

Terminal Diagnosis, by Bill Glose

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Imagine being told at your annual physical that you have lung cancer. Then, in a follow-up that you have a year left to live. One year. That's all. Imagine having to squeeze all your dreams and plans for the future onto the pages of a single wall calendar. That is what happened to Dawn West, who is still alive today, 26 years after that terminal diagnosis. She and I had been dating for a month when she received the devastating news. In my book of poetry, *Terminal Diagnosis*, I revisit that traumatic year she was not expected to live beyond, the fears and questions that kept us both awake at night, and the stunning relief when the tumor shrank and disappeared. While many poems relive the terror we experienced, in the end, this is a book about hope winning out, a message sorely needed in today's fractious climate and an example for families touched by cancer of what is possible.

“*Terminal Diagnosis* hurtles us into heights and drops of hope and lament as extreme as the roller coaster ride in “Death Day.” These are love poems in search of language to carry the poet’s heartbreak. Each poem is a gift into which he has lavished all his loves: foremost, the love for his woman, Dawn, but for nature and science, history and literature, all seamlessly crafted into this remarkable collection ten years in the making.”

— Suzanne Underwood Rhodes, Arkansas Poet Laureate

“In illuminating and compelling poems, Bill Glose offers a clear-sighted view of the strength a cancer patient must muster when confronting a health crisis. Collectively, these lyrically intense and emotionally riveting poems remind us of the importance of valuing each moment as if it’s our last.”

— Dr. Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, Virginia Poet Laureate Emerita