

Fischer's Eulogy

Hello, I'm Natalie Ierien. Fischer and I grew up together and have always been best friends. I'd met him in first grade. 10 years in the perspective of a life isn't that long, but for us it was a lifetime. It's going to be hard to say everything I want to, but I have found the most important things are the hardest to explain. All the time in the world is not enough to explain what he meant to me.

If you knew Fischer, you knew that laugh, and the light that came with that incredible laugh. I remember one time we laughed for hours at a recipe book called "The Smoothie Bible". Looking back, the book wasn't entirely that funny. It was more that we enjoyed each other's joy and we wanted to sit and cherish each other's laughter. Fischer had the biggest heart out of anyone I knew, and have ever met. He found happiness in other people's happiness. He loved others so much, and when he loved, he loved so deeply. The light he carried with him, even though often hidden, could always be seen.

Something that he had always carried that light into was soccer. I had played soccer with Fischer my entire life. We started playing soccer at NWC Rec Center. Rohn coached us for four or so years, trying to help us develop a love for the sport. Fischer found that right away. He was genuinely happy when playing soccer. He had such passion for the sport that was hard to find in anywhere else. It was a raw passion, and you can see the pure joy on his face in the photos of him playing. We then began Blackhawks soccer, and this summer we went to Sweden. He was my right hand man the entire trip. Sweden and Denmark was our time together, and I can't be more thankful for that time with him.

A few months before Sweden, Fischer began his transition from Isabel to Fischer. When he told me his thoughts about transitioning, I knew this was what he needed. He needed to find who he was and not have to struggle pretending to be someone he wasn't. I think becoming who he was the best decision he made for himself. He was excited and comfortable with who he was and his gender. He had such amazing support from his community. Fischer expressed to me over and over again how thankful he was to have supportive parents and friends, and how

he couldn't have done it without them. Becoming Fischer and being Fischer was important for him and it was exciting to watch him be happy with who he was.

I had always tried so hard to be there for him throughout his years of difficult times. It was easy for me to assume the role as a guardian or protector. He meant more to me than anyone else in the world. I like to refer to him as my "soul friend". Everything about him was what I needed in a friend. Our personalities and humors grew so similar from growing up together. We balanced each other, and strengthened the other when they were weak. Fischer loved to call me the sister he never had, and that's exactly what he was to me, a brother. I have never connected with someone so deeply. The kind of person he was is hard to find, and it was our destiny to be friends. I cannot thank him enough for the years we shared and what he did for me. I will never find another person like him, and for that I will be forever grateful.

Fischer had a favorite spot, right over the West Side Bridge. There was this bluff overlooking all of Saint Paul. He loved the lights, the energy, and the movement. This week, Brittney, Clara, Sierra, Mette, Emma, and I drove over there. On the way, we listened to all of his favorite songs he had shared with us. While standing at the bluff, we each took a turn lighting a candle and saying a few words about what he meant to us. We then blew out the candles and threw them into the city below. It was a necessary thing for us to find peace as we stood in his favorite spot and looked at the beautiful view that he loved so much. We all knew that he was standing right there with us.

In the end, Fischer wanted to feel alive with the people he loved most. He really loved the story in "The Perks of Being a Wallflower". He wanted to be infinite forever and he wanted the freedom that came with it. I know that Fischer will always be with us, because he truly is infinite. His memory will be with us forever because he is such an impossible person to forget. I am cherishing the fact that I got to love such an extraordinary human being and that I could call him my best friend. I loved you Fischer and I will always love you. You were my brother and my soul friend, and I cannot thank you enough for the small lifetime I got to live with you.