

My soulmate's body left me in 2023.

Sometimes, people would laugh when we'd call each other that because they'd ask, "Is there really such a thing?" The answer is yes. Somehow, in a crazy world of eight million people, we found each other. Second marriage for both, and we knew the minute we felt the electricity jolt through our bodies when our hands inadvertently touched during a holiday company party that we were soulmates.

Fast forward through six years of dating, 15 years of marriage, with all of its ups and downs: his body isn't here anymore. T-cell lymphoma robbed us of any more time together here on Earth.

Chris wanted to be remembered as someone who was "of use" during his lifetime. His favorite literary piece is Marge Piercy's "[To be of use](#)" where her central theme is that satisfaction and self-fulfillment can be attained by using one's skills to serve a specific function in life.

During his illness, Chris researched "green burials." He unilaterally decided that he wanted to be buried under a tree, with sunlight streaming, in an adult's version of Winnie-the-Pooh's "Hundred Acre Wood." Chris never saw his body's final resting place, but I knew it from the minute I arrived, Panorama Natural Burial is where Chris's body would find its respite. Green burial provides a way for his body to rest in nature without disturbance and with reverence, to quite literally "lie down in green pastures."

Please don't misread this: Chris continues "to be of use" ... especially to those of us who walk among the trees, sit on wooden benches, understand where he is, and feel renewed after spending time there. Panorama was an important part of the process in Chris's departure. To understand that being one with the Earth and with nature after death is immense relief.

He is still very much of use.