I really enjoyed this lecture, which honestly surprised me, because usually I struggle a little with being able to pay attention to long online lectures, but I felt like this one was very engaging. The very basic thing to say is that I found it inspiring, but I did, and on a somewhat personal level. I do not have cancer or any other high-mortality disorder, but I was recently diagnosed with a chronic condition that is likely to have large effects on my life moving forward, which has been difficult for me to adjust to. This professor has cancer, and is still able to focus on all of the good he has done, rather than the things he will not get to do. One quote towards the beginning of the lecture really stuck with me: “You can’t change the cards you were dealt, only how you play the hand”. I think that is a very inspiring mindset to have, and is one that I am going to try to keep in mind moving forward.

Additionally, the repeated motif of the brick wall being a test to see how badly you want to achieve your dreams was very effective. I am an art major, and the amount of times I have submitted pieces to competitions, shows, or publications, only to be rejected is incredibly high. However, I try my absolute hardest to continue to improve and keep submitting my work. Usually, it ends up paying off! Sometimes these rejections offer helpful feedback on what needs to change so I can continue to grow as an artist. I think that is a mentality that everyone, no matter the profession, should try to keep, because ultimately, time is going to keep moving forward anyways, and it is up to ourselves to decide if we want to keep moving forward with it.