A Review of  
*My Pathway to the Light: Overcoming Legal Blindness (2017)*
Author: Jane Bradley

As a reader and reviewer for literally hundreds of books related to organ transplant and patient life stories over the past 20 years, this was my first one about corneal transplantation. While one would expect to be touched in the heart with so many beautiful lifesaving ‘organ’ transplant stories, most would think restoring vision as being a ‘lesser’ transplant story. But it’s NOT! Years ago at an organ donor recognition ceremony, the keynote speaker was a grandmother sharing her story of receiving a cornea transplant and describing seeing her husband and grandchildren for the first time after years of blindness! I and all were in tears at that telling, and again in reading Jane Bradley’s short (told in only 74 large print pages) book about her journey from 2010 through 2015 with seven surgeries that included two cornea transplants, by chapter (many only two pages long) where she celebrates seeing once again, I had to wipe away my tears to continue reading her story.

This book is a celebration of sight restored and a public thank you for everyone, medical staff and family/friends alike, who supported her on that amazing journey. Don’t be misled by the brevity of the book, she captures the essentials and the emotions in very personal sharing of what life for her was like in that slowly darkening world, and the journey back to the colorful world we all take much too much for granted in our own everyday lives. Hopefully in reading her fears and joys, you will, as I did, more fully appreciated what a miracle the transplantation of the eye can be in getting us back to seeing the blessing all around us.

As shared in this telling, Jane was not alone, among experts and friends, she reaches out to counseling resources when needed to deal with the depression and fear of the unknown as her sight diminishes and diagnoses are delivered of a future in the dark of legal blindness. She conquers all and shares that journey and celebration in this inspiring writing recommended for all to read. Even if you never have to face sight challenges, the reader will come away appreciating the daily light filled world we enjoy with healthy sight, wiping away those tears as you read her excitement in seeing clearly post-transplant: “I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. I was ecstatic!” And you can feel that excitement in her words jumping off the page.

Thanks you Jane, for inviting us along on your amazing journey that both inspires others facing life challenges with diminished sight as well as all who take that working sight for granted, fully appreciated through your new eyes as told by you here.

PS: As Jane reminds us in her telling, register to be an organ and tissue/cornea donor when you die, passing along the gift of sight to so many ‘other Janes’ out there waiting for their opportunity of gifted sight through donation and a cornea transplant.
Reviewer bio: Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. ’94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer leader with TRIO, UNOS and the Gift of Life Donor Program in Philadelphia, as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, A Gift from the Heart, is offered in thanks to his donor family and can be viewed on-line from his blog at http://gleasonjm.wordpress.com or obtained (without cost) on a CD in PC readable format by contacting him at GleasonJim@aol.com