

There's things they don't tell you about Terminal illness. Cancer. How it feels when your family is being ripped apart from the inside out. They can let you know all the medical procedures and "prepare" you for the process but there's some things you can never be prepared for.

1. it's the horrible horrible conversation you have to have with every person you and your loved one know when they hear the news.
2. It's the holding a child as they cry because the word cancer strikes fear into her soul even at nine years old
3. It's the exhaustion you

feel holding everything together

4. It's that song on the radio that sends you over the edge
5. It's the ANGER at life around you going on as if your life hasn't just stopped
6. It's wanting to talk but not wanting to upset anyone else in the room
7. It's the talks you do have with a doctor being frank, Do not resuscitate and hospice referrals
8. It's the dread you feel any time the phone rings
9. It's the sprained ankle because it's got to much and he literally collapses in the middle

of the night with no one  
to catch him

10. It's the guilt that you  
weren't there to catch  
him
11. It's the sympathetic  
hand on the arm that  
BURNS and trying not  
to shrug off someone  
who's TRYING
12. It's finding out that not  
everyone will try, people  
being upset that they  
can't be your priority
13. It's the "let me teach  
you how to" with the  
silent "for when I'm  
gone" that you know  
hangs in the air
14. It's not making plans  
"just in case"
15. It's watching, is he  
pale? Is he confused?  
Do you see him

shivering?

16. It's the daring someone to start on you because you're desperate for the fight, you're desperate to unleash, you NEED it just to feel SOMETHING.
17. It's talking graduations, milestone birthdays, weddings and first borns that you know you won't be able to share with the one person you were so SURE would be there for it all.
18. It's the pain in his face that matches the pain in your heart
19. It's when the phone call comes
20. It's a single white rose on a mahogany box

21. It's the what now?