

Cancer survivor walks on the sunny side of the street

Video	Audio
Jennie Spencer	"My name is Jennie Spencer. I've been a patient at Mayo Clinic and Methodist Hospital, and I am a cancer survivor."
Jennie Spencer	"I've never written anything in my life."
Jennie Spencer	"How have you been? Yeah, thank you. Curly hair ... never had curly hair in my life. I love it."
Jennie Spencer	"We took that in Galena of Bill and I."
Jennie Spencer Patient	"I wanted to write a fairy tale. I knew I couldn't use Pac-Man in the story. But I wanted them to be small, round orange things. So, anyhow, they became instead of orange, it became tangerine and, so, the characters in the book are tangies. I have orange Pac-Man running through my veins gobbling up my cancer cells. Do you remember that?"
Jennie Spencer	"So anytime I would lay back and look up at the med pole and see all of those chemotherapy bags, the bowl list of fluid, I was like, 'Yep, Pac-Man's got me.'"
Jen Garloff	"Being the role model that you are, I mean, I'm sure it had some kind of impact on her."
Jennie Spencer	"She made bracelets for everybody and necklaces for everybody."
Jennie Spencer	"I said, 'Do you recognize me?' And she goes, 'Oh, I recognize your mask.'" (laughs)
Jennie Spencer	"This is a picture my sister did of Princess June who the story's about."
Jennie Spencer	"And you know Andrea Gross? She was one of my night nurses. She did the calligraphy for the title page."
Andrea Gross	"I'm so excited for you."
Jennie Spencer	"Oh, thank you."
Andrea Gross	"Oh, look at you!"

Jen Garloff	"I don't even have a word to describe it. It's wonderful."
Jennie Spencer	"Thank you."
Jennie Spencer	"Breathe." (laughs)
Jennie Spencer	"You are a princess destined to become a queen. Your own wonderous story has already begun. Your once upon a time is now."
Jennie Spencer	"Of course, without the undying support of the 7 th floor hematology nurses, I would have come to a literal standstill."
Jennie Spencer	"Their confidence in me and their love for the meaning behind my story filled my soul with happiness. And you guys did."
Andrea Gross	"So proud of you."
Jennie Spencer	"Oh."
Andrea Gross Registered Nurse Mayo Clinic	"Stories like this, we never get to hear very often. So often, in the hospital, we get to only see people struggling and going through those difficult times. And, so, to have a pandemic and just so much negativity in the world right now, we need to have these lovely stories of faith and hope and strength and just pure joy. You know, that's what we work so hard for is for our patients to be successful and go on and live a great life."
Jennie Spencer	"You guys have been a blessing to me. Thank you so much for everything."
Jen Garloff	"Thank you."
Jennie Spencer	"Yeah."
Jen Garloff Social Worker Mayo Clinic	"I mean, you always wanted to know how we were doing too ..."
Jennie Spencer	"Yeah."
Jen Garloff	"... you know, you're always interested in everybody else and while taking care

	of yourself though, so ...”
Jennie Spencer	“Yeah.”
Jen Garloff	“... it’s cool to see things like that, honestly.”
Jen Garloff	“It’s experiences like this ... patients, you know, working with people and knowing what happens ... I’m grateful for it. So, thanks for including us. And, I mean, in all your success stories and even, you know, even when you had back slides, you included us, and you let us know how you were feeling. You let us help you. I think that’s a big difference.”
Jen Garloff	“Her mask is ... that is Jennie. That’s all I have to say. When you described it to me, I’m like ‘That’s an awesome way of describing chemotherapy.’”
Jennie Spencer	“Yeah.”
Jen Garloff	“You have, I mean, you have the Pac-Man that’s going to eat up the cancer cells.”
Jennie Spencer	“That’s right. And this mask has started so many conversations. The nurse turned around and said to me, ‘Have you finished your story?’ I was like, ‘You recognize me?’ She goes, ‘Oh, I’d know that laugh anywhere.’” (laughs)