

Waiting for Lisa

by Cathy Batson

Since last Christmas my plan had been to go to Indiana where my family lives.

Then the Pandemic struck.

Still, my niece was newly diagnosed with breast cancer so I really, really, really wanted to be there. I wasn't looking forward to not being there. I was feeling down about it, but after talking to a few people and just praying about it I realized I can reach out via technology. Even if I were there, I wouldn't be able to touch her because her immune system is compromised.



From the beginning I just knew I had to be with her and her family. She always has a big Christmas celebration. Then because of the Pandemic, she had already reduced the list of people. It was just going to be me; her husband, my sister, and her son who's home from the service. Then, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, everything changed. I talk to her every day, saying many, many prayers on her behalf.

I realized I had to get out of my way and listen to her. She said, “Aunt Cathy, I know you really want to be here. You know, I do, but you know, I feel you! I feel your spirit!” She said, “You're already here.” That helped me feel better.

Lisa is 52. I remember the day she was born—May 4th! She's mine. She is my oldest sister's baby, but she's my baby, too.

I was a teenager and I was still the baby of the family. I remember my parents saying, “She should be having that baby any moment now.” Lisa is the third of my sister's kids. She was not their first, but she was my first. We were anticipating her and when she came, she was very small. You could almost hold her in the palm of your hands, and I immediately claimed her as gift to me.

She was the first baby I waited for because when my older sister Diane's first child was born, I was six and I was not happy about that. That baby just rocked

my world. I was not happy at all when she showed up and nobody alerted me that this baby was coming. She just showed up one day and I'm like, wait a minute, where did this little thing come from?

But, by the time Lisa was born, I was absolutely waiting for her arrival and she's been my heart strings ever since. She and I have always been very close. We share a lot, we have deep conversations. She's just a beautiful spirit. I adore her.

I remember holding her, rocking her to sleep. I remember the first time that she walked, I remember so much about her. It was my sister Diane's baby, but she shared that baby happily with me. This year just as when she was a small tiny baby, she had no qualms, no worries. She was like "Yeah, we're good."

What a gift!