



Derailing HER DIAGNOSIS

By Amy Spagnola

BEING A MID TWENTY-SOMETHING ISN'T ALWAYS EASY. Chasing down jobs, finding a mate and negotiating the post-college social scene can be a huge challenge, but for Stephanie Madsen, a bubbly 25-year old blonde, the pieces of her life puzzle were coming together without a hitch.

Born in California and raised in Arizona and Colorado, this hairstylist and nanny grew up sharing a household with five other siblings; soon, though, her days of bathroom wars would come to end when she met the love of her life, a "small town boy" named Matt.

With her strong Christian faith, and leaning on Matt for emotional support, the team at **Swedish Medical Center** was ready to manage the physical portion of her road to recovery.

Stephanie is currently under-going both chemotherapy and radiation treatments at **Rocky Mountain Gynecologic Oncology at Swedish Medical Center**. "I love it here. The nurses and doctors really get to know you and develop a true friendship with you. For me during this experience to come into treatment and know who you're going to be



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The two fell in love, decided to get married and to play "mom and dad" to a spunky Cairn Terrier named Scout.

Back in January 2012, not only did Stephanie turn 25, but she also received some heartwrenching news that would change her life forever. She would be diagnosed with large-cell neuroendocrine cancer of the cervix.

Stephanie's life as a carefree newlywed was no more. She'd undergo a long and aggressive chemotherapy and radiation treatment that would also include a hysterectomy.

As Stephanie recounts, "Hearing I had cancer was tough but hearing that I was going to have a hysterectomy at twenty-five was even tougher."

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Swedish offers the highest quality patient care, and the most advanced treatments and technologies to help people like Stephanie on their journey back to health.

Stephanie, who blogs about her battle with the disease at *derailingmydiagnosis.com*, is planning a trip to Disneyland with her husband when treatments have finished. She considers herself, "a cancer soldier... soon-to-be survivor."