

# Beyond the Last Goodbye:

Coping with Familial Death Through Poetry

By: Simrat Kang





# "Alone" by Edgar Allan Poe

From childhood's hour I have not been As others were—I have not seen As others saw—I could not bring My passions from a common spring— From the same source I have not taken My sorrow—I could not awaken My heart to joy at the same tone— And all I lov'd—I lov'd alone— Then—in my childhood—in the dawn Of a most stormy life—was drawn From ev'ry depth of good and ill The mystery which binds me still— From the torrent, or the fountain— From the red cliff of the mountain— From the sun that 'round me roll'd In its autumn tint of gold— From the lightning in the sky As it pass'd me flying by— From the thunder, and the storm— And the cloud that took the form (When the rest of Heaven was blue) Of a demon in my view—

### "Kindness" by Sylvia Plath

Kindness glides about my house.

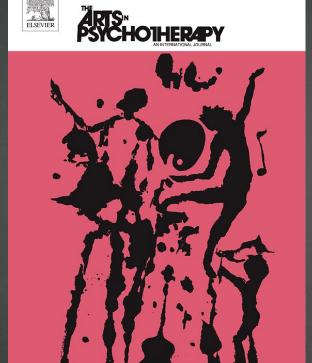
Dame Kindness, she is so nice!

The blue and red jewels of her rings smoke
In the windows, the mirrors

Are filling with smiles.

What is so real as the cry of a child?
A rabbit's cry may be wilder
But it has no soul.
Sugar can cure everything, so Kindness says.
Sugar is a necessary fluid,
Its crystals a little poultice.
O kindness, kindness
Sweetly picking up pieces!
My Japanese silks, desperate butterflies,
May be pinned any minute, anesthetized.

And here you come, with a cup of tea Wreathed in steam. The blood jet is poetry, There is no stopping it. You hand me two children, two roses.





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#### **Memories**

I will hold your hand forever. Whether I'm three or twenty-four Fading from my memory, you could never.

Playing board games, thinking I'm clever These moments go deep in my core I will hold your hand forever.

In the quiet moments, we endeavor. Through laughs and tears like never before, Fading from my memory, you could never. In times like these, we were happier than ever. Yet these moments are cut short, therefore, I will hold your hand forever.

Being outdoors, no matter the weather,
Things you longed for could not happen
anymore.
Fading from my memory, you could never.

Wishing everyone to be together
All were crowded by your bedroom door.
I will hold your hand forever.
Fading from my memory, you could never.

# Will I Be Able to Continue Without You?

Will I be able to continue without you?

Spending twelve years thinking the promises were true

Imagining every milestone in my life

With you by my side

Who knew our time was limited
Turns out, everyone except you.
Unable to share my fears
For the secret is what's eating you up inside

They said it's for the best if you don't know How can that be true? You can get better and just take it slow Once fully recovered, we can finally go To all the places we planned
But little did I know that you could barely stand
What was once a small disease
Took over your body entirely

Too young to understand
Cancer, it seems, to demand
The person I love the most
Holding your frail hand one night

Just for you to be entirely gone the next As young as I was I don't think I can continue without you Because there are still many milestones

I need to achieve, especially since you promised You'd be there next to me.





David E. Balk





# Closure

The Rush to End Grief and What It Costs Us

Nancy Berns



