

Eileen Suzuki Monologue Script
Caregiver for Angela Foster

My name is Eileen and I'm Angela Foster's best friend. We've known each other for over 30 years, since our kids were in grade school together, and now we're both grandmas. Angela is an only child, so we were like sisters. Our families were close as our kids were growing up and we did a lot of things together. But then we both had lots of change in our lives, and we really needed each other over the past 12 years or so. Angela's husband Ben left her right after their youngest son graduated from high school. He said he just stayed until the boys grew up, but the marriage was over for him years before that. It really blindsided Angela. She was devastated. My husband Michael and I stood by her. And then, two years after Ben left, Michael was killed in a car crash and Angela was my rock. I don't know what I would've done without her. I mean, the whole "being alone" thing was so tough, and she really helped me through it.

I feel like I owe her, but I don't mean that in a bad way. She's been the best friend she could be, and I want to do everything I can to get through this cancer treatment. It's especially hard for her because her mother died of cancer. Angela has two grown boys, but one is in Japan and the other lives about 2,000 miles away. So, she really needs me to be a good friend right now.

My problem is – I'm torn between helping Angela and helping my daughter Jennifer. I have twin girls, Jennifer and Elizabeth, but they are so different. Liz is stable and self-sufficient, but Jennifer's had her problems. She had a boyfriend who was horrible. He was abusive and everyone knew it but Jen. She thought she had a "normal" relationship. She got pregnant and he was NOT supportive. One day she ended up in the emergency room after he beat her up. She almost lost the baby and that finally convinced her to leave him. She is now trying to finish her business degree and she's having a hard time. She gets no child support from him, which is OK with her because she wants NO contact with him. And now she has financial issues, so I am helping out by taking care of her daughter Harper. I love that little girl, I retired early just so I could help with her. I also worry about Jen because she always had problems with depression. I want so badly for Jennifer to succeed in school and be able to take care of herself and Harper and have some happiness in her life.

But now that Angela is having surgery and then lots of cancer treatment, she needs me as well. If Harper were a little older it would be easier, but she's TWO! It's the worst age! I don't know how I will do everything I want for both of these women. I love them both so much and I'll do everything I can to help Angela get her health back and to help Jen finish school and have a happy, healthy child. But man, this is hard!