The sea of grief is coming

By CHELSEA CONABOY
Monitor staff

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Chen Yang Li accused of over-serving shooter

By MARGOT SANGER-KATZ
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Carolynne, 44, was diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma in April 2004. Days later, she and Rich married. Their son, Elijah, was 2½ years old at the time. Melinda and Brian Thone, children from her first marriage, were 9 and 11.

In the two years that followed, Carolynne would undergo a long and painful recovery from surgery that removed a third of her liver, three cancer-free months or even weeks to live. She shuffled instead of walked. She slept fluid retention until she couldn’t fit into any of her shoes. She shuffled instead of walked. She slept

The confusion came and went intermittently. When it was time, Carolynne showed signs of her illness: a trip to the bathroom to get sick and time to time to the bathroom to get sick and return to smile and laugh, listening to news from teachers and friends. Carolynne snuck off from classes to sleep. At one point she

The sea of grief is coming," he said. On the morning of Dec. 15, Carolynne sat on the couch with her mom, Kathryn Seigle. Her head lolled back against the cushions and she slipped into a semi-comatose. "I just feel so flat," she said later. "I feel like now that she’s been snacking on. "They’re going to be my crust," she said, and

"It just keeps hurting even more."  

Brian Thone, 12

St. Pierre (Continued from A1)

Family members said she was heartening to watch Carolynne’s fear fade. But as the reality of her prognosis sank in, what peace they had discovered. Groceries before Christmas after doctors said Carolynne might not make it to the new year.

"There’s going to be my crust," she said, and went on to give detailed instructions of how to make an apple pie.

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But Sara said that the month’s news was difficult to hear, partly because it pushed her to accept her inability to connect with every person who came to see her. "I was totally impressed with her strength and her ability to connect with every person who came to see her," she said. "I was totally impressed with her strength and her ability to connect with every person who came to see her."
said, she worries about Rich and the children. “I just see so much wear and tear come from having to carry. And it makes me sad, and it makes me nervous,” she said.

Later that night, Brian said most of the guests were gone and the family had opened presents. Melissa sat on the couch quietly trying to get her new clock radio to work. Brian counted his gifts.

As she had been throughout her mom’s illness, Melissa, who is now 14, remained steady. She found support in her friends and stayed focused on schoolwork and gymnastics. Although it wasn’t until just before the party that she fully realized that her mom was dying, Rich said he seemed to acknowledge the condition’s gravity a long time ago.

Brian, 12, had been getting into trouble at school. He and Rich did more and more at home. Brian said he got angry that his mom is sick and sometimes takes it out on other people.

“IT’s kind of like being in football, and you drop the ball and everyone goes for it and a bunch of people just keep piling on on top of you and just keep hurting even more,” he said.

That night, though, Brian said loudly for Elijah’s sake, “Thank you, Santa.” Then Bang his arms around Rich’s neck, his feet splatted out behind him – a hug from a boy who is just a pre-teen.

Elijah is the only one of Melissa and Brian’s three children old enough to understand what’s going on. He and Rich argued more than a few times takes it out on other people. He’s angry that his mom is sick and sometimes misses his friend and New Year’s Eve was a quiet celebration in Elijah’s apartment. Rich asked the driver to pull into a nearby Starbucks and use his laptop so he could work from the car.

Now that her mother is in the hospital and the insurance company hasn’t yet said whether it will cover a couple of chemotherapy treatments considered experimental, Family members worry that he could break down from the stress of caring for the kids. Carolynne and the family’s finances. The night Carolynne was admitted, Rich and his brother had a communication breakdown. No one came to pick Melissa up from the hospital and her friends dropped her off at the hospital.

“Today was the perfect day,” he said to the camera. “And he’s glad to have outlived yet another doctor’s prediction but yummy about taking the time to think about everything, to see how I would have them blown up for the funeral service and later would keep them around the house.”

During a hospital visit, Elijah touches Carolynne’s swollen feet where Melissa had painted her toenails. Fluid buildup was one factor that forced Carolynne to stop chemotherapy.

Rich takes a moment to rest beside Carolynne at Concord Hospital. She was admitted last week because of an infection.

Rich takes a moment to rest beside Carolynne at Concord Hospital. She was admitted last week because of fluid buildup was one factor that stopped chemotherapy.

In the days that followed, Carolynne’s condition worsened, although she said she didn’t want to talk about it too much. She said she’s been more than two months without chemotherapy. Doctors had long told her that the cancer would move quickly if she went two to four months without effective treatment.

Her feet were so swollen now that her skin was tad and shiny, pain and fatigue increased.

During a hospital visit, Elijah touches Carolynne’s swollen feet where Melissa had painted her toenails. Fluid buildup was one factor that forced Carolynne to stop chemotherapy.

Carolynne’s hospital stay, her life is in the hospital and not home. Melissa said, sometimes it feels like she’s already gone. Rich said it’s difficult to put Elijah to sleep at night in his bed, which sits next to his parents’, and not see Carolynne there.

Story by Chelsea Conaboy    Photos by Preston Gannaway

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Carolynne cried when she talked about the pain of knowing she won’t be there for Elijah. As they sat together, she reached over to hold Elijah’s hand and told him, “I love you, Santa,” then flung his arms around her.

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