

More Than An Empty Place

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This is a chapter from a book I'll never
write
A story
I've told so few people
I can count them on one hand

But I'm hoping
That by sharing the raw truth
Maybe one of you
Will feel less alone
Because I know it is not uncommon
I know I don't have the most tragic story
in the room
But, selfishly
I hope telling it
Will help me
As much as it helps you

My little brother is dying
My sweet thirteen year old brother

I've never dealt with death before
Never had to live
With an empty place
Where a person should be

And so...I save every memory,
Protect our pictures,
Craft him useless treasures
So when he's gone
I can hold them

Knowing my hands are where his once
were

And I can look back at the memories,
Listen to his soft voice on family videos,
Laugh at his jokes when he can no longer
tell them

Even when he's gone
Even when there's an empty place
Where a brother should be

Through my tears,
I wish for the time back
Because I know I didn't try hard enough
But I was just his stupid big sister
We should have had a lifetime

They promised twelve months
And god
I'd give anything for more
More time
To hold my little brother
Before all I have left
Is an empty place
Where a brother should be

I regret all those times I wished to be an
only child
Because I'll grow old
With an empty place
Where a brother should be

I know he doesn't want us to suffer
I know he is scared
I know he wants me to be happy
He tells me, while we cry in his bed
Already mourning what hasn't happened
yet
He also told me what he wants on his
tombstone

And I know
Deep down
I may never see it
Because he's not there
Not yet, not ever

Sometimes, I don't cry for him
I cry for me, knowing I'll live without
him

And I cry for our youngest brother
He will live a life
Not knowing what I know
Only knowing him
As the empty place
Where his big brother should be

I mourn the loss of my childhood hope
Of that deep rooted security
That things would go a certain way
That I would never live
With an empty place
Where a brother should be

Because at some point
It will be the last time
The last birthday
Last movie
Last game
Last joke
Last laugh
Last breath

And after all that
It may be hard to believe but
He is much more than the kid
destined to die young

He's wonderful
The kind of person this world needs
He's the star hockey player
The loyal friend
The kid that speaks for those that are
voiceless
He is my sweet
Loving
Little brother

And
He will always be more than an empty
place where a brother should be.