

A Walking Journal

Choosing a pet like me can't be an easy decision. A tortoise can live well past 100 years. That's a big life with a lot of planning, a lot of living, and a lot of loving.

When I arrived at Kate's house I was thrilled because, on the plane it was too noisy for me, and I could not go anywhere. A brown box and noisy Styrofoam surrounded me. Kate took me out of the box and put me into my new terrarium. There was a hiding place to lie under. There also was a place for me to dig. I loved my new place so much.

Kate spent a lot of time with me. She always made me feel safe. Sometimes she would make me an obstacle course. I remember when she took me to the beach to dig. My favorite was blueberry season. Kate would take me to the bushes to eat blueberries. I liked exploring through the grass, and I like spending time with Kate.

Kate named me after a character in the book Tuck Everlasting. The character's name is Angus Tuck. In the book Angus drinks from a spring that makes him live forever, and tortoises live for a very long time. I really love my name. I am going to have it for a long time.

Kate left for college today. She said she would come home in November for a quick visit. She could not bring me with her because you can't have pets in your dorm. It feels so different without anyone to keep me company. I can tell on the dogs face they miss Kate too. I hope 2 months go by fast.

Kate came home for summer break, and she brought me to the beach to dig. We had so much fun together! After summer break was over Kate told me she had to go back to college. I was sad, but at least we got to see each other for a while. I hope college goes by fast.

Today is the big day. I am so excited; there are so many people already here. I'm outside waiting for Kate to come out in her big white dress. My family tied a balloon on me so they could keep track of me during the celebration. I'm heading straight to the blueberry bushes.

There were little kids all around the place. They kept showing up. I didn't get much attention from Kate for a while. When the kids got older they would do a lot of things to me. I remember when someone drew all over my shell. I looked like a rainbow. It took forever to scrub it off. Oh, and the tall one, he always would tap on my house. So annoying! I also will never forget how the redhead would take me to the sandbox to dig. It reminded me of when Kate would take me to the beach. That redhead was so good to me.

I'm not as fast as I use to be. But I'm not the only one. Kate has slowed down too. I bet we could have a fair race. She celebrated her Big 50th birthday last week. The house was full of noise and lots of balloons! All the kids and family were laughing and enjoying the day. I got a lot of attention from the little ones. I always do. The redhead took me out to the old sandbox like she did long ago. She told me about her home surrounded by sand.

Kate had to move into a new home with people her own age. No pets allowed! So I'm living with the redhead and her family. It feels good to be in a busy house again. Today I rode a skateboard down the driveway. I didn't even have to wear a helmet. Not bad for a 68 year old tortoise.