A Review of
Even Her Tears Were Yellow
Author: Steve Logston (2016)

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart recipient

As you read this amazing story of human endurance and family loving support, be prepared to come alongside the daily medical care and testing that allowed this young girl to survive with a series of critical illnesses, blessing those around her with inspiration and hope. Despite eventually with liver disease that limited her life to just 21 years, for those years this awesome example of spirit overcoming pain and adversity made for a full life even with that span of fulfilled living.

The author, writing lovingly through the recollection and notes of Chelsea’s mother and then his own first hand engagement with that family, we feel the pain, both of patient and family, as he details the medical treatments, often on daily and even an hour by hour basis, detailed down to the dosages and names of the life extending meds. With tests and results shared, the reader is offered a very personal insight into that illness and its complications that span many - yet too few - years with Chelsea’s experience from onset with a liver tumor at age 4 (in 1995) through her final 21st year undergoing a 2nd liver transplant – her first being a partial living liver donation from her mother in ’99 - a full life made possible thanks to all that support.

Chelsea’s life and new lasting family mission is to raise awareness of the need for organ donors, her life being a testimony to the success and benefits of sharing one’s organs with others in need after we no longer need them after death, or to share our organs in living donation sometimes possible with kidneys, livers and even lungs. In this effort, Chelsea’s life impact continues even beyond her life though this book and her inspiring life story living through and overcoming so many life threatening health challenges. To balance the tough parts, the author shares Chelsea’s times of fun and laughter. Her endurance and many talents take her even into college in 2011 despite so many years of hospitalizations and fighting long-term illnesses. Her life ended before getting into a full college life due to liver failure and a failed liver transplant in February of 2013.

The author concludes several chapters with reflections of advice taken from the pressure of being a single parent living with the daily pressures and stress of supporting long-term life-threatening children’s illness as this mother has. A final chapter adds personal insights into the tragic experience of losing a child, a powerful read especially for families who share that in their own lives. Oh, and yes, family friend and supporter, author Steve Logston, does become romantically engaged with Chelsea’s mom, Joni, with their marriage living beyond the final chapters of ‘their’ book together.

Steve summarizes his intent on writing this story as: “In reality an entire book or two could be written on all the medical things associated with Chelsea over the years. The intent was not to overly stress everything medical Chelsea had to endure, but rather to show her courage, acceptance, and understanding of everything that happened to her. Also I wanted to emphasize the courage and tenacity of Joni.” This is powerful reading for any family or medical professional looking for meaning in their own long-term medical life experiences. It also continues to be their lifetime work to promote organ awareness as a legacy to their very special girl – Chelsea!
Reviewer’s note: Reading this book was unlike any other I’ve read as I returned home from a life threatening hospital stay that involved many tests and similar – but not the exact same – dire prognosis and excellent care. It was like reading in yet another dimension, directly feeling and relating to Chelsea’s hospital care and more importantly, better appreciating the stress and concerns of the caregivers that is too often lost in the patient’s more immediate and important recovery self-focus. Thank you Steve and Joni, for adding your story to my own life experience through this heart felt book of life and endurance.

**Note: Even Her Tears Were Yellow** is available in paperback and Kindle formats at [Amazon.com](http://amazon.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 online at [http://gleasonjim.com](http://gleasonjim.com) or on CD by contacting him at GleasonJim@aol.com.