au** or call **13 20 50**.
- If you need an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreter Service on **13 14 50** and ask to be connected to BreastScreen Victoria.

Kim Loves Life

Kim is happy. She loves life. One day she has a shower and sees something different. She goes to the doctor and is told some news.