

Has It Been Long Enough?

by Janet Speer

She lived well into her eighties. She had four children, and ten grandchildren. Last year, she and her husband celebrated 62 years of marriage. They look like a really great family. Lots of love and wonderful memories.

She's lived a good, long life. It's sad she's dying, but seems like she's lived long enough.
Ask her husband, crying, holding her hand as he sits by her hospice bed,
Has it been long enough?

They've been married 35 years. Never had children, at least not the human kind...but they love their four rescue dogs who bring laughter and joy into their lives. They live in a beautiful house. Always have had plenty of money and able to enjoy all the finer things of life.

He's had cancer now for two years, and it seems best for his suffering to end.
Ask his wife, who waits in agony, listening for his final breath,
Has it been long enough?

He's drunk most of the time. Never finished school. Can't work. Been stabbed, shot, and beat up. Missing one eye. Didn't always know where he was, or who he was living with.

This last seizure has him on life support. Seems like it wouldn't even matter if he died.
Ask his aunt and cousins, singing gospel through their tears as life support is withdrawn,
Has it been long enough?

Someday, it will be my loved one lying in that bed with me by their side.

And when you ask me if I'm ready to let them go,
I'll look at you through my tears and say,
"It hasn't been long enough."