

## Beating Cancer

By Alex

Life can get hard,  
It'll be unfair and tough.  
But remember that without peanut butter,  
You wouldn't appreciate the fluff.

Back in high school,  
Before graduation,  
I was hit with some news  
That left me wishing for vacation.

My doctors told me  
That I had a disease.  
Leukemia; it could be beat,  
But not with much ease.

Now that's in the past,  
It was all said and done.  
I had won the fight,  
And was back to the fun.

But life got worse  
At the end of 2015.  
And I thought to myself,  
"Man, life can be mean."

I was told I had relapsed.  
Once again I had cancer.  
I couldn't respond,  
I didn't know how to answer.

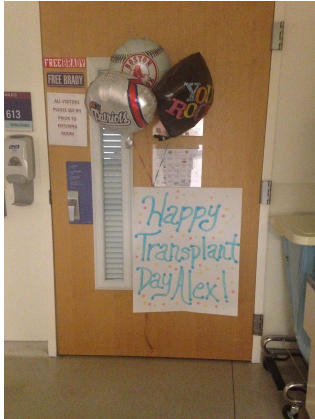
All I could say was:  
"Alright let's do this."  
And again I'd fight;  
A survivor never loses.



I decided to train  
For my upcoming battle,  
Because this fight would be different;  
I couldn't hop on the same saddle.



A transplant this time,  
Not just chemo.  
We had to find me a donor,  
Our own "Finding Nemo."



We found me a match,  
Perfect as could be,  
There was only one catch;  
She was from Germany!

So the marrow got shipped,  
And I got transfused.



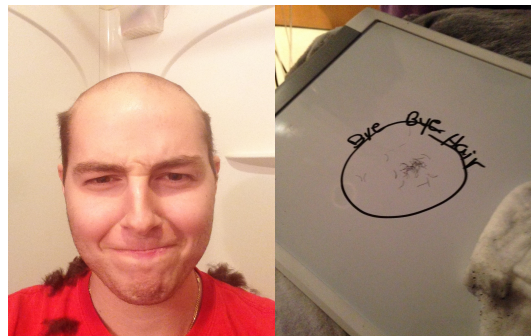
It left me with mouth sores,  
Headaches, and gave me the blues.



But not all was bad.  
I learned quite a bit.  
Like how happiness and triumph,  
Are all a mindset.



I lost all of my hair,  
A bummer at first.  
But just a few jokes,  
Can make for a laughter outburst!



I had family with me,  
Supporting me without pause.



And there were lots of friends too,  
Doing their part for the cause.



I learned what was important,  
And who was truly there for me.  
I learned what I was made of,  
And what I can be.

And along my journey,  
I picked up a few scars.  
But I also got to meet,  
A ton of pro sports stars!



It wasn't just me,  
That this challenge affected.  
A common misconception,  
That should be quickly corrected.

My girlfriend, my Gram-Gram,  
My siblings and parents;



They all helped so much,  
They were all so caring.



They helped me keep up my weight,  
Made me exercise too.



They even got me through C-Diff,  
With all my bloody poo.

Impossible to forget,  
Were the doctors and nurses.



To describe all that they did,  
Would take endless verses.

And all those around me,  
Reaching out helping hands.  
People I didn't even know,  
Being such supportive fans.



I think of all that I have,  
And for that I thank God.  
My family, my new marrow,  
And a kind German woman abroad!

