



Lovellev Svart, 1945 - 2007

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Lovellev's Diaries: [Click here to view the entire Living to the End series](#)

Lovellev's Last Hours: [Click here to watch Lovellev's final diary entry and to hear and see when Lovellev swallowed the fatal dose](#)

Lovellev Svart, who shared through online videos the struggle and choices of her final months, ended her life today by taking a drug overdose prescribed at her request under Oregon's Death With Dignity Act. She was 62 and had lived with lung cancer for nearly five years.

Lovellev Svart

She died quietly in her mother's apartment in the assisted- living center where they both live. Her family and a few close friends gathered beforehand for storytelling, music, life- celebration and private goodbyes.

A few minutes after 5 p.m., while sitting up in bed with 10 family members and close friends gathered around her, she swallowed the lethal dose.

"I'm peaceful," she said. "It stopped raining, and the sun's out. And I've had so much love today."

She then eased into a lying position and fell into a coma. She died at 10:42 pm.

Lovellev chronicled through videos her request for a doctor's prescription to end her life, her receipt of the drug and her personal debate about whether to use it.

She also shared with readers the day-to-day experience of living with a serious, progressive illness - including "this joy." With humor and compassion, she spoke out on a range of topics from grief and pain to polka dancing and filling out a will. She talked openly about her love-hate relationship with tobacco (she had smoked since age 19), her sense of time slipping away and the difficult balance between welcoming visitors and keeping time and space for herself.

Her goal, she said, was to spur a franker discussion of death and dying, and hundreds of people responded in writing, many addressing her directly as Lovellev, as if they had become friends.

Lovellev was born in Portland on Jan. 31, 1945. She was due on Valentine's Day but arrived two weeks early, on her parents' third wedding anniversary. Her father was aboard a U.S. Navy ship in the Pacific, and her mother decided that their newborn daughter's name had to be something about love.

Her life, she was the first to acknowledge, included "my share of mistakes and rough patches, along with the high points." Two marriages ended in divorce. She dropped out of college in the early 1960s. She abused alcohol in her 30s, until she finally sought treatment and stopped drinking altogether at age 40.