

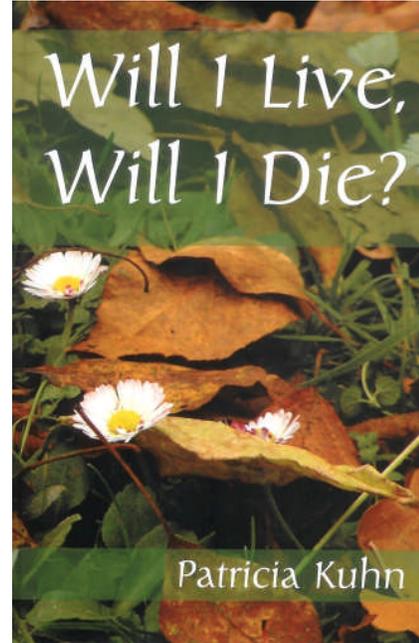
A Review of

## ***Will I Live, Will I Die***

Author: Patricia Kuhn

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart transplant recipient

I will have to come up with some rating system that has as its top rating, books such as this which are characterized as being so captivating that once you pick them up you can't stop reading until you finish that last page, usually within one 24-hour period. Patricia shares a story of her life as she goes from fully functional, self-supporting business professional and business owner to an almost overnight adventure into the dark side of medication induced hallucinations and life altering liver transplant, coma and seizures. This may not be the gift book you want to give to a patient awaiting their own transplant due to the often terrifying dream world Patricia describes so realistically as being a part of her transplant experience, but the story is a real-life story and nobody promises the patient that a transplant will be the perfect life solution, often describing that decision as being "not a black and white choice, but rather one of shades of grey" not knowing the quality of life that will result, but then again, grey to most seems better than definite death without the transplant.



So who should read this book? I would suggest that one audience is the medical professional often challenged by "difficult" patients who, through such candid sharings, would gain insight into what may be going on inside that patient's mind and body that is causing a perceived lack of cooperation. Families and caregivers who realize that this is not the common experience of transplant, but rather one extreme but possible one, would gain solace in the hope and positive outcome that Patricia shares in her story, often made possible by loving family and friends who stay with her through this very trying experience. Without the patience and understanding of that great support system both in the hospital and at home, Patricia's desperation and acceptance of death as a better alternative might have prevailed, instead of the miracles we read about here. And finally, this is powerful and hopeful reading for any patient who is dealing with what may seem impossible post transplant life issues and need to see that there really is light at the end of the tunnel, even with multiple dimensions of such challenges. For the patient, the power of prayer is just one lesson shared, along with the acceptance of support in getting through tough times when one has lived a fully independent life before, and that this is temporary and an essential part of recovery to what will now be their "new" normal life, pills and all.

Yes, hers is a transplant success story, but not without scary moments overcome with great effort and persistence; discovery of the power of prayer and faith in God; demonstrating the driving force of essential purpose in life that family love, especially

that for a child who needs her, gives each new day. And one final lesson in life is how all important the simple things we seldom recognize are, like having control of our mind, a blessing that the reader will never take for granted again after reading this amazing story of human love and survival. Patricia lives to meet her donor family now nine years later, and uses her gifts to encourage and inform others on the importance of saying yes to organ donation and the success of life saving organ transplantation for which her life and story serve as strong supporting evidence.

Note: **Will I Live, Will I Die** is available from the author at [pkuhn56747@aol.com](mailto:pkuhn56747@aol.com)

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**Brief bio:**

Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. '94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with The Gift of Life Donor Program, NKF and UNOS as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered free in thanks to his donor family and can be obtained by contacting him at GLEASONJIM@AOL.COM.