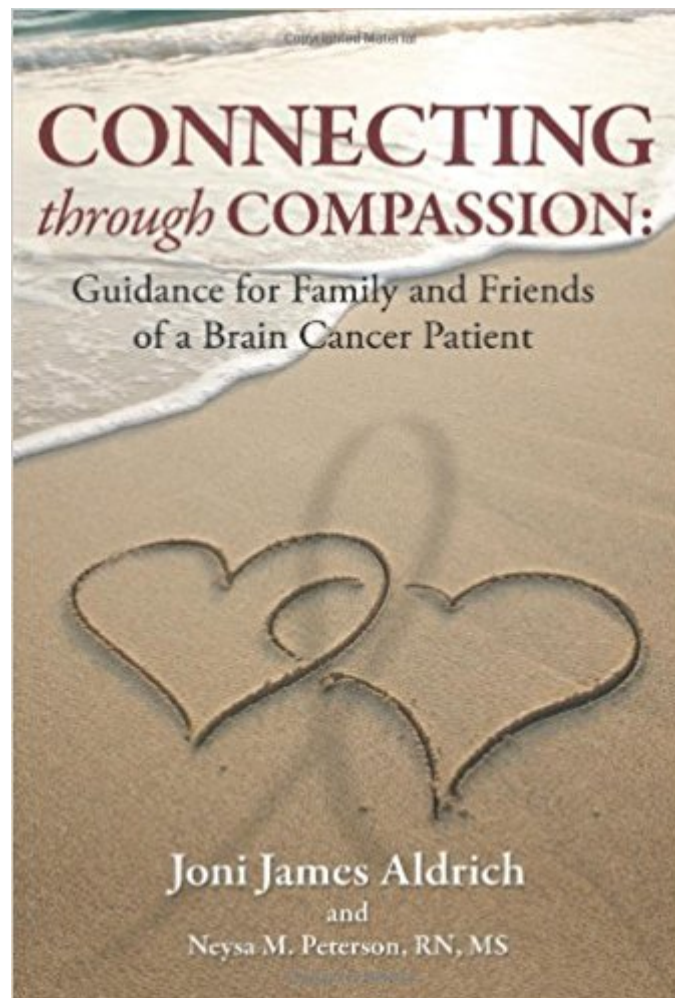




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# Connecting Through Compassion: Guidance For Family And Friends Of A Brain Cancer Patient



## Synopsis

This book candidly discusses the challenges of living with the personality and behavior changes brain cancer brings, and offers practical tools to make the journey easier. Joni Aldrich and Neysa Peterson have each cared for a spouse with a brain illness. They have combined their insights in this practical, straight-talking guide. Readers will learn: symptoms a brain cancer patient may experience; how to create and maintain a warm, comfortable and safe environment; methods to use if communication becomes an issue; how to deal with changes in personality, behavior, and emotions, including loss of social inhibition skills; how to handle issues related to changes in memory and the resulting confusion; how to work through indifference, sadness, and depression towards some peace; how to cope with self-destructive behavior-safety is your number one concern; how to have end-of-life discussions and fulfill final wishes. When a family member or friend is diagnosed with cancer, life as you know it has ended. Not only must you face the chaos of doctors' visits, exhausting treatments, and sleepless nights, you must try to savor every precious moment with your loved one. When the diagnosis is brain cancer, you must endure all this plus one more challenge: the person you love may look the same, and sound the same-but he or she is not the same. His or her personality may change in extreme ways. A kind and loving person may become angry and say hurtful things. A warm, upbeat person may withdraw or behave in self-destructive ways. The essence of your loved one can disappear, even as he or she continues to live. With the tools in this book, you can continue to love and be loved during this difficult crisis. "The last weeks of Gordon's life were spent with someone that I barely knew and didn't know how to approach. It took me two years of counseling to get through the scars. It didn't have to be that way for me. And it certainly doesn't have to be that way for you." ~Joni Aldrich

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Joni Aldrich, author and speaker. This is the fourth book that Joni has written on how to survive cancer, caregiving, end-of-life issues, and grief. This journey began after she lost her husband, Gordon, to cancer that had metastasized to his brain. She believes that there is an unmet need for practical information to help cancer patients and their families, so she continues to research and write books about the daily rigors of living when cancer invades your world. Joni believes that she has been prepared throughout her lifetime to write books and reach out to people affected by cancer. Turning her own devastation at the loss of Gordon into hope for others is no easy task, but she believes that she is destined to follow this path. Neysa Peterson, RN, MS in counseling. Neysa has a wealth of both educational and practical experience with patients suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia. Patients with brain cancer have very similar brain-altering effects as these patients. Through nine years of experience caring for her husband, Jim, Neysa discovered that people with a severe brain illness remain capable of relationships. She learned not to expect Jim to return to her world. Instead, she focused all of her energies on trying to work within the boundaries of Jim's world, which is a totally different approach than many families have when a loved one is diagnosed with a mind-altering disease. Jim was still there, and Neysa recognized that. Not only was Neysa able to keep Jim at home until the disease took him, but she also benefited from the daily treasures of love and bonding that many don't know how to facilitate due to the stigma of brain illness. She learned to allow Jim to be a part of the process, instead of making decisions for him. Instead of "you should," she perfected "why don't you?" or "let's try." Neysa's extensive knowledge helped to bring the message of hope included in this book to families dealing with the difficult reality of brain cancer. Go to [www.jonialdrich.com](http://www.jonialdrich.com) or [www.connectingthroughcompassion.com](http://www.connectingthroughcompassion.com).

I would urge all those close to a brain cancer victim, no matter what their relationship and no matter how far the cancer has progressed, to read this book, read it again and again, and keep it close at all times. One of my longest, closest friends has brain tumors that full-bore radiation and chemo have failed to arrest. Nothing that I can do will keep him alive, but this book has helped me do myriad things to help him live a better last chapter and keep myself from falling apart while that chapter progresses. This book was created by significant others of loved ones who suffered brain cancer. They know full well what helps and what doesn't, what works and what doesn't, for the

patient and for themselves. There's not a theoretician among them. They share, from the front lines, their experience, strength and, yes, even hope of a very special kind. The words "compassion" and "connecting" in the title aren't just words to prettify this book: Mastering both in a very particular way is crucial for patient and loved ones alike. This guide enables me to practice compassion in ways I never before understood; it offers me tools to enhance my connection with a friend who is progressively losing his connection with absolutely everything. I buy multiple copies of this book to give to others whom I meet in hospital, in the nursing home, even in casual conversations with people I meet in the course of my daily work. It amazes me how widespread brain cancer seems to be these days and how deeply many healthy folks are affected by its attack on others. Every copy of this book I've bought through has arrived promptly and in good condition

This book was a life changer, and I will never forget the words that were written within it! The author really takes into account the life of a brain cancer patient, and the care giver. If you are struggling with this disease as a care giver do yourself a favor, and read this! I read the whole thing in just a couple of hours! I had thought that I was the only one going through this, but now I know I am not alone! This is a truly amazing book! Thank you for touching my life!

This book helped me understand how someone with brain cancer may be feeling. It also confirmed that some of the things going through my head were real. I would highly recommend reading this book if you know someone with brain cancer that you are spending any time with.

This book should be required reading for anyone with a loved one with brain cancer. I saw my husband on every page in his journey with glioblastoma. It gave validation for what I was experiencing as a caregiver. I purchased a copy for family members so they too could understand.

Quite helpful in terms of getting my head in the best place to endure this devastating yet rewarding emotional roller coaster ride of life.

Much material repeated from "checking out" would not have needed both books but as a stand alone very useful

Beautifully written, very helpful and easy to read

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