



Difficult *Decisions*

When questions
sparked
answers, these
3 women
took control

By Kristine Meldrum Denholm

Maybe it was the call. The one that changed Vicki's life came as she nursed her three month-old baby boy. For Shannon, the phone rang at 3:30 p.m. as she worked at home. For Bonnie, hearing her brother's voice on the line – "I have cancer" – jolted her.

Or maybe it was other life-changing moments – of hearing your doctor say "I really can't believe it myself, you have breast cancer," of telling your preschoolers "mommy has to go see the doctor," of scheduling gym time at 6 a.m., so you

can make it to radiation at 7 – but mere seconds are crystal clear to them now. Little moments catapulted these young women into big appointments and propelled them forward to fight breast cancer. They chose to be in control of something out of control. Their

clarity in decision-making would define their rough days ahead.

Vicki, Shannon and Bonnie refused to be in the estimated 39,620 women who will die of breast cancer this year. With the support of their families, friends, faith, intuition, and medical professionals, they glared back at breast cancer and retorted, no thank you. Move over, I'll take the reins now. As Vicki says: "Cancer picked the wrong woman to invade."