

Running head: TOGETHER

Together

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## Abstract

This creative work consists of a photograph and accompanying poem through which the reader is encouraged to examine stereotypes of death and to creatively explore beliefs concerning love and spirituality. Although cemeteries appear to be the theme of the photograph, the poem speaks of the people represented by the gravestones and of the possibility of everlasting love and loyalty between two individuals.

Keywords: Death, Cemetery, Gravestone, Spiritual

## Narrative

On first glance, cemeteries appear to be the theme of the photograph.<sup>1</sup>

Gravestones *are* the focal point. The poem, however, challenges this initial interpretation and invites further reflection on this representation of death.

The title “Together” *is* a reference to the physical structures of the gravestones. The stones have become victims of weather and time, and one would have fallen but for the proximity, resting place, and strength offered by the other. They are physically touching; they are together.

But the title “Together” also embodies the true themes of the photograph: the possibility of everlasting love and loyalty between two individuals. The poem does speak of the people—the genuine, vital, and ordinary people—that are symbolized by the stones. Married, most likely, and practiced in the art of facing life’s trials together. These tribulations are not new; but perhaps nothing has brought more grief than their current state.

All other sorrow is minimized when confronted with the reality of being dead, abandoned, and forgotten. For surely if mourners had visited, the neglect starkly manifested in the upended gravestone would have been addressed. And yet, although no one mourns, the past indicates that there is still hope. For in the face of life, and death, all we need is the everlasting love and support of one other person.

And, we wonder.



## Together

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Lean on me  
in death  
as you did in life and  
we'll face what comes:  
blinding snow and  
blazing sun,  
crusading time and  
crumbling edifices,  
(missing mourners...)  
Yet, together.

## Footnote

<sup>1</sup>Photograph taken September 10, 2007 at the Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Leavenworth, Kansas.