

let evening come by jane kenyon

Let Evening Come by Jane Kenyon: Embracing the Quiet Grace of Life

let evening come by jane kenyon is a poem that gently invites readers to pause, reflect, and embrace the natural rhythms of life. Written by the acclaimed American poet Jane Kenyon, this piece captures a serene acceptance of life's inevitable transitions, portraying evening not just as a time of day but as a metaphor for the closing chapters of life. Through its simple yet profound language, the poem resonates with anyone seeking comfort in uncertainty and a reminder to find peace amidst change.

Understanding Let Evening Come by Jane Kenyon

When diving into "Let Evening Come," readers often find themselves enveloped in a calm that contrasts sharply with the busyness of modern life. Jane Kenyon's poem doesn't rely on complex metaphors or elaborate imagery; instead, it offers straightforward observations that invite reflection. The poem's tone is meditative and soothing, emphasizing acceptance over resistance.

Thematic Exploration

At its core, "Let Evening Come" explores themes of acceptance, mortality, and the quiet surrender to the natural course of life. The evening symbolizes the later stages of existence, but rather than evoking fear or sadness, it brings a sense of peace. Kenyon encourages embracing this inevitability with grace and openness.

The poem also touches on the idea of letting go—be it worries, fears, or control—allowing the natural flow of time and life to unfold. This theme resonates deeply with those facing personal challenges, loss, or moments of transition.

Poetic Style and Structure

Jane Kenyon employs simple language and free verse in "Let Evening Come," making the poem accessible while still richly evocative. The lack of strict rhyme or meter mirrors the natural and unforced acceptance the poem advocates. Its pacing is gentle, almost like a lullaby, encouraging readers to slow down and breathe.

The repetition of the phrase "Let evening come" throughout the poem serves as a calming mantra, reinforcing the idea of surrender and peace. This repetition also makes the poem memorable and impactful, a technique often used in contemplative poetry to create resonance.

Jane Kenyon: The Poet Behind the Words

To fully appreciate "Let Evening Come," it helps to understand a bit about Jane Kenyon herself. Born in 1947, Kenyon was an American poet whose work often delved into themes of nature, human frailty, and spirituality. Her writing is known for its clarity and emotional depth, reflecting her own struggles with depression and illness.

Kenyon's Life and Its Influence on Her Poetry

Jane Kenyon's personal experiences profoundly shaped her poetry. Battling chronic depression and leukemia, she found solace in the natural world and in poetry as a form of healing. "Let Evening Come" reflects this intimate knowledge of suffering and the desire for peace.

Her ability to write with honesty and simplicity about complex emotions has endeared her to readers worldwide. The poem's gentle acceptance of life's inevitable changes is a testament to her resilience and insight.

Connection to Contemporary Poetry

Kenyon's style aligns with a broader movement in late 20th-century American poetry that values clarity, emotional honesty, and connection to everyday life. Unlike more abstract or experimental poets, Kenyon's work speaks directly to the reader, making themes of mortality and acceptance accessible.

Her influence continues to be felt among poets who seek to balance simplicity with emotional depth, making "Let Evening Come" a staple in modern poetry discussions.

Why Let Evening Come by Jane Kenyon Resonates Today

In today's fast-paced, often stressful world, the message of "Let Evening Come" feels especially relevant. The poem encourages slowing down, embracing impermanence, and finding beauty in endings instead of fearing them.

Finding Comfort in Acceptance

One of the poem's most powerful appeals lies in its invitation to accept life's natural course. Whether facing aging, loss, or uncertainty, readers find solace in Kenyon's calm reassurance. This acceptance can be a form of mindfulness, helping individuals live more fully in the present.

Using the Poem as a Meditative Tool

Many readers and educators use "Let Evening Come" as a meditation or reflection exercise. Its rhythmic repetition and soothing tone make it ideal for calming the mind. Reciting or reading the poem slowly can help reduce anxiety and foster a sense of inner peace.

Inspiration for Writers and Artists

Beyond its emotional impact, the poem inspires creative expression. Writers often draw on Kenyon's themes of nature and acceptance to explore their own experiences. Visual artists might find in the imagery of evening and natural elements a rich source of inspiration.

Exploring the Imagery and Symbolism in Let Evening Come

Jane Kenyon's poem uses simple yet evocative imagery to convey deep meanings. Understanding these images can deepen appreciation and reveal the layers within the poem.

Evening as a Symbol

The evening symbolizes the closing of a day, but metaphorically it represents the closing phases of life or difficult experiences. Instead of resisting evening, the poem suggests embracing it as part of a natural cycle.

Natural Elements and Their Role

Kenyon references rain, snow, and birds, integrating natural elements that evoke a peaceful environment. These images anchor the poem in the real world, reminding readers of life's ongoing cycles and the constancy of nature amid human change.

The Human Connection

While nature plays a crucial role, the poem also touches on human emotions and experiences. The act of letting evening come parallels letting emotions or events happen without resistance, highlighting the interconnectedness of humanity and the environment.

Tips for Readers Engaging with *Let Evening Come* by Jane Kenyon

Whether you're reading the poem for pleasure or study, certain approaches can enhance your experience.

- **Read Slowly:** Take your time with each line to absorb the rhythm and meaning.
- **Reflect on Personal Experience:** Consider what "evening" means in your own life—moments of closure, change, or peace.
- **Read Aloud:** The poem's gentle repetition and cadence come alive when spoken.
- **Explore Related Works:** Reading other poems by Jane Kenyon can provide broader context and deepen understanding.
- **Use as a Journaling Prompt:** Reflect on the poem's themes in your writing to connect emotionally and intellectually.

These strategies can transform the reading of "Let Evening Come" from a simple literary exercise into a meaningful personal encounter.

The Enduring Appeal of *Let Evening Come* by Jane Kenyon

Decades after its publication, "Let Evening Come" continues to touch readers around the world. Its universal themes of acceptance, mortality, and peace transcend time and culture. The poem's gentle invitation to embrace the natural flow of life offers comfort in a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain.

Jane Kenyon's ability to distill profound truths into accessible language ensures that "Let Evening Come" remains a cherished piece in contemporary poetry. It serves as a reminder that sometimes, the most powerful thing we can do is simply let evening come—and with it, the quiet grace that follows.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'Let Evening Come' by Jane Kenyon?

The central theme of 'Let Evening Come' is acceptance of life's natural cycles, including

aging, loss, and death, conveyed through a peaceful surrender to the inevitable transitions of life.

How does Jane Kenyon use imagery in 'Let Evening Come' to convey mood?

Kenyon uses simple, serene imagery such as evening, birds, and rain to create a calm and reflective mood, emphasizing tranquility and acceptance.

What literary devices are prominent in 'Let Evening Come'?

Prominent literary devices in the poem include repetition, personification, and imagery, which together reinforce the poem's themes of acceptance and the passage of time.

How does the structure of 'Let Evening Come' contribute to its meaning?

The poem's free verse structure with short, rhythmic lines mirrors the gentle, flowing acceptance of evening and life's transitions, enhancing the meditative tone.

In what way does 'Let Evening Come' reflect Jane Kenyon's personal experiences?

The poem reflects Kenyon's personal battles with depression and illness, expressing a quiet acceptance and peace amidst struggle and the inevitability of death.

Why is 'Let Evening Come' considered a comforting poem?

It is considered comforting because it encourages readers to embrace the natural end of things without fear, offering solace in the inevitability of change and loss.

What message does Jane Kenyon convey about death in 'Let Evening Come'?

Kenyon conveys that death, like evening, is a natural and peaceful part of life's cycle, something to be accepted calmly rather than feared.

Additional Resources

Let Evening Come by Jane Kenyon: A Poetic Exploration of Acceptance and Mortality

let evening come by jane kenyon stands as one of the most poignant and widely anthologized poems in contemporary American literature. Celebrated for its understated

yet powerful reflection on life's inevitable transitions, this poem encapsulates themes of acceptance, mortality, and the quiet grace found within the natural cycles of existence. Jane Kenyon's work continues to resonate deeply with readers and scholars alike, inviting a nuanced exploration of its stylistic elements, thematic depth, and enduring relevance.

In-depth Analysis of Let Evening Come by Jane Kenyon

At its core, "let evening come by jane kenyon" is a meditation on the inevitability of endings—be they the close of a day, a life phase, or life itself. Unlike poems that confront death with fear or defiance, Kenyon's approach is characterized by a calm surrender, a gentle invitation for "evening" to arrive. The poem's tone eschews dramatization, opting instead for simplicity and quiet dignity, which amplifies its emotional impact.

Kenyon's use of everyday imagery grounds the poem in the tangible world, making abstract concepts like mortality relatable and accessible. The recurring motif of evening serves as both a literal time of day and a metaphor for the closing chapters of life. This duality allows the poem to function on multiple levels—personal, universal, and philosophical.

The poem's structure is free verse, which aligns well with its conversational, almost prayer-like cadence. The absence of a strict rhyme scheme or meter mirrors the natural flow of life and death, reinforcing the poem's theme of organic progression. This stylistic choice also invites readers to engage with the text in a reflective, unhurried manner.

Thematic Exploration: Acceptance and Mortality

Central to "let evening come by jane kenyon" is the theme of acceptance. The poem gently encourages readers to embrace the inevitable with grace rather than resistance. Lines such as "Let the light of late afternoon / shine through chinks in the barn, moving / up the bales as the sun moves down" illustrate a patient observation of time's passage, underscoring the beauty in transience.

Mortality is not presented as a grim finale but as a natural phase in life's continuum. Kenyon employs the metaphor of evening to soften the concept of death, transforming it into

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let evening come by jane kenyon: A Study Guide for Jane Kenyon's "Let Evening Come"
Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016

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the spiritual aspects of life.

let evening come by jane kenyon: Let Evening Come William Bolcom, 2003

let evening come by jane kenyon: Let Evening Come Mary C. Morrison, 2018-04-05

'Incredibly wise, comforting and beautiful' - Joanna Lumley It is never too soon to start thinking about old age. In *Let Evening Come*, Mary C. Morrison, herself eighty-seven at the time of first publication, considers the gains and losses of the ageing process in all their depth and richness. She writes about old age from her own personal experience, describing without sentimentality or despair how it actually feels to grow old, to be old, to look back over life, to look forward to death. In a series of meditative passages and journal entries she presents old age as a time that calls for gallantry and courage, but one that also offers unique opportunities for inner growth and wisdom. *Let Evening Come* is a remarkable book; simply but elegantly written, it is both moving and uplifting. It is not only for those standing on the edge of old age, it is for people of all ages, and once read will be recommended to others for the very special pleasures found within its pages.

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let evening come by jane kenyon: *Jane Kenyon* Dana Greene, 2023-10-10 Demystifying the "Poet Laureate of Depression" Pleasure-loving, sarcastic, stubborn, determined, erotic, deeply sad--Jane Kenyon's complexity and contradictions found expression in luminous poems that continue to attract a passionate following. Dana Greene draws on a wealth of personal correspondence and other newly available materials to delve into the origins, achievement, and legacy of Kenyon's poetry and separate the artist's life story from that of her husband, the award-winning poet Donald Hall. Impacted by relatives' depression during her isolated childhood, Kenyon found poetry at college, where writers like Robert Bly encouraged her development. Her graduate school marriage to the middle-aged Hall and subsequent move to New Hampshire had an enormous impact on her life, moods, and creativity. Immersed in poetry, Kenyon wrote about women's lives, nature, death, mystical experiences, and melancholy--becoming, in her own words, an "advocate of the inner life." Her breakthrough in the 1980s brought acclaim as "a born poet" and appearances in the *New Yorker* and elsewhere. Yet her ongoing success and artistic growth exacerbated strains in her marriage and failed to stave off depressive episodes that sometimes left her non-functional. Refusing to live out the stereotype of the mad woman poet, Kenyon sought treatment and confronted her illness in her work and in public while redoubling her personal dedication to finding pleasure in every fleeting moment. Prestigious fellowships, high-profile events, residencies, and media interviews had propelled her career to new heights when leukemia cut her life short and left her husband the loving but flawed curator of her memory and legacy. Revelatory and insightful, Jane Kenyon offers the first full-length biography of the elusive poet and the unquiet life that shaped her art.

let evening come by jane kenyon: A Long Letting Go Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, 2015-07-20

let evening come by jane kenyon: Healing A Broken Heart Sarah La Saulle, Sharon Kagan, 2010-05-11 The loss of a love is a nearly universal emotional crisis, whether the end is divorce, desertion, or a mutually agreed-upon separation. At first, friends and family are there to offer a shoulder to cry on, but after a few months there's an expectation that we just need to get over the crisis and move on. Thus, unprocessed, painful feelings are buried, leaving us numb. Or we repeat damaging relationship patterns over and over again. The situation doesn't have to be like that. *Healing a Broken Heart* guides those of us grieving for a lost love through four metaphorical seasons of recovery with provocative questions -- and journal pages on which to respond -- to help move us forward. The four seasons serve as powerful metaphors for the stages of the grieving process. Summer is the season for charting the course of a relationship: remembering hopes and expectations, the warning signs that went unheeded. During autumn, journalers accept the reality of breaking up and acknowledge things about the relationship that didn't serve their needs. Winter brings the pain of grief over the profound loss. Finally, spring -- and, with it, renewal -- invites

readers to examine and understand how their family history may have affected their past relationships. Punctuated throughout with poems and moving meditations, the thoughtful, interactive approach of this book offers the time and space we all need to heal when our hearts are broken.

let evening come by jane kenyon: When Words Heal Sharon Bray, 2006 An insightful and useful book for anyone whose life has been touched by cancer, *When Words Heal* explores the power of words to heal. Dr. Sharon Bay provides step-by-step instructions for those wanting to lead a writing group for women living with cancer, or for those who simply wish to write through their experience of cancer. With her compassionate and informative manner, Dr. Bray structures each chapter as a writing session. Each chapter includes writing exercises, support resources, interviews with cancer survivors, and excerpts from a number of cancer survivors' writings. By writing through cancer, readers discover the resilience of human spirit and create a supportive community. Writing and telling a story in a supportive environment releases something deeply vital that can heal each person, even when it can not cure. Readers can not help but be touched by the words of other cancer patients, and, in the gentle and encouraging voice of the author, be inspired to help others write their stories.

let evening come by jane kenyon: Poetry and Pedagogy across the Lifespan Sandra Lee Kleppe, Angela Sorby, 2018-10-08 This book explores poetry and pedagogy in practice across the lifespan. Poetry is directly linked to improved literacy, creativity, personal development, emotional intelligence, complex analytical thinking and social interaction: all skills that are crucial in contemporary educational systems. However, a narrow focus on STEM subjects at the expense of the humanities has led educators to deprioritize poetry and to overlook its interdisciplinary, multi-modal potential. The editors and contributors argue that poetry is not a luxury, but a way to stimulate linguistic experiences that are formally rich and cognitively challenging. To learn through poetry is not just to access information differently, but also to forge new and different connections that can serve as reflective tools for lifelong learning. This interdisciplinary book will be of value to teachers and students of poetry, as well as scholars interested in literacy across the disciplines.

let evening come by jane kenyon: The Best Poems of Jane Kenyon Jane Kenyon, 2020-04-21 "Jane Kenyon had a virtually faultless ear. She was an exquisite master of the art of poetry." —Wendell Berry Published twenty-five years after her untimely death, *The Best Poems of Jane Kenyon* presents the essential work of one of America's most cherished poets—celebrated for her tenacity, spirit, and grace. In their inquisitive explorations and direct language, Jane Kenyon's poems disclose a quiet certainty in the natural world and a lifelong dialogue with her faith and her questioning of it. As a crucial aspect of these beloved poems of companionship, she confronts her struggle with severe depression on its own stark terms. Selected by Kenyon's husband, Donald Hall, just before his death in 2018, *The Best Poems of Jane Kenyon* collects work from across a life and career that will be, as she writes in one poem, "simply lasting."

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volume, he explores the nature of illness and healing, focusing on health care's rich history as a spiritual practice and on the human dignity of the patient. Combining sound theological reflection with doses of healthy skepticism, he goes on to describe empirical research on the effects of spirituality on health, including scientific studies of the healing power of prayer, emphasizing that there are reasons beyond even promising research data to attend to the souls of patients. Finally, Sulmasy devotes special attention and compassion to the care of people at the end of life, incorporating the stories of several of his patients. Throughout, the author never strays from the theme that, for physicians, attending to the spiritual needs of patients should not be a moral option, but a moral obligation. This book is an essential resource for scholars and students of medicine and medical ethics and especially medical students and health care professionals.

let evening come by jane kenyon: The Poetry of Loss Judith Harris, 2023-05-15 The Poetry of Loss: Romantic and Contemporary Elegies presents a renewed look at elegy as a long-standing tradition in the literature of loss, exploring recent shifts in the continuum of these memorial poems. This volume investigates the tensions arising in elegiac formulations of grief through detailed analyses of seminal poets, including Wordsworth, Keats, and Plath, using psychoanalytic precepts to reconceptualize consolation through poetic strategies of inner representation and what it might mean for personal and collective experiences of loss. Tracing the development of elegy beyond extant readings, this volume addresses contemporary constructs of mourning and their attendant polemics within the wider culture as extensions of elegiac longings and the tendency to refuse consolation and cede to the endlessness of grief. Furthermore, this book concludes that contemporary elegies break with conventions of poetic structure and expression; rather than the poets seeking resolution to grief through compensation, they often find themselves dwelling within the loss rather than externalizing and transcending it. The Poetry of Loss: Romantic and Contemporary Elegies examines these developing psychoanalytic concepts pertaining to a poetics of loss, providing readers with a new appreciation of mourning culture and contemporary attitudes towards grief.

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love poetry or haven't read it since school, *The Splash of Words* will help you rediscover poetry's power to startle, challenge and reframe your vision. Like throwing a pebble into water, a poem causes a 'splash of words' whose ripples can transform the way we see the world, ourselves and God. Through thirty selected poems, from the fourteenth century to the present day, Mark Oakley explores poetry's power to stir our settled ways of viewing the world and faith, shift our perceptions and even transform who we are.

let evening come by jane kenyon: *The Oxford Book of American Poetry* David Lehman, 2006
Redefines the great canon of American poetry from its origins in the 17th century right up to the present.

let evening come by jane kenyon: *Traveling Home* Mark R. Kowalewski, 2019-08-17
Offers readers a way to find their place in God's story A creative invitation to those who are on the margins of the church Recent research in the sociology of religion indicates that around one in five Americans are religiously "liminal," that is, they are on the fence about affiliating with a faith or a congregation. *Traveling Home* is an invitation to those people who are standing on the edges or just coming into the Church. It makes a case for why Christianity can make a difference by taking the reader on a spiritual journey through the story and ancient wisdom of the Bible. It shows the reader how to find a place within this great cosmic adventure. Why Christianity at all? How do we understand where we fit into a bigger picture? Anyone asking these questions, including people exploring other liturgical traditions, will find this book of interest. It is also a tool for clergy teaching newcomer/inquirer classes.

let evening come by jane kenyon: What's in a Phrase? Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, 2014-04-20
Well-known biblical phrases -- in the fullness of time, fearfully and wonderfully made, in the beauty of holiness, and others -- suggest and evoke and invite. In this book Marilyn Chandler McEntyre offers brief reflections on more than fifty such scriptural phrases that prompt readers to pay attention, to pause where we sense a beckoning. Some of these select phrases are devotional, some speculative, some whimsical, some edgy. McEntyre encourages us to see such words within the Word as invitations and, in doing so, to discover that they are places of divine encounter, epiphany, or unexpected guidance. The three sections of the book Assurance, Invitation, and Surprise -- organize the reflections by tone as well as theme. Rich with eloquence, wisdom, and wonder, these reflections will lead readers to enter the sacred spaces of Scripture, play with possibilities, and connect the biblical word with the ordinary -- and extraordinary -- lives we've been given to live.

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apostrophe - Etymology of "let us" and "let's" - English Language The verb let means "allow", "permit", "not prevent or forbid", "pass, go or come" and it's used with an object and the bare infinitive. Are you going to let me drive or not? Don't let h

phrase requests - Other words to replace "let's"? - English The relationship between z and w, on the other hand. Otherwise, know that a basic search will turn up let us in innumerable journal articles, official proclamations, formal

phrases - Let's get started! or let's get going? - English Language In "Let's get started", the starting point is in view and "Let's get going", you are on the starting point already. Moreover, there is a sense of extra involvement abundantly made

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