



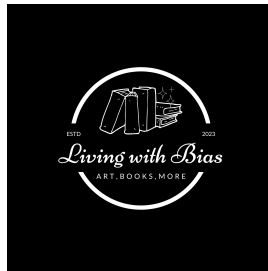
# *Diary of a Dying Girl*

WRITTEN BY  
MEREDITH PATTERSON  
A LIVING WITH BIAS BOOK

# Diary of a Dying Girl

BY MEREDITH PATTERSON

A LIVING WITH BIAS SHORT STORY



Friday, October 3

Dear Josh,

I was taken out of class today to go to the hospital. I didn't tell you I was going lately. At first I thought I was just having headaches, but they've gotten pretty painful, so I have been going to the doctor to have it checked out. They did a brain scan last week. Today they told me I had a brain tumor. I don't know how to tell you in person, so I am writing you this note.

Love,

Rachel

Monday, October 6

Dear Josh,

You cried when I gave you the note. It hurt my heart to see you cry. I cried too. Don't worry though. I am not going anywhere. I'm sure they'll be able to remove the tumor. And we don't even know if it's cancerous. Thanks for caring about me.

Love,

Rachel

Wednesday, October 15

Dear Josh,

You told me you love me today. It was just like the movies. Thank you for being the best. Even though things are so crazy, you make sure I'm ok and you give me a sense of normalcy. I don't know if I told you I love you back because I was freaking out internally. If I forgot, I love you.

Love,

Rachel

Monday, November 10

Dear Josh,

I went to the hospital again today. They told me that I need to stay there for a while. The tumor is growing and turning into cancer. I don't feel like writing today.

Love,

Rachel

Thursday, November 13

Dear Josh,

I have a headache today. It's bad. I told the doctors and they said it was just from the tumor.

That didn't help me at all. I don't care if it's from the tumor. I still want to be able to get rid of it.

One good thing happened. You came to visit me. We talked for hours, but my head hurt the whole time. I didn't tell you though. I didn't want you to be sad.

Love,

Rachel

Thursday, November 20

Dear Josh,

I was put on new medication to try to get rid of the tumor. It tastes horrible. I don't want to take it. I'd rather do another form of medication, but this is the first option. They'd rather try this than go for a stronger, more dangerous option. I guess that's good. If anything can be good in this situation. I hope it helps at least with the pain. I really don't know how to explain what it feels like and they always ask me to rate my pain and show me these icons to choose based on the facial expression. But none of the faces are right. And I can't rate my pain because I don't know!

Love,

Rachel



Thursday, December 18

Dear Josh,

The medication isn't working. They tried other options too, but the cancer is like immune or something. And it spread even more. It's affecting my toes. I think it's disrupting the nerves from my brain. It's scary. They said I only have seven months to live if we don't find a medicine or procedure that works for me. I don't want to die. Not yet.

Love,

Rachel

Saturday, December 20

Dear Josh,

I tried to tell you today. You didn't let me talk. You held my hand and made me stop talking about the what ifs. I don't want to tell you that they gave me an expiration date. I don't want to break your heart. Just promise me you will move on when I am gone.

Love,

Rachel

Saturday, December 27

Dear Josh,

I tried to make you promise today, but you just cried. I cried too. We sat on my bed for hours crying. It was horrible. I don't want to think about it anymore. I just have six months left to live.

I want to live longer. But I can't. I guess I always knew death was inevitable, but I just thought I'd get to live longer. I thought we'd get married one day.

Love,

Rachel

Wednesday, December 31

Dear Josh,

I went outside today. I got dizzy really fast though. They made me go inside and lay down. I hate my bed. I hate the doctors. I hate the tumor. I hate the cancer. I hate my life.

Love,

Rachel

I don't know what day it is, February 1

Dear Josh,

I have a headache again today. You haven't come to visit for a long time. I'm getting worried. I'm glad you're busy and focusing on your other things, but I miss you a lot. I only have five months left. Please come visit.

Love,

Rachel

Thursday, February 9

Dear Josh,

You came today. I told you that I have five months left. I asked why you hadn't visited. You told me that you needed time to think. I asked you what you needed to think about. You said "about how life will be." I cried. Then you left. Why did you leave?

Love,

Rachel

Thursday, March 9

Dear Josh,

The months are going by too fast. With just four left I am getting weaker. I can't go outside anymore. I do get to play with the younger kids though. Today I played monopoly for three hours straight with a little girl. She has been diagnosed with cancer too. She is too young. She can't die yet. She has ten months at most. She told me and I cried. She is not scared. I told her that she inspires me and she smiled. She said I made her happy in a life that is slowly going to fade away. I hugged her. Then I went back to my room.

Love,

Rachel

I'm losing track of the days, April ?

Dear Josh,

You came to visit me again today. Seeing you is the one thing I look forward to nowadays. How is school? Did you get any acceptance letters? I want to hear all about your college decisions before I go. Promise me you'll tell me when you get the letters from the ones you apply to. I have three months left. I am going to miss you. Promise me you won't forget me.

I love you.

Love,

Rachel



Thursday, April 13

Dear Josh,

You gave me a book today. It was *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins. We watched the movie together on our first date. That was before I was diagnosed with cancer. Before everything changed. I have never read the book, so I am excited. Thank you thank you thank you!!

Love,

Rachel

Sunday, April 16

Dear Josh,

I finished the book in just two days. It was amazing! I'm still shaking from the ending. Or maybe because I'm so weak. But I think it's from the book. Team Peetaaaaaa!!! I went to see that little girl again today. She was in her room playing her iPad. She let me lay with her and play with her. I talked to her for a few hours. She is so easy to talk to. She has become my accomplice. She saves me her grape juice from breakfast and I save her the fruit cups. Then, when I go to her room we trade them without the nurses seeing. I don't think they'd care, but it makes it fun to have a friend and to joke around.

Love,

Rachel

Tuesday, April 25

Dear Josh,

I threw up today. Twice. My head hurts. I feel so lethargic even though I have been sleeping a lot lately. I don't know why. In just two months I will be gone. I want these last months to be memorable.

Love,

Rachel

Sunday, April 30

Dear Josh,

I will miss you, but remember that it was going to happen eventually. I don't feel like writing, and nothing has even happened that I could tell you about. Just the same old boring hospital schedule. I don't feel good. Sorry. I don't know how to be positive today. I hope that you have a good life.

Love,

Rachel

Wednesday, May 17

Dear Josh,

This is my last month here on earth. I have been praying a lot lately. I told God that I am ready.

I love you more than anything. Thank you for everything you've done for me and with me.

Love,

Rachel

Sunday, June 11

Dear God,

Rachel is gone.

She died last night.

I will miss her.

Thank you for putting her in my life.

Love,

Josh