

English 100, Second Place; Professor, Dr. Jacqueline Wilson-Jordan

Unfortunate Occurrence

Deja Brown

Out of the Ordinary

One regular evening I get out of the shower and begin to dry off. As I put my lotion on, I feel a lump in my right breast. I pay it no mind and continue to apply my lotion. As the days progress,

“Please tell me that everything is still benign...”

“I’m sorry that I have to give you this news, but Deja has breast cancer in her right breast,” my doctor says.

My mom takes a deep breath and says, “So what do we do now? When is the soonest we could come in?”

Three days later, my mom takes a half a day at work and I miss school to go to my doctor's appointment. My doctor gives my mother and me an option. Either take it out with a simple procedure since we caught it at a great time, or leave it there to see if it would go away with time.

The Decision

The doctor excuses herself from the room to let all the information she gave us process. My mother and I look at each other for just a few seconds and look away. No one would have ever thought that I would be in this position. Then we regain eye contact and finally, my mom breaks her silence and we weigh out the pros and cons of the procedure. It is a hard time for us financially, so if we chose to remove it before it spread, it would definitely put a hole in my mother’s pocket. But we realize that was the only option.

My stress levels begin to rise and my grades are severely affected by it. The fact that I have to wait a couple of weeks before I can get the lump surgically removed is weighing hard on me. I have one more doctor’s appointment before surgery day.

Procedure Day

I leave school and drive myself to my final appointment. I arrive early to meet up with my mother. Only a few moments go by before a nurse calls my name. As the nurse leaves the room the surgeon comes in and begins to draw a few circles on my breast and tells me exactly

how the operation will go. My anxiety levels increase while she pours tons of info on me. As soon as the surgeon leaves,