



*The doctor's words were abrupt and unexpected:
"We'll start chemotherapy right away."*

*Chemotherapy ... for WHAT?
I feel just fine;
I'm not that sick;
You must be wrong.*

*What does it mean?
I'll lose my hair;
I'll lose my looks;
I'll lose my life.*

*It can't be true:
I'm still too young;
The tests are off;
They must be wrong.*

*The doctor's words were abrupt and unexpected:
"It's getting worse."*

*It must be true:
I don't feel well;
I don't look good;
It's such a waste.
Why does life end so soon?*

*My body's ill
But my soul is strong.
I need to fight;
I won't give in.*

*And then, with time,
I make my peace.
I grasp what once
Seemed out of reach.*

*I'm calm
About my lot,
About my life,
About my soul.*

*The doctor's words were abrupt and unexpected:
"I think you're well."*

*How can this be?
I had no chance;
I was so ill;
I had no choice.*

*As I look back the pieces fit somehow:
Growth follows pain;
Calm follows fear;
Hope follows shock.*

Now I have peace of mind.

*As life goes on
This memory cannot fade.
It will sustain
When crisis strikes again.
I've faced the worst;
I've been refined.*

*I'll be equipped
Next time.*

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Credits:

From *Life Is a Non-Stop Event*, a book of poetry by Carole Bos.

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