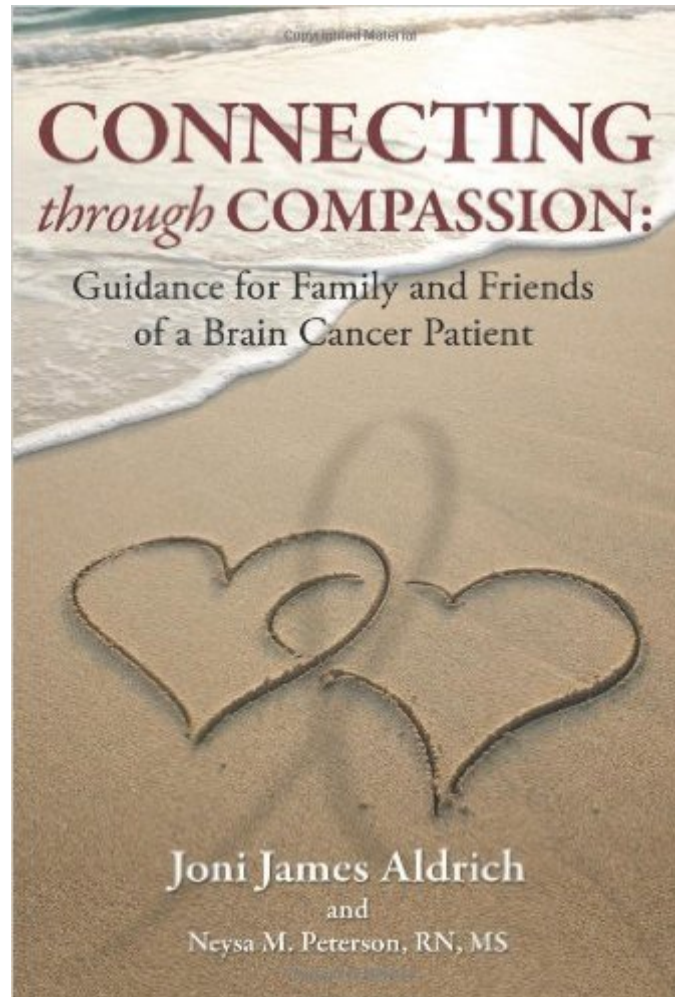


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# Connecting Through Compassion: Guidance For Family And Friends Of A Brain Cancer Patient



## Synopsis

This book candidly discusses the challenges of living with the personality and behavior changes brain cancer brings, and offers practical tools to make the journey easier. Joni Aldrich and Neysa Peterson have each cared for a spouse with a brain illness. They have combined their insights in this practical, straight-talking guide. Readers will learn: symptoms a brain cancer patient may experience; how to create and maintain a warm, comfortable and safe environment; methods to use if communication becomes an issue; how to deal with changes in personality, behavior, and emotions, including loss of social inhibition skills; how to handle issues related to changes in memory and the resulting confusion; how to work through indifference, sadness, and depression towards some peace; how to cope with self-destructive behavior-safety is your number one concern; how to have end-of-life discussions and fulfill final wishes. When a family member or friend is diagnosed with cancer, life as you know it has ended. Not only must you face the chaos of doctors' visits, exhausting treatments, and sleepless nights, you must try to savor every precious moment with your loved one. When the diagnosis is brain cancer, you must endure all this plus one more challenge: the person you love may look the same, and sound the same-but he or she is not the same. His or her personality may change in extreme ways. A kind and loving person may become angry and say hurtful things. A warm, upbeat person may withdraw or behave in self-destructive ways. The essence of your loved one can disappear, even as he or she continues to live. With the tools in this book, you can continue to love and be loved during this difficult crisis. "The last weeks of Gordon's life were spent with someone that I barely knew and didn't know how to approach. It took me two years of counseling to get through the scars. It didn't have to be that way for me. And it certainly doesn't have to be that way for you." ~Joni Aldrich

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book helped me understand how someone with brain cancer may be feeling. It also confirmed that some of the things going through my head were real. I would highly recommend reading this book if you know someone with brain cancer that you are spending any time with.

This book was a life changer, and I will never forget the words that were written within it! The author really takes into account the life of a brain cancer patient, and the care giver. If you are struggling with this disease as a care giver do yourself a favor, and read this! I read the whole thing in just a couple of hours! I had thought that I was the only one going through this, but now I know I am not alone! This is a truly amazing book! Thank you for touching my life!

This book should be required reading for anyone with a loved one with brain cancer. I saw my husband on every page in his journey with glioblastoma. It gave validation for what I was experiencing as a caregiver. I purchased a Copy for family members so they too could understand.

I would urge all those close to a brain cancer victim, no matter what their relationship and no matter how far the cancer has progressed, to read this book, read it again and again, and keep it close at all times. One of my longest, closest friends has brain tumors that full-bore radiation and chemo have failed to arrest. Nothing that I can do will keep him alive, but this book has helped me do myriad things to help him live a better last chapter and keep myself from falling apart while that chapter progresses. This book was created by significant others of loved ones who suffered brain cancer. They know full well what helps and what doesn't, what works and what doesn't, for the patient and for themselves. There's not a theoretician among them. They share, from the front lines, their experience, strength and, yes, even hope of a very special kind. The words "compassion" and "connecting" in the title aren't just words to prettify this book: Mastering both in a very particular way is crucial for patient and loved ones alike. This guide enables me to practice compassion in ways I never before understood; it offers me tools to enhance my connection with a friend who is progressively losing his connection with absolutely everything. I buy multiple copies of this book to give to others whom I meet in hospital, in the nursing home, even in casual conversations with people I meet in the course of my daily work. It amazes me how widespread brain cancer seems to

be these days and how deeply many healthy folks are affected by its attack on others. Every copy of this book I've bought through has arrived promptly and in good condition

much material repeated from "checking out" would not have needed both books but as a stand alone very useful

Quite helpful in terms of getting my head in the best place to endure this devastating yet rewarding emotional roller coaster ride of life.

Beautifully written, very helpful and easy to read

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