

For now and forever. Until tomorrow.

“Terminal”. The word hadn’t seemed real as it pierced right through my very being. All our hopes and plans for, not an exquisite, but for a normal future lay in tatters on the floor of the doctor’s office as we gathered together our belongings and left. There were no tears...not then; I held your hand in reassurance as we traipsed down that glum maze of corridors, searching for a way out.

Our home together, recently furnished, had earlier provided us with a sanctuary – hidden away from the world, it was a place where only you and I seemed to exist. The knowledge that within three calendar months would leave nothing but an empty shell lay dormant within me, not surfacing; it was too early for that. Photos of beaming faces seemed a world away, memoirs of our short 8 years together, never progressing to 9. Of one thing I was certain: you were and always had been my entire world and you always will be, no matter what.

It was 142hours later that it hit. When I awoke in a frantic sweat at 4AM that Tuesday morning to be greeted by your anxious eyes, filled with concern, I noticed it. You were changing.

Your once glowing skin was paling, your previously luscious curls wilted about your face, but beauty had never seemed so unimportant. Though your eyes seemed to have lost all hope, I still saw the love in them, shining out against all odds.

I couldn’t hold back my anger and lashed out at everyone around me. How had I possibly let it come to this? I was livid at the heavens for reserving your place so soon; furious with myself for not doing the proper thing.

I left my job and bought the ring that very same day. All caution had been thrown to the wind. No longer would I be selfish and scared, we would spend what little time remains as one. Honestly though, I still remain selfish to this very moment as nothing would elate me more than for you to die as mine. Seeing you walk through those doors, dressed head to toe in ivory, has provided me with the single most important memory that a lifetime could produce. Knowing that according to the doctors we have but hours remaining together has made this day more special than any other.

So now I stand before you, with tears in my eyes and tell you you’re beautiful. This is for now and forever...until tomorrow.

Becky Jones & Kelly Phillips