

A Review of
...the kids are still playing nice together in the sandbox (2022)

Author: Jim Carns

Reviewed by **Jim Gleason**, heart recipient '94

What a remarkable story, sharing one's life experiences in surviving not only one lung transplant (way back in 2013), but then a new one from a second donor in 2021. Let me point out that from my perspective of being a surviving heart transplant recipient out 28+ years as I write this (in 2022), with much experience in the world of organ donation and transplant, lung transplants seem to be the most challenging and only the latest to see results of living out many active years of life with those lungs. That makes Jim Carns's book and life story even more unique and inspiring.



The 'secret' behind this strange (or unusual) title is explained on the back cover, where Jim writes: 'I have two different lungs in my chest, from two different donors; the kids I refer to in my title are my lungs and my chest cavity is the sandbox. So far, everything is good, and the kids are still playing nice in the sandbox.' And that is his message in this, his second book. His first book, **New Mountains to Climb**, detailed the story of that first lung transplant and was released in 2016 with no plans ever to write this second book, which I am glad he did. He begins with an overview of that first adventure story and then opens up with the deeper details of life since then. In his book, we follow, month by month, year by year, the frustrations, the emotions, the humor of challenging transplant candidate life, facing possible death as he waits for life with personal and honest candid transparency, a unique gift for the reader.

With the reminder that every patient's story is a unique one and that only if the patient has endured challenges worth writing about, read his timelined details of this second transplant with that in mind. Your transplant life adventure, while learning from his sharings here, will be different in many ways, yet hopefully equally successful despite your own challenges throughout the complex process. Jim provides us with a strong message of transplant success in the example of sharing stories of his adventurous life with that gift of donated lungs. Be sure and read his Epilogue and supporting glossary of terms and medical abbreviations with a 'final word' sharing of an inspirational saying he came across about life with pulmonary fibrosis. You can't read his book without coming away with renewed faith in the human spirit of organ donations and medical miracles and the human body's ability to overcome adversity. Jim's message offers all of us hope beyond whatever life throws at us. Some call the result 'bonus years.' And with those come the challenge of how to live them be they one or fifty, to the best of our abilities. Sharing his story is one answer this author has found to pay it forward in support of those who follow in his transplant footsteps.

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is available in paperback format from the author or [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). and other book sale sites

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**, **UNOS**, president of TRIO 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 viewed on-line at <https://www.rjwitte.com/changeofheart/GiftFromTheHeart/> .