

A Review of

Saved by a Stranger,
Life-Changing Journeys of Transplant Patients

Author: Lezlee Peterzell-Bellanich

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart recipient

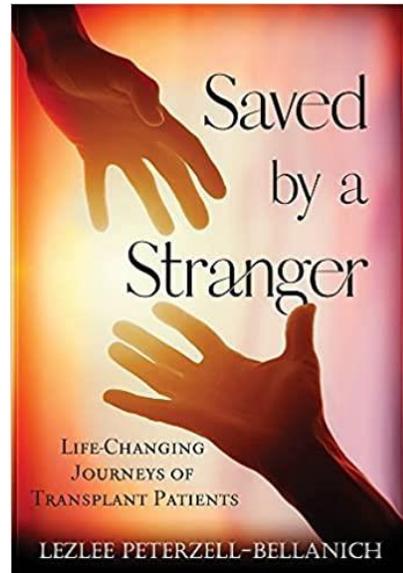
What an awesome life adventure captured by a gifted writer! ***Saved by a Stranger*** tells the very personal journey of a caregiver wife, Lezlee, the author, and her husband, ‘Captain Rob’, as they face death and the many challenges of life dealing for 18 years with a failing liver finally leading up to a life-saving liver transplant on September 10, 2020.

For patients and families reading this story, their book is both scary and inspiring, not only with the details of the medical journey and transplant success, but also with the many complications of family life and business careers that are affected every step along the way. The reader sees through the author’s eyes the critical importance of friends and family support along with a strong faith in God and the transplant team so essential to surviving the life-threatening trials along the way.

There are many lessons to be learned as you walk beside this family, complimented with several interspersed chapters of other families’ stories they meet along the way on similar journeys of liver challenges. Adding yet another unique dimension, the author includes first-hand insights by medical professionals who supported them at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida.

I often judge the quality of a book by how engaging it becomes, to the point where the best books just can’t be put down once started. Such was the case with ***Saved by a Stranger*** which should have lingered on my ‘to be read’ pile until its time came, but instead, once briefly looked at on its early chapter, I couldn’t put it back down, a sign of how good this writer was in capturing their life challenge and journey. When you pick up the book, first look at the back cover and study the two photos of Lezlee and Rob as a couple, both before and after shots that convey the miracle of a liver transplant beyond words. That alone will inspire you to open the book and get as engrossed with their story as I was. To put this another way, I have read and reviewed almost 200 transplant related books, this one may be the best of them all. Nice work, Lezlee, both in surviving the ordeal that you, Rob and your family have gone through and in capturing that journey beautifully in this amazing book!

As Lezlee shares: ‘I wrote this to help me get through this difficult time and encourage everyone to sign up for organ donation.’ Her writings are a strong first-person message encouraging everyone to consider registering as an organ donor, telling the world instead



of donating one's organs to the ground in death, rather to donate them to save lives through organ donation as is shared beautifully here in Captain Rob's family story.

PS: Be sure to enjoy the song Lezlee wrote found on the final pages, '*Be a Giver of Your Liver*' which can also be seen at <https://youtu.be/247bbbSMmNA>

Note: **Saved by a Stranger** is available in hard and soft cover as well as an e-book on [Amazon](#) and her personal website, www.lezlee.com and many other outlets.

Brief bio:

Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant now 28 years ago in 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 online in thanks to his donor family and can be read on-line at <https://www.rjwitte.com/changeofheart/GiftFromTheHeart/>.