

Valerie Harper, Facing Incurable Cancer, Hopes for Miracle

Valerie Harper has incurable cancer, but she's keeping herself open to receiving a miracle.

In her first television appearance since revealing her diagnosis last week, the actress told the *Today Show's* Savannah Guthrie that "incurable" is a tough word.

People "hear it as this death sentence," Harper, 73, explained. "But I'm not dying until I do. I promise I won't."

Harper also said she was more than hopeful: "I have an intention to live each moment fully."

She has been diagnosed with a rare brain cancer, and it's unclear as to how long she has left. Her doctor told her a week, three months or years. She received the news less than two months ago during her book tour for her recently released memoir, titled *I, Rhoda*.

The 1970s television sitcom actress is best known for playing Rhoda Morgenstern on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and its spinoff, *Rhoda*. She won four Emmys in the role.

In her *Today Show* interview, which aired Monday, Harper said it's important to keep "your thoughts open to infinite possibility and keep yourself open to miracles."

"It feels ... good to be open about [the illness], face it and see what you can do," she explained. "If you die, you're not a failure. You're just somebody who had cancer, and that's the outcome."

Though the actress said she's "ready to say bye-bye" if that's

what it comes to, she's holding on to hope: "The thing I have is—very rare and it's serious, and it's incurable ... so far. So I'm holding on to the 'so far.'"