

I think overall the thing that most stuck out to me is the fact that this man is dying. Not in the ephemeral, “way over there, years down the line and after all’s said and done” sort of way, but in a very real, proximal sense. This could be a point of paralyzing, existential dread for many (myself included) were they in the same situation, but instead there’s this clinical addressing of the issue, and a much larger focus on other topics, mainly his academia. There’s something very admirable about his focus and his passion for the things he does in his life, rather than focusing on his imminent demise.

I identified strongly with the sentiment from his football coach: “When you’re screwing up and nobody’s saying anything anymore, that means they gave up.” True friends and colleagues will help you improve, not just coddle you along the way. It’s going to take not just confidence to succeed, but iteration and failure and perseverance.

Another, on a related note, is taking special note of the people in our lives who help us. It can be extremely helpful to, when the world or the odds or the weights of our lives seem most pressing, take stock of who’s in our corner, and what they bring to the table. I often struggle with a sense of anxiety and loneliness, so it takes a certain amount of intentionality to keep myself centered on that front, and his words on the subject of social and moral responsibilities in a friendship echo