



Finding My Heart.

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Treatment

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The incredible journey of award winning journalist who undergoes a heart transplant and the impact it has on her life and of other survivors.

Based on a true story.

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Introduction.

Celia is an award winning journalist and columnist for a leading national magazine. After 30 years of hard work she has reached the pinnacle of her career; a loving family, respect from her peers and a small degree of fame.

She is about to face the biggest challenge of her life.

Back Story.

Ever since she was a little girl, Celia had a driving curiosity about everything. She loved putting jig saw puzzles together. She was constantly asking questions - trying to learn as much as she could. When she went off to school, to no one's surprise, she became a reporter for her college newspaper.

Shortly after graduation she was hired as a writer for a local daily newspaper. She was living her dream.

Over the course of the next 20 years; Celia marries Kent who worked at the paper and together they raised two children.

Her work earned her national recognition including a Peabody award. She was offered a position as lead reporter at a prestigious magazine based in Atlanta.

She and her husband were happy and their family thrived.

The Story.

Celia loves the magazine and her life. Her portfolio included national politics, education and human interest stories, which were her favorite.

Her ability to connect with her audience and the professional respect from her peers was well established. She was by all accounts at the pinnacle of her career.

That was all about to change.

While out covering a story, she has a massive heart attack. She was rushed to the nearest hospital in grave condition.

The emergency room doctors save her life, but they tell her that she needs a heart transplant.

With over 4,000 patients waiting and only 2,400 transplants, the doctor tells her that it will be difficult to find a donor in time.

From her hospital bed, she and her family go into high gear and within a month her “team” (doctor, husband, son, daughter and friends) find a suitable and anonymous donor.

Within hours, she undergoes a very complicated 12 hour surgery.

After months of rehab, her doctor says she’s well enough to return to work, which she wants to do. She is now faced with some of the most important decisions of her life.

Her life has changed more than she could ever imagine.

Celia is now a member of a very exclusive club. She now has someone else’s heart beating in her chest.

Celia never was told about the donor or circumstances about her new heart. What she did notice is that ‘something’ was different, but she can’t put her finger on exactly what was ‘different’.

Celia tells her doctor about this, and he tells her that it’s normal for transplant patients to have these “ghost like’ feelings. How can this be happening? More importantly, why is it happening to her?

Celia returns to her job determined to make her new life her next story. She immerses herself, and begins to discover a world she never knew existed.

Each week, there is another story of not only survivors but how Celia was able to track down their donors. And each week, the stories become more amazing.

A 35 year old man who never touched a piano is now a piano teacher. Celia discovers that his heart donor was a jazz pianist.

Another story is about a 20 year woman who was afraid to go outdoors, who is now taking daily hikes in the woods. Celia discovers that her donor worked as a ranger in the National Park Service.

Celia documents over 100 cases from around the world until she finally finds her donor.

She has found her heart.