

An Excerpt from the Epilogue to the book "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi

*Paul Kalanithi was a young neurosurgeon whose career and life were cut short by lung cancer. He wrote of his struggle in the nearly finished book, **When Breath Becomes Air**. The book was completed by his wife Lucy from which part this brief excerpt is taken.*

[Random House, 2016, pp. 223-224]

I expected to feel only empty and heartbroken after Paul died. It never occurred to me that you could love someone the same way after he was gone, that I would continue to feel such love and gratitude alongside the terrible sorrow, the grief so heavy that at times I shiver and moan under the weight of it. Paul is gone, and I miss him acutely nearly every moment, but I somehow feel I'm still taking part in the life we created together. "Bereavement is not the truncation of married love," C. S. Lewis wrote, "but one of its regular phases—like the honeymoon. What we want is to live our marriage well and faithfully through that phase too." Caring for our daughter, nurturing relationships with family, publishing this book, pursuing meaningful work, visiting Paul's grave, grieving and honoring him, persisting...my love goes on—lives on—in a way I'd never expected.