

WRITTEN BY:
GLENYS YOUNG

ILLUSTRATED BY:
KOREN SHADMI

The Case Of The 87%

CLOSING THE DOOR ON ONE
CHAPTER OF JERAMY'S LIFE
MEANS FINDING REDEMPTION
THROUGH A NEAR-PERFECT
MATCH.



LAURA MASON DAVIES, DPT



JERAMY DAVIES, MLS

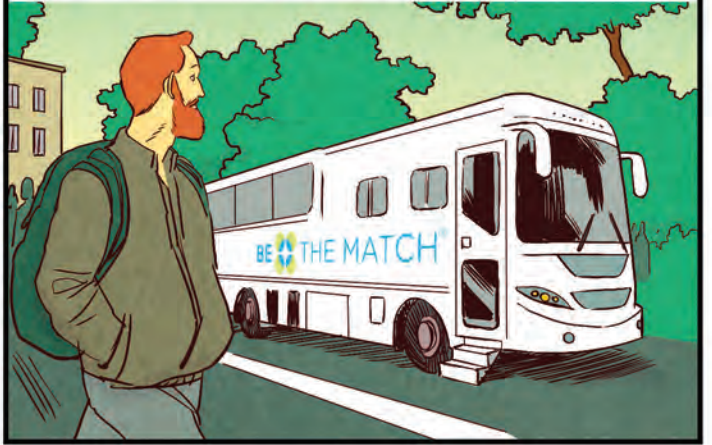


KELLY RIBEIRO

JERAMY DAVIES, M.S. (HEALTH PROFESSIONS '11) MEETS LAURA MASON, D.P.T. (HEALTH PROFESSIONS '10) WHILE BARTENDING AT THE COUNTY LINE BARBEQUE RESTAURANT IN LUBBOCK. THEY GET MARRIED FOUR YEARS LATER ON MAY 12, 2007.



WHILE STILL IN SCHOOL, JERAMY STARTS A BONE MARROW REGISTRY DRIVE FOR THE NONPROFIT, "BE THE MATCH." HE PARTICIPATES IN THE DRIVE BY COMPLETING A MOUTH SWAB AND FILLING OUT PAPERWORK.



HE AND LAURA BUILD A HOUSE AND A LIFE TOGETHER. EVERYTHING SEEMS PERFECT.



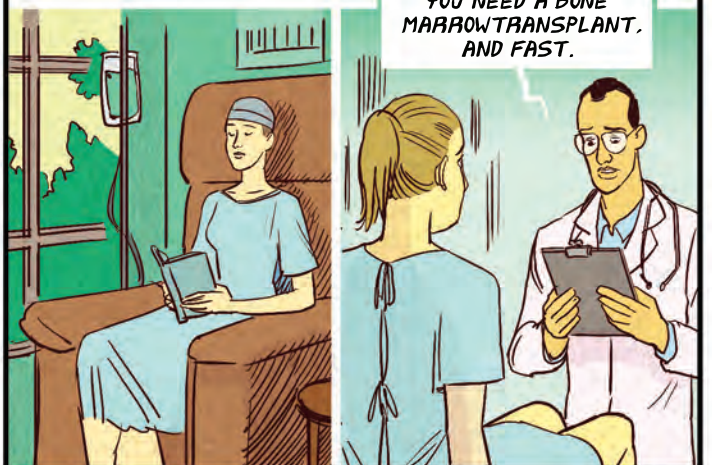
MEANWHILE, 1,800 MILES AWAY, IN UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY, 25-YEAR-OLD KELLY RIBEIRO IS COOKING DINNER WHEN HER HUSBAND NOTICES A LUMP IN HER NECK. A BIOPSY REVEALS SHE HAS STAGE 3 NON-HODGKIN LYMPHOMA. HER FIRST OPTION IS A STEM CELL TRANSPLANT, WHICH FAILS.



JERAMY MOVES TO AUSTIN TO START A NEW JOB AFTER GRADUATION. LAURA STAYS BEHIND TO PACK UP THEIR HOUSE. WHEN JERAMY CALLS TO CHECK IN, LAURA SEEMS DISORIENTED AND CONFUSED. SHE PASSES OUT WHILE COOKING DINNER. AT THE EMERGENCY ROOM, DOCTORS SCAN HER HEAD AND FIND A MASS. SHE HAS A BRAIN TUMOR.



WHILE LAURA HAS SURGERY AND GOES THROUGH SUCCESSFUL CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIATION, KELLY'S OPTIONS START RUNNING OUT.



DOCTORS GO THROUGH THE DATABASE TO FIND A MATCH FOR KELLY. JERAMY IS ASKED TO UNDERGO ADDITIONAL TESTING TO SEE WHICH CANDIDATE IS CLOSEST TO KELLY.



JERAMY, YOU CAME CLOSEST WITH AN 87% HLA MATCH. ARE YOU WILLING TO DONATE?

FOR FIVE STRAIGHT DAYS, JERAMY IS INJECTED WITH FILGRASTIM, A BONE MARROW SIMULANT AND DONATES BONE MARROW STEM CELLS TO AN ANONYMOUS RECIPIENT, KELLY. TO HER SURPRISE, THE BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT WORKS!



HOWEVER, NOW KELLY HAS COMPLICATIONS FROM THE MEDICINE SHE HAD TAKEN FOR THREE YEARS TO BATTLE CANCER. HER KIDNEY FUNCTION HAS PLUMMETED. SHE DEVELOPS PNEUMONIA, SLIPS INTO A COMA AND IS IN THE HOSPITAL FOR THREE MONTHS.



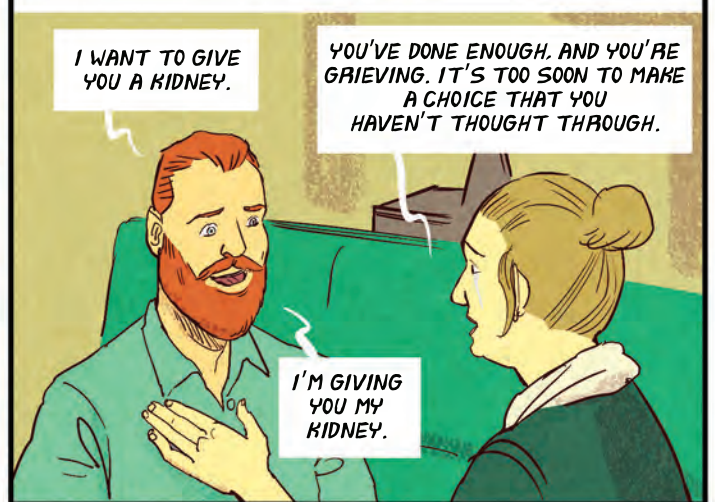
SOON AFTER CELEBRATING TWO YEARS OF REMISSION, LAURA'S BRAIN TUMOR IS BACK. SHE HAS SURGERY TO REMOVE IT. TWO MONTHS LATER THE TUMOR IS BACK AGAIN, AND THIS TIME IT'S A RARE, UNTREATABLE GLIOMATOSIS CEREBRI. THE DIAGNOSIS IS GRIM: SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR. TWO MONTHS LATER, SHE DIES.



A MONTH LATER, JERAMY'S BONE MARROW DONATION HAS REACHED ITS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY ALLOWING HIM TO HAVE CONTACT WITH THE RECIPIENT. HE REACHES OUT TO KELLY, AND SHE HELPS HIM THROUGH HIS GRIEF. EVENTUALLY, HE QUILTS HIS JOB AND GOES ON A ROAD TRIP TO MEET HER.



STAYING WITH KELLY'S FAMILY, JERAMY REALIZES SHE HASN'T TOLD HIM HOW QUICKLY HER HEALTH IS DETERIORATING.

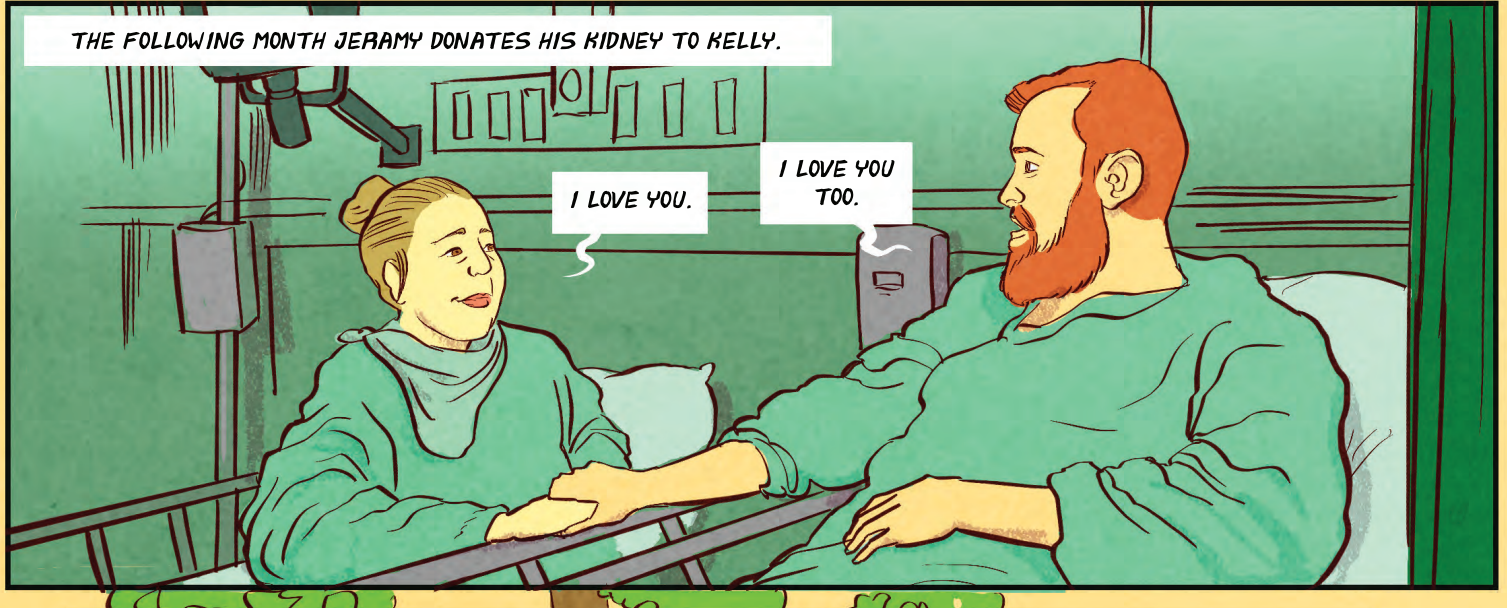


I WANT TO GIVE YOU A KIDNEY.

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH, AND YOU'RE GRIEVING. IT'S TOO SOON TO MAKE A CHOICE THAT YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT THROUGH.

I'M GIVING YOU MY KIDNEY.

THE FOLLOWING MONTH JERAMY DONATES HIS KIDNEY TO KELLY.



JERAMY AND KELLY LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE. KELLY HESITATES TO SAY SHE'S CURED BUT IS HOPEFUL ABOUT WHAT LIES AHEAD. JERAMY IS NOW ENGAGED TO LOUISA DEMMITT. AND YOU CAN BET THAT KELLY, HIS SISTER "BY BLOOD," WILL BE AT THE WEDDING.

