

What's Next?

It feels weird going to a cemetery in the afternoon, especially on a lovely sunny spring afternoon. When I picture a visit to the cemetery, it's either early morning on a slightly gloomy day or around sunset. That makes more sense; it bookends a life with either a morning to show new beginnings for the people around you or an evening showing the sun setting on your time. The afternoon just seems absolutely bizarre.

Even now, I'm here surrounded by gravestones, and not a single soul is present. 'Soul' might not have been the most excellent word. I hope there are souls here. Perhaps not the freaky kind, but at the least, yours. Otherwise, this exercise is pretty pointless. I do like this cemetery; they give each grave a nice amount of space, there are those magnolia trees that you detested, and it's very grassy. That might have something to do with the bodies, but at least it looks luscious. I like taking my shoes off here, the way people do at beaches. If it was the morning, I could have felt some dew, but right now, the ground is mostly dry. Whenever I walk on any grass, I always feel there is a worm crawling on my feet. There never is a worm there, but I just feel like there's something. Ah, forget that my feelings about the grass can wait. We're here for you today.

So tell me, you didn't pick that headstone, did you? I knew it! It feels way too elaborate for you. What is the need for a 4-foot headstone, the shape of a cross with another cross-layered within? Does that mean there are two crosses? It even has articulate flowers designed on it, and what does the inscription say? "May his memory be eternal." That's not too bad, a tad impersonal but straightforward at least. That suits you more. A simple headstone with a simple message. Well, it's okay, maybe next time you'll have a plan. I have a great plan, but you don't want to hear it. Yes, you're right. All this talk about cemeteries and headstones is unnecessarily morose. If you want to read more email me at vm1582@nyu.edu. Thank you!