

A Gift of Grace

Friendship

Kathy

Today is Valentine's Day, the day of love. It is also the birthday of my friend and coauthor, Gayle. I am glad we met and became friends. I imagine our paths would have turned out very differently without our friendship to guide, support, protect, encourage, and sustain us as we traveled this special journey.

Before Mark was born, I knew nothing about seizures or autism. Today, it's a different story; I've become quite familiar with both. It has been amazing and wonderful to share my experiences with someone who can completely relate to my circumstances. We've helped each other to grow, and to see things more clearly when we weren't able to do so by ourselves. We've encouraged each other to take steps we were afraid to take. We've listened to each other's stories about our other loves, but have always come back to the special love for our sons that brought us together.

In our journey together, we have grown as individual women, discovering our own strengths—some we weren't even aware we had—and finding our own distinct way as we traveled this path together, yet separately. While we live on opposite sides of the country, that hasn't stopped or hurt our friendship. It's probably been a good thing. If we lived closer to each other, we'd probably spend all our days talking on the phone or at each other's homes. This way, the need to keep an eye on our pocketbooks frees us to actually live our lives instead of just talking about them.