

Aislyn Benasutti

Walking up the driveway after getting off the bus from school was a good feeling, knowing that after a long day I could now lay in bed and relax. Walking in the front door and hearing my grandmother screaming was not a good feeling. “Aislyn, come help me! I need help,” her screams were muffled by the loud music playing through my headphones. I tore them out of my ears and threw my backpack to the floor, as my heart started to race. I could hear her crying and the bad feeling in my chest only grew. I have only seen her cry twice in my life, this being the third.

I followed the sound of her crying to my living room and after reaching the top of the steps saw her sprawled across the floor, her face hidden behind the wall. “What's wrong? Are you okay?” I shouted. My worst fears began to bloom inside my head. I was thinking she fell and broke something or even hit her head and it was up to me to save her. I dashed down the steps only to find something that shocked me. My dog was curled up beside her looking extremely lifeless in the big grey dog bed I had bought her so long ago. Her brown and white fur somehow looked dull to me and I could see her tongue peeking out through her mouth, almost looking unnatural. My eyes jumped between my dog and grandmother at a loss for words. It's hard to explain how I knew she was gone when she just looked as if she was asleep but, it's just something that you're able to tell.

Looking out of the window and up into the sky, the upsetting situation felt so much worse contrasting with the beautiful day that was just outside the door. I thought about how it was ironic my brother didn't come home with me today as he always does, leaving me to face this

alone. I began to cry with my grandmother somewhat surprised at the overwhelming sadness I felt. I have lost many family members in my life and I did not think losing my pet would revoke the same feelings as losing a person. I did not realize the bond I had shared with my dog was so strong as I had never thought about losing her. I cannot say losing her was the biggest surprise as she had been sick for quite some time. You just never think it will happen as soon as it does, you always think you will have more time.

I don't know how long it was before either of us got up, but the sound of the doorbell signalling my brother was home got me up off the floor. I felt uncomfortable telling him the bad news and gave him his own time to say goodbye. We eventually decided to bury her in our backyard as my grandmother had done that with her two previous dogs long ago. I thought it was too soon to be burying her already since it just happened not even hours ago. It felt like she was there one minute and gone the next. Seeing her in front of me was comforting in a way even though I knew she was actually no longer with us. Before long my grandmother had called our neighbor to help my brother with burying her.

Before long, my brother and our family friend had dug a huge hole in our backyard up on the bank. We gently put her in a small box and I added her favorite blankets and toys. It still felt wrong to be putting her there. I said my last goodbyes right then, not wanting to watch them put her into the ground and bury her. I went inside and watched from the window as the three of them stood there together and then turned my back on them.

I began to think back on all the moments I took for granted. I remembered when we first got her, I didn't want a Jack Russell at the time but, she grew on me fast. She had lost her eye before we received her and I think that made her more special to us all. I remembered getting

that big grey dog bed for her years ago. I wanted her to be able to sleep in my room every night. I remember the second I brought it into the house she immediately was trying to pull it out of my hands. The second I put the bed on the floor she jumped right into it and laid there for hours and ever since then she had made that her sleeping spot. I think that I'm happy that's where she was when she passed away, comfortable and happy wrapped up in blankets in her big grey dog bed.