

TITAN of TeAL



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Singer/Songwriter/Producer/TITAN



I am an 8 year survivor of ovarian cancer. I was diagnosed in stage 1a with clear cell ovc, by (sheer miracle) and a husband and wife team! My obgyn Dr. Shirley Chan did a hysterectomy because of a lump found in my abdomen, which by the way, was originally found by a female MD, who said to me, "oh I wouldn't worry about it".

I wanted to know and demanded more tests. I took the report from that test to Dr. Chan and she ordered a hysterectomy I was 46. By the way, I did have the CA125 test before the hysterectomy and it was at 39, and a card sent to me with the results on it, said "no ovarian cancer"

When I woke up in recovery, there was a man on the phone yelling at someone. That man was Dr. Chan's husband, an obgyn oncologist. He was screaming at my insurance company to have my tissues sent to USC. The pathology lab at the hospital said all my tissues showed endometriosis and a fibroid, and all benign. He did not believe it, (dear man), Dr. Richard Friedman got my tissues tested at USC, and they found that very early stage. He then became my doctor.

He then did another surgery, took out 27 nodes, (that were all clear), but he said that the type of cancer I had tended to come back. So I had 6 months of chemotherapy. That was all in 2003 and June 2004 I finished my chemo. By the grace of God, amazingly the cancer never came back.

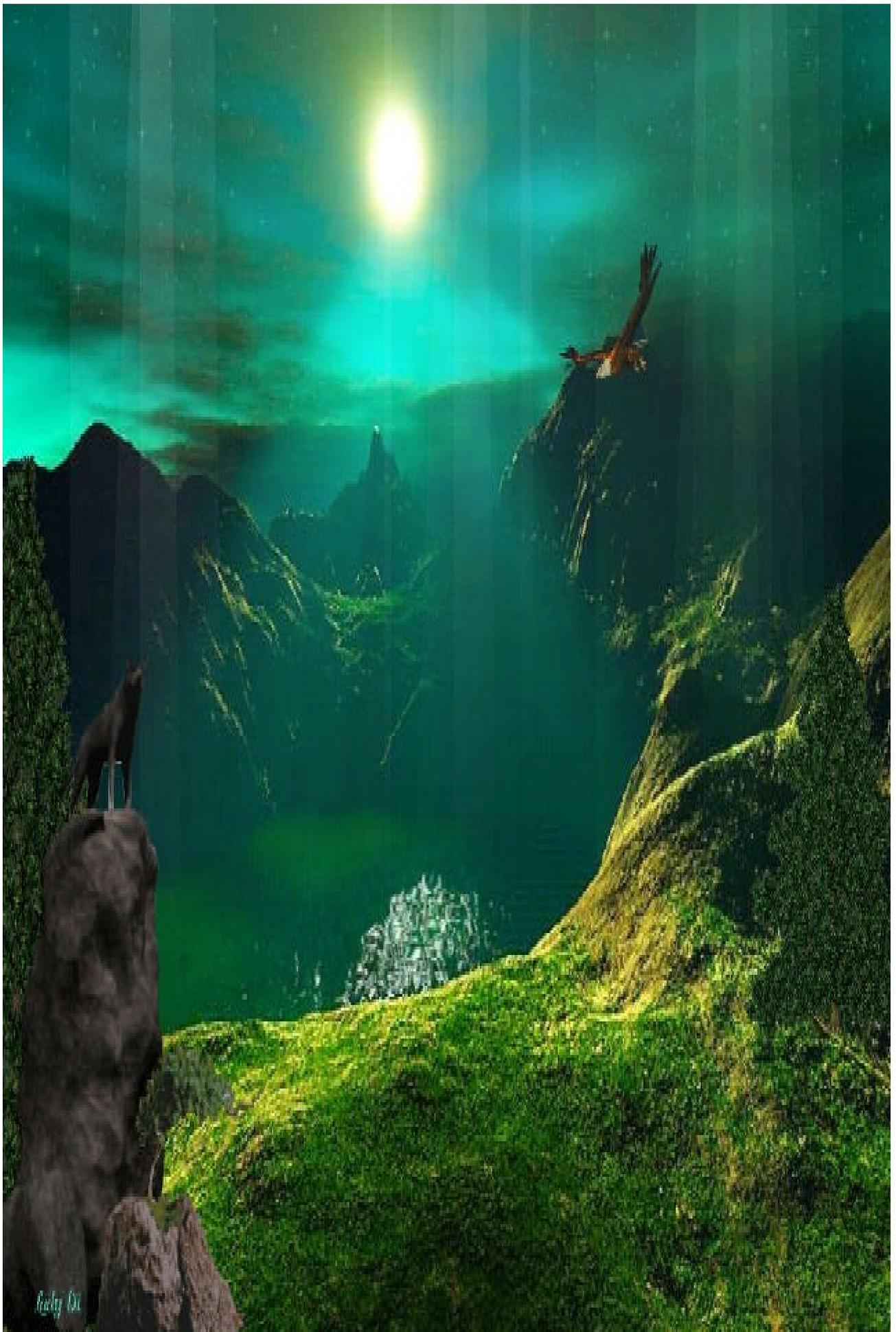
But of course, we always wonder "why" we got it? I did have some risk factors, I had started menstruating before age 12, I had never had children, and I had never taken birth control for long periods of time. Who would have known those were things that put me at risk?!

I have gotten my answer "why"because I am supposed to spread awareness too!

Shortly after I finished chemo, (and had about an inch of hair back), I decided I was going to do something I always wanted to do, and I dyed my hair teal blue. I didn't even know teal was the color for ovarian cancer! So, I have kept my hair blue for all these years! It's unbelievable that it's created a way to connect with people and I tell people all the time why my hair is this color!

God bless all of us touched by this, I am loving the awareness. I knew nothing about it before I got it, so I am sure I lived to help create awareness too. Thank you girls so much for all your are doing to create this much needed awareness, I love you dearly. I had absolutely NO symptoms, everything was normal. So this is so very important!





Andy D.