

By Anna Seyfert

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When Zach and I were juniors in highschool, we read Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut in AP Lang. He had recently picked it up and was rereading it. I remember us talking about how much this particular quote resonated with him, and I feel it perfectly sums up his outlook on life.

“The most important thing I learnt on Tralfamadore was that when a person dies he only appears to die. He is still very much alive in the past, so it is very silly for people to cry at his funeral. All moments, past, present, and future, always have existed, always will exist. The Tralfamadorians can look at all the different moments just the way we can look at a stretch of the Rocky Mountains, for instance. They can see how permanent all the moments are, and they can look at any moment that interests them. It is an illusion we have here on Earth that one moment follows another one, like beads on a string, and that once a moment is gone it is gone forever.”

I believe the saying “wise beyond his years”, applies directly and exclusively to Zachary Porter. In your program is a quote from a letter he wrote me when we were 17, around the same time we read that book. The end of the letter reads,

“Well I’m getting to the end of this page, there’s something I’ve always disliked about endings. Everyone always makes a big fuss about them but nothing really ever ends, we just can’t see it anymore. But I digress. I love you, and don’t you ever forget it” He then quotes H. Jackson Brown Jr, “Love is when the other person’s happiness is more important than your own”.

In Zach’s words, from another letter he wrote as we were headed to college, “I have to say I am more grateful than I am scared at this time. I am grateful for all the great trips

we took, I am grateful for all the nights I was down and you brought me back up. I am grateful for all the great gifts we have given each other and the memories held within them. Though I may not be there, I will always be that little (hopefully loud) voice inside your head reminding you “It’s all gonna be ok.”

With each person Zach met, he gave a piece of his heart. He loved hard, and lived every moment with intention. He was kind, giving, smart, loyal and funny. My most favorite thing was when i’d compliment him on these qualities, and his response would be “ya i know right?”. I hope we can all find comfort in Zach’s words and those everlasting moments, because as he said, “nothing really ever ends.”