# Palliative and Supportive Care What stays

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## **Poetry**

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You held my hand like it could keep me here as if touch could argue with time.

The machines were loud, but your silence was louder. I saw the storm behind your eyes, and wanted to apologize for dying.

But death doesn't wait for goodbyes or perfect words. It just slips in, soft as breath, hard as truth.

And still you kissed my forehead like I was going somewhere and you'd meet me later.

Love doesn't end. Not really. It just changes form: a scent on an old shirt, a voice in the back of your mind, a name you still whisper when no one's listening.

I'm not gone. Not all the way. What we had doesn't die it just stays.

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