

*To understand that we all exist in a magnificent, fragile body, beautiful and vulnerable at once, is not to ascribe human feelings to nonhuman animals. It is only to recognize kinship.*

*Margaret Renkl, "The Nature of Joy"*

June 26, 2023

This was the week, last summer, my beloved dog, Jesse died. It is her beautiful golden-white body and face that I miss, her hawk-eyes watching the creek habitat from her perch on the deck, and seeing me, watching me, knowing something beyond me. All year I've reflected on our *kinship*, the way we "spoke" to one another and the way we saw one another. Jesse embodied love—with her whole body.