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## Main content

Article Preview :

Poet Donald Hall was teaching at the University of Michigan in 1969 when he met Jane Kenyon, a student nearly twenty years his junior. They married and, after a few years, left Ann Arbor and academic life for Hall's ancestors' farm in rural New Hampshire. There, they made a life centered on poetry--Hall wrote and published prolifically, and Kenyon came into her own as a poet, producing several books. In the early 1990s, Hall was treated successfully for cancer and recovered. Not long after, early in 1994, Kenyon was diagnosed with leukemia. Despite undergoing arduous treatment, including a bone-marrow transplant, she died on 22 April 1995 at home at Eagle Pond Farm; she was 47years old. During her last days, Jane Kenyon chose the poems for her celebrated book *Otherwise: New and Selected Poems* (1996).

In work that grounds the idea of "telling suffering" in particular life circumstances, Hall has written movingly of Kenyon's illness and death and his grief in two volumes of poetry, *Without* (1998) and *The Painted Bed* (2002), and in a prose memoir, *The Best Day the Worst Day: Life with Jane Kenyon* (2005). He continues to live and work at Eagle Pond Farm. He has recently published his fifteenth volume of poetry, *White Apples and the Taste of Stone: Selected Poems, 1946-2006*. Jane Kenyon's *Collected Poems* appeared in 2005.

Hall is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His many awards include the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, a Caldecott Award for children's literature, the 1990 Frost Medal from the Poetry Society of America, and the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize.

In June 2006 Donald Hall was named Poet Laureate of the United States.

The epigraph you chose for *The Painted Bed*, from the Urdu poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz, says, "All poetry is about the death of the beloved." What for you is the relationship between poetry and loss and suffering?

Poetry typically deals with intense feeling. Suffering and loss--suffering leading to loss--are the most intense of human feelings. Many great poems in the English language are elegiac, dealing especially with the ultimate loss of death.

The poems of *Without* and *The Painted Bed* are remarkable for the way in which they put your responses to what was happening to Jane and to you out there for all of us to see, feel, and think about. Presenting experiences that are hard to witness, hard to bear, these poems show us things from which, even in our own lives, we'd like to avert our eyes. You've built a little distance into some of the poems by referring to the couple as "he" and "she," but would you comment on your sense of the risks you took in writing so openly of what was happening and how you and Jane were suffering?

Those poems originally used "I" instead of "he." When I first finished a draft of *Without*, I sent it to ten friends. One of them suggested that...

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The Harry Potter blockbusters are the highest grossing movie franchise in history – raking in more than 5.3 billion dollars and still counting. Winfrey: So, this is the first time we've met. Rowling: Yes, it is. Winfrey: And my producers tell me that your real name is Jo. All this time I thought you were 'J. K.'. Rowling: (laughing) Yeah. Winfrey: J. K. is - Rowling: Is just the nom de – well, it's because my British publisher, when the first book came out, thought 'this is a book that will appeal to boys' but they didn't want the boys to know a woman had written it. Donald Trump laughs with Bill Clinton and Billy Crystal during the 2008 Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation Golf Classic at Trump National Golf Club in Briarcliff Manor, New York, on July 14, 2008. Clinton and Trump were once longtime friends. But they've distanced themselves now that both men are on opposite sides in the presidential election. Despite recent rhetoric regarding the former U.S. president, years before he secured the Republican nomination in the 2016 presidential election—a feat acknowledged Thursday—Donald Trump and Bill Clinton were longtime friends. But now as a Republican contender, Trump is being criticized for his ties to the Clintons—Democrats and fellow New Yorkers who celebrated his 2005 marriage to Melania Knauss with him. Donald Hall has lived a remarkable life of letters, a career capped by a National Medal of the Arts, awarded by the president. Now, in the “unknown, unanticipated galaxy” of very old age, he is writing searching essays that startle, move, From a former Poet Laureate, a new collection of essays delivering a gloriously unexpected view from the vantage point of very old age. Donald Hall has lived a remarkable life of letters, a career capped by a National Medal of the Arts, awarded by the president. Now, in the “unknown, unanticipated galaxy” of very old age, he is writing searching essays that s... When I mailed copies of the poem to friends for praise, they politely told me it was terrible. I was puzzled and distressed, until I figured it out. President Donald Trump told longtime friend Geraldo Rivera in an interview he will 'do the right thing,' even while raging about the Russia probe and tweeting the election was 'Rigged.' Donald Trump tells Geraldo Rivera he'll 'do the right thing' and his lawyers abandon Arizona lawsuit – but STILL claims he can overturn Biden states' votes and Kayleigh McEnany says: 'He'll go to his own inauguration'. Trump told Geraldo Rivera in an interview he will 'do the right thing'. But he also raged about the Russia probe and tweeting the election was 'Rigged'. His campaign is rolling back a lawsuit in Arizona. US President Donald Trump has refused to take part in a virtual TV debate with his Democratic rival Joe Biden. The commission organising the debate in Miami on 15 October said it would have to take place remotely after Mr Trump tested positive for coronavirus. Mr Trump's refusal sparked a day of wrangling about how and when any further debates would take place.