

The Last Day

From Tyler Appel's debut poetry book, Messages I Should Have Sent.

**I open my eyes to a gloomy sky one cold December morning
I knew today was coming but I wish I had more warning**

**I make my bed and get dressed like it was any normal day
I open my bedroom door and you're waiting there to play**

**You've gotten slower since the tumor started to get larger
Seeing you get weaker by the minute is hellacious torture**

**I keep praying for a miracle but I'm starting to lose hope
Just the thought of life without you my heart can't even cope**

**I get my morning coffee and lay next to you under the Christmas tree
It has grown brown and brittle, it might be time to set it free**

**We sit in comforting silence soaking up the company
I take small sips of my coffee extra reluctantly
Knowing this will be our last morning coffee as you & me**

**I give you ice cream for breakfast and a pat on the head
Trying not to let you see the never-ending tears I've shed**

**But nothing gets past your observant eyes, not even *when I was* a kid
You lick *away* my tears just like you *always* did**

***We* take a *walk* up the street to my old elementary school
It's your favorite place on earth, besides the saltwater pool**

**I lay a blanket in the field so *we* can rest *awhile*
The smell of fresh cut grass really makes you smile**

***We* watch the children play and the other dogs run
I get flashbacks of you & I, damn *we* had some fun**

**I look at you *with* tired eyes and soak up every detail
How I *wish we* could get on a boat and forever set sail**

***When* it's time to go *we* set off for the short *walk* home
You look back at the field that you and Tanner used to roam
I think you said goodbye and thank you for the funnest place you'd *known*
Or maybe you *were* trying to figure out *where* you left your bone**

**I take small steps *toward* home extra reluctantly
Knowing this *will* be our last *walk* home as you & me**

***When we* make it to the house Mom & Dad are in the car
They're fighting back a flood of tears, for all of us this is hard**

**I stand trembling in a sea of time hoping it *will* freeze
I can't move, I need one more minute please**

But you put your nose on my knee and give me an ever so slight nudge

**Your eyes say it's time to go, you *want* the pain to stop
I *follow* you to the running car and feel my heart drop**

**I feel selfish *wanting* you to stay *with* me a little longer
I feel naive *wishing* you *would* grow a little stronger**

**At the vet's office you are greeted *with* a smile
The nurse leaves the room to grab your file**

**I'm shaking violently trying not to face reality
I can't lose my little boy, I'll do anything – please**

**I hug you tight promising never to let go
You kiss my face because you're ready to go home**

**We share a final gaze that lets you know *what* you already do
That you're my best friend forever, and that I love you**

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**I open my eyes to a gloomy sky the next December morning
I knew today was coming but I wish I had more warning**

**I make my bed and get dressed like it was any normal day
The only difference is you're not waiting at my door to play**

**I sit in the empty space where we used to have the Christmas tree
Thinking about the last day that was shared by you & me**

**I hope wherever you are you're happy and running free
One day I'll come & find you, what a happy day that will be**

**We'll both be rid of sickness and the sad thoughts of years gone by
But until then I'll carry on for you, I promise I will try**



*Preorder the new book, Messages I Should Have Sent, out December 21st.
www.tylerjappel.com/store*

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