Last Lecture was genuinely a very compelling and inspiring talk. Randy Pausch irradiates so much positivity and goodness in that speech despite his condition. Even if he wasn’t diagnosed with cancer and given such a short amount of time to live (mere months), Randy is subject to the human condition much like the rest of us, yet his mindset is engineered to bring him joy. It’s impossible not to feel sadness regarding his position, and I’m positive it brings him great sadness as well. Despite this, I remember him noting that “you don’t choose the cards you are dealt, but you play them the best you can.” Cancer is one of the most straightforward and catastrophic difficulties that can enter your life, especially as a man who hasn’t even entered his fifties. However, his message and resilience in the face of despair is applicable to the many other battles we face in life. Randy didn’t talk all that much about cancer, it was mostly a preface and an occasional reference during his speech. He instead used all of his energy and resources to deliver a message that transcends cancer and can help people lead a great life where their dreams come to them.

Upon research, I read that when Randy’s wife came up to the stage to kiss him and blow out the candle on her surprise-audience-birthday song, she hugged him and whispered “please don’t die”. There are no words for this pain. No words are good enough, at least. Randy’s body died, and I can’t speak for his soul, but Randy chose to live. His actions and presence are felt forever - this speech alone has surely saved lives. I’m human, too. I will die one day. I will live until that day, and I will live after that day, by the environment I foster, and by the people I love.