

# 'Seniors High'

Treatment for a Novel  
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An original story  
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## ACT I

A minivan slowly drives thru the calm, tree lined streets of a quiet, old South Carolina town. Kids play in front yards, people walk their dogs, life is peaceful. The van, with its Kansas license plates, is driven by NATALIE, a strong, intelligent, single mom in her early forties. In the back seat, engrossed in a video game, is her teenaged son, DEVON. In the passenger seat is her father, PETER, a feisty alert 80 year old.

A large old brick high school goes by on the right. Natalie points it out to her son. That's his new school. He barely glances up from his video game. Natalie sighs and continues driving. Neighborhood people lean out to look at the new people as they drive past. It's that kind of small town.

Next up on the left is a large new building housing a high tech company. Natalie slows and looks at the building. That's where she going to be working. That's why they moved to the town. She takes a deep breath and drives on.

The minivan pulls into the spacious grounds of a seniors' assisted living home. Natalie and Peter climb out and stretch. Devon ignores them. Around the wide entranceway, the occasional senior glances over at the new people. KYLE, the controlling, suave, and very purposeful owner/operator of the home, strides out to meet them. It's like Peter's first day in high school.

With a large, serious staff member, MARCUS, taking his suitcase, Kyle leads Peter and Natalie into the home. As they walk down the hallway, Peter pauses to look at a photo of a pretty older woman on the wall. A burly, angry looking guy, CHUCK, bumps into him intentionally. Peter's met the 'big man' at the home. Peter holds his tongue as Chuck hassles him for looking at the photo. But Peter is about to escalate the conversation when another old guy, JIM, steps between them, calms Chuck down and moves Peter away. Jim agrees with Peter's assessment of Chuck - he's a complete idiot with a big chip on his shoulder.

As Kyle shows Peter around the home, Peter comments to Natalie that there's something about Kyle that he doesn't quite like.

Peter's daughter shushes him. She thinks that Kyle is quite caring. Natalie tells him that she thinks the home's nice and that he'll have a nice time there. Peter isn't so sure.

That evening, after getting settled in his room, Peter wanders down to the dining hall. He sits down at a couple tables pushed together in the middle of the room. A concerned staff person serves him his dinner. Peter starts to eat, noticing that other tenants are talking about him as they eat. He doesn't think anything of it and continues with his meal.

A few moments later, Peter looks up to find five women scowling down at him. These are "The Bee's", the in-crowd of the home. And their leader is JUDY - the woman in the photograph. It seems that Peter is sitting at their table. He looks around the table, comments that he doesn't see any reserved sign and goes back to eating. The women, unprepared for resistance, regroup for another attack.

Before they do, Jim steps in to calm the situation. Jim gets Peter to move, advising him that he doesn't want to be on the wrong side of "The Bee's". Peter grudgingly sits with Jim.

Back in his room, Peter chooses, instead of unpacking, to retire to his small balcony to have a cigar. Jim, in the next room, comes out onto his balcony and advises him that cigars aren't allowed. No smoking, anywhere, any time. Of course, with that said, Jim then pulls out his own cigar and they relax, looking out at the sunset.

So, what are you in for?, Jim asks Peter. Peter explains that he doesn't want to burden his daughter, she's got a lot going on in her life. Jim agrees, it's the same for him, plus his son is boring. They laugh together.

Peter asks, innocently about Judy, and Jim laughs. Jim tells him a quick story of her life. She's seeing Chuck, who's the biggest asshole in the place and that she can do no wrong because her son is... Kyle. Peter sighs, figures, the only interesting woman there and she's related to the 'warden'.

One bright morning finds Peter getting hassled by Marcus as he keeps turning down all the activities that are offered. All of them, in Peter's opinion, are dull, boring old fogies activities. Marcus' frustration is halted by Natalie and Devon arriving. Devon is having trouble fitting in at his new school; they don't seem to trust outsiders here. Peter knows what he's

talking about. People at the home are still giving him sideways looks.

Kyle is at home that evening and he's dealing with his own teenaged daughter, DAWN. She's having trouble at school and is gossiping about the new kid -Devon- the new kid with an attitude. Along with BETH, his sweet wife, Kyle is struggling to be a good parent and control Dawn, but it's a constant challenge.

As the days go by, Peter finds out more of the rules of the home. There are limits to the TV channels that they can watch. Having to submit their programming requests to management for approval. The staff are the keepers of the remotes.

Peter ends up in conflict with Chuck over which TV show they are going to watch despite the fact that he specifically requested it. It seems that Chuck simply bribes the staff to loose the other requests. Frustrated with the rules, Peter retires to his room but not before embarrassing Chuck in front of the room full of people.

No sooner than he gets a swingin' jazz CD playing in his room is there a knock on the door. He's busted for noise violations. How can a bunch of old deaf people complain that he's playing music too loud? Jim tries to calm him down but Peter is starting to get pretty upset by how locked down they are in the home. He was a prisoner during the war; it's not going to happen again.

On his first Sunday at the home, Peter rises and readies himself for a walk. When Jim asks him where he's going, he tells him that he's heading into town to get himself a proper Sunday breakfast. Much to his surprise, Jim tells him that he's not allowed to do that either. No excursions off the home grounds without a chaperone and the approval of the management.

Peter is absolutely stunned. This place is worse than a prison camp! Just without the barbed wire and attack dogs, Jim replies with a sigh.

Down in the dining hall the rest of the tenants are having their Sunday breakfast. The Bees hold court in the middle of the room. Judy is noticeably missing. Through the plate glass windows, unnoticed by everyone but Chuck, Peter and Jim sneak into the forest at the edge of the property.

On a quiet, tree lined road, the two of them are walking and talking. Jim explains how Kyle didn't want to take over the home when his father died. But he was just married, kid on the way, and didn't have much choice. Judy helped as much as she could until she moved in herself.

As they walk, they pass close to a fine looking river. Jim remarks that he used to come down here with his grandfather and fish, something that his father did with his great grandfather. Peter ponders that. "Grandfather's and grandson's are united against the same enemy," he says, "the father/son in the middle. And that never changes." Jim nods in agreement and they continue on.

Kyle is rushing around, moving the tenants out of the dining hall and into their respective rooms of worship. It's a challenge with so many different faiths in one place. But he's very strict and is able to get everyone where they should be. Then he rushes off to church. He's got to start spending more time with his family, he tells Marcus, guiltily, as he heads out the door. Marcus watches him go, then realizes that he's got some time to relax now that the boss is away.

Peter and Jim walk down Main Street to the town diner. Jim is remarking that he hasn't been in there for quite a few years, but he used to go all the time. His law office was just around the corner. So in they go. It's a perfect small town diner. A row of stools at the counter, booths at the back, even a jukebox. Peter smiles. Jim is immediately recognized and is ushered to his 'regular' table, even after all these years. As they sit down and are given menus, they hear some recognizable laughter coming from a booth hidden in the back.

Kyle arrives at the church. He slides in beside Beth and Dawn. Quietly, he asks about his mom. Beth says that she hasn't seen her. Kyle doesn't react. And we're smart enough to know that something's not right.

Back at the diner, Peter and Jim have moved back to the booth and have joined with Judy and her best friend, RUTH. It seems that Judy has been sneaking out to have breakfast once a month with Ruth, who is still living in her family home, on the outside. It seems Judy is more a rebel than she shows. Peter pulls a practical joke by switching the salt and sugar.

Peter's daughter and grandson are at the church too, part of Natalie's plan to fit in to the town. Devon hates it and is only there because he has to be. This is something that he's

got in common with Kyle's daughter as she tries to secretly text message with her friends during the service.

When Ruth drops off Judy later that afternoon, Kyle is waiting for her. Ruth quickly zips off; she doesn't want to be around for the fight. Kyle is pretty upset that she wasn't at church and her story that she and Ruth lost track of time - they're just old ladies after all - barely works.

Before he can accuse her of anything, the rest of The Bee's arrive and drag her off for a bridge game. Kyle storms off; frustrated that he can't fully get angry with his mom. He takes it out on an old woman lingering in the hallway.

Chuck, Judy's flame, sees Peter and Jim returning via the woods. Peter and Jim wave to him as they slip into the building. Chuck finds out, from his daughter, who works at the diner, that Judy and Ruth were having breakfast with Peter and Jim.

Chuck confides to his buddies that Peter is going to get what's coming to him, and soon. Chuck doesn't like not being the center of attention - he's the cock of this particular dungheap.

## ACT 2

Jim and Peter are leaning out on their balconies. Jim is filling him in on the latest announcement by Kyle. Peter sighs and puffs on his cigar. Marcus walks by, down below, and they have to hide their cigars, and hold in the smoke - just like high school. After Marcus passes, they struggle to exhale.

Peter turns to Jim and says, "If we're not allowed to go out to have fun, we'll just have to have fun in here." Jim smiles, mischievously.

Jim and Peter are sneaking around late at night, keeping an eye out for the guards. They get a wet mop from a janitors closet and lean it up against Chuck's door, with the wet mop end at head level. With a grin, they knock on the door and rush off. Chuck opens the door and gets a sloppy, damp mop in the face. He flings the mop away and looks up and down the empty hallway. Jim and Peter are snickering around a corner.

Peter is having dinner at his daughters' tiny two-bedroom apartment. Devon chomps down his meal and rushes out. Peter's complaining about the home during dinner makes Natalie crack after her son leaves. Life isn't that easy for her either. Natalie's ex is not paying his alimony and she's having a tough

time. She's also feeling pretty guilty about taking Peter away from the home that he grew up in and moving him to a far off town that he hates. Peter calms her down, cracks some jokes and heads off into the tiny kitchen to do the dishes, feeling bad for complaining.

One night, an old woman gets into her bed only to find that it's been short sheeted.

Meanwhile, Devon is dared to play a practical joke on Dawn at school. But he gets caught.

Natalie and Kyle are brought into the principals' office where Devon and Dawn are sitting, sullenly. Dawn convinces the principal to not punish Devon much to the confusion of both Kyle and Natalie. On the way home, Natalie reads the riot act to Devon. He's got to grow up and act more mature, like his grandfather.

An old guy finds out, too late, that his toilet has been covered with Saran Wrap.

Jim and Peter enter the dining hall and sit down at their usual table. The legs of their chairs break, sending them tumbling to the ground. Laughter breaks out thru the dining hall. As they slowly get up, with Jim furious that they got tricked, Peter quietly informs him that he did that to them. But why? Now everyone is sure that they aren't doing the jokes if they're getting tricked too. Jim smiles and winces. He could have done something a bit gentler. Peter grins.

One night at dinner, Chuck storms over to Peter and Jim. One of his eyebrows is missing, he's furious and he blames them. In threatening them, Chuck flicks some mashed potatoes onto Peter. Peter looks over at Jim and back at Chuck. "Don't do that." Chuck does it again then turns to leave. That's when a full handful of mashed potato hits him on the side of the face. Chuck spins around, grabbing a full plate of food from the table beside him and flings it at Peter. Peter ducks and the plate hits the guy sitting behind him. Someone yells, "Food fight!", and the dining hall erupts.

Marcus frantically phones for Kyle as a handful of creamed corn hits him in the face. Kyle storms in, and, with the staff, struggle to stop the carnage.

Peter and Jim are sitting in Kyle's office, still covered with food. Kyle comes in with Natalie and Jim's son. Kyle is furious and won't hear any of their protestations of innocence.

He's really frustrated as his control of the tenants is slipping. But Kyle threatens that if they're caught again, they're both going to be kicked out of the home. And he can do that. This really upsets Natalie and Jim's son, as neither can have their parent at home with them. And there aren't any other choices for senior living in the area. At least, none that pass the health codes.

After the meeting, Peter and Jim are given a real talking to by their kids. Judy overhears and is torn. Her son, Kyle, is being tough on them and their kids are being tough on them too. Besides, she was the one who shaved Chuck's eyebrow off.

Everything's quiet and boring at the home, much to Peter's dismay. The brief few days of excitement are over. It's back to sitting in the shade, playing chess, bridge, canasta, and waiting to pass away.

As Peter and Jim play a game of "Go Fish" with Judy and Devon - who's visiting -, Peter suddenly has a thought. There must be some mighty nice fishing rivers around here. Jim waxes poetic on the untamed streams and creeks for fishing around the town and near by. An idea is forming in Peter's head.

Kyle is watching suspiciously as his mom leaves with Ruth for the afternoon. Meanwhile, Peter is being picked up by Devon, and Jim by his grandson. Something's up, Kyle comments to Marcus.

Just outside the town, the three cars come to a halt. Peter and Jim hop into Ruth's car, making their grandkids promise not to tell anyone that they're doing what they're doing. And, if they agree, they'll get to come along next time. The grandkids watch as their grandparents' race off.

Soon, the four of them are relaxing at the side of a beautiful river, fishing rods in the water, a fine spread of food waiting on a picnic blanket behind them.

Meanwhile, Devon doesn't tell Natalie that her dad's off fishing. She's trying to explain how hard life is and is getting pretty angry with Devon's indifference, when there's a knock at the door. It's Dawn to hang out with her son. Devon looks so happy that Natalie can't be angry with him anymore.

Back at the river, fish are caught and cooked immediately for dinner. The day is so wonderful that they resist returning. Peter has a bottle of brandy and he's drinking from it, convincing the others to join in with him. They're a bit resistant yet he continues pushing against their wishes until they are all sipping away. As the stars come out, they realize that they're going to be in trouble if they don't get back soon.

Meanwhile, Devon and Dawn are having a tentative date at the diner, cautiously learning about each other. They're trying not to be obvious by having school books open on the table, yet they're not talking about American History unless someone is near them. Devon is explaining how his dad left his mom while away at a trade show a couple years ago and trying to be cool about it when he really isn't.

Kyle is at home with Beth. They're actually alone for a change as their daughter is out. They're starting to enjoy a bit of time together when the phone rings and there's something the matter at the home. Kyle has to go in. Beth sighs, that's what always happens, it's always something that no one else can handle, and he's got to handle everything himself. She's pretty angry with him and he doesn't see what he can do about it. It's his responsibility! He's responsible for his tenants, all of them, all the time.

The four are driving back. They pass a sharp corner where some serious accident happened, years ago. What accident, Peter asks. Jim pauses. Judy tells him to tell the story. Jim doesn't want to, but Judy insists. Jim tells the story of how Judy's husband, Kyle's dad, died. He was out trying to find some tenants who had gone for a day trip. It was late and Kyle's dad had a heart attack while driving. The police figure he was already dead when crashed. The tenants were the first on the scene.

And Kyle blames himself because he was supposed to be chaperoning the tenants but didn't. That makes the trip a bit quieter and helps us to understand Kyle and his intentions a bit more. And then Kyle passes them, racing back to the home. He looks over and sees them all in the same car but doesn't stop. The four in the car look at each other, oh-oh.

There is a flurry of frantic cell phone calls to their grandkids. They meet up and jump into their kids' cars. Unfortunately, Dawn is in the car with Devon. Peter convinces her, with Devon's help, to stay quiet and not tell her dad about



what's going on. Innocently, one by one, the three cars pull up at the home. Devon and Dawn drop off Peter, Jim's grandson drops him off and Ruth drops off Judy.

Kyle tries to talk to Judy. He knows what he saw and accuses her of lying to him. Judy won't tell Kyle what she was doing, and is hurt that Kyle doesn't trust her, his own mother. And Kyle can't prove anything because they were all dropped off by the people who picked them up, as per the rules of the home.

At home one evening, Kyle finds out that his daughter is hanging out with Devon. He doesn't like that because Peter is a troublemaker; therefore his grandson is also. The conversation ends up in a fight with both his daughter and his wife. For Kyle, it isn't raining, it's pouring as he loses more and more control in his life.

Kyle lashes out and enacts more restrictions on the seniors. These are the restrictions that he isn't able to put on his daughter at home, so he does it to the tenants at work. Tensions are running high and Kyle's even getting angry at the staff about it. The staff react and take it out on the tenants.

In the dining hall, Chuck overhears that Judy was off for the day with Peter. Seeing that Peter isn't present, he storms over and accuses her of all sorts of mean and hurtful things, right in the middle of the full dining hall. Not content to stop, Chuck keeps at her until she's crying. Then he breaks up with her and stomps off.

Devon meets up with Dawn at school. When she tells him that her father doesn't want them to see each other anymore, that he's trouble just like his father and his grandfather, Devon is really upset and doesn't know what to do.

The pressure in the home is getting to everyone. Judy has convinced Peter not to hurt Chuck for hurting her. Tensions are running high, and tempers are flaring up, just like the temperature outside. The staff is snapping at the tenants, and the tenants are even snapping at each other. Peter takes Jim aside and tells him that they've got to get out of the home, and fast. Jim wipes his brow and agrees.

The next morning, it's the same routine as the previous fishing trip. Judy leaves with Ruth, Peter with Devon, Jim with his grandson. Kyle is watching, as always. He doesn't like what's happening but he can't do anything about it as their passes for leaving the home are in order. Once Devon drives out of sight

of the home, he pulls over. Dawn hops out from behind a tree and climbs into the car with a smile.

The three cars pull over, just like last time, at the side of the road. But this time, the kids tell them that they're not covering this time. They're coming too. And there's nothing the grandparents can do except agree. Everyone piles into Ruth's Suburban and away they go, leaving the other two cars parked by the side of the road.

Along the banks of a different river, it's hard to tell who's the grandparent and who's the grandkid, they're all having so much fun. Judy is especially reveling in teaching Dawn how to fish. Dawn makes a passing comment about how much she wishes she could be doing this with her parents.

Farther down the bank, Peter and Devon are fishing and looking along at Judy and Dawn. Peter casually asks Devon how things are going with him and Dawn. And they end up talking about Peter's attraction to Judy and what he's going to do about it.

Back at the home, a stupid practical joke that Chuck pulls ends up with the fire sprinklers going off and flooding a number of rooms, including Judy's. Kyle phones Ruth to let his mom know. But he can't find her, nor can he find his daughter.

Back at the river, dinner is served and the lighthearted afternoon continues as Peter, after having a bit of brandy, starts daring the others to jump into the river via a tire swing. Judy is resistant to his daring but the rest get drawn in. Despite Judy's concerns, Ruth takes the plunge. She comes up out of the river, laughing away, having a great time. Judy relaxes until Ruth starts goes grey. Peter gives her a shot of her brandy to warm her up. It doesn't work and Judy suddenly realizes that Ruth is having a heart attack! Peter steps back as Judy tries to call for help but there isn't any cel phone coverage. They've got to leave right now.

Kyle widens his search, calling Natalie, who has no idea that Peter was supposed to be with her. Then he calls Jim's son, who also has no idea what he's talking about.

The group gently move Ruth up to her truck, as Devon and Dawn quickly pack up. Peter has really impacted by Ruth's collapse and isn't able to really help. Jim and Judy have taken control. Jim starts up the Suburban as the kids get settled in the back to comfort Ruth. Peter watches all that's going on around him, in shock. Jim starts the car and they head off.

A police patrol car glides up and stops beside Devon and Jim's grandson's cars. He looks over the empty cars then calls them in.

The Suburban suddenly dies as they drive down the deserted back road. Jim rolls it off to the side of the road and to a halt. They check the engine and find that there's nothing they can do to get it to start again. They try all their cell phones to no avail. They're still out of signal area. And it's getting dark. This isn't good. Everyone is starting to panic, Ruth is looking pretty pale while Peter looks along the darkening road.

Finally, Jim is able to get the Suburban started. The home is closer than the nearest hospital and it has a good medical unit. Jim puts pedal to the metal and they race off. They go by where the other cars should be parked, but find them gone. The kids all freak out; they're so going to be in trouble! Ruth gasps and has a cardiac arrest. The kids apply CPR as Jim speeds off.

As they race up to the home, they can see the flashing lights of a couple police cars outside. That's pretty odd. Beth, Natalie and Jim's son standing at the front door with a couple police officers. They all look pretty frantic. Peter realizes they're definitely in trouble.

Ruth's Suburban shudders to a stop at the front door and everyone explodes out of it, screaming for the medical team for Ruth. Kyle comes out with the orderlies and they quickly rush Ruth into the home. The parents are yelling at the grandkids and at the grandparents. They all lied to Kyle, to their parents, to their kids, to everyone! And, if that's not bad enough, Judy's friend is at risk of dying. They put their grandchildren at risk, and they were totally irresponsible. And they are dangerous to themselves and to others. Kyle storms inside. Natalie glares at Peter then drags Devon off. Jim's son does the same with his son. Judy is left standing there, with Beth and Dawn, trying to comprehend that her friend might die.

### ACT 3

The next day, the fun is really over. The grandkids are getting it from their parents for being irresponsible. Peter is trying to support Judy as she struggles with the guilt that Kyle threw at her about Ruth's heart attack. She's having a really hard time with it and it's showing. She lashes out at Peter for being so insensitive to needs of others. Of only selfishly looking out for himself. She looks older and frailer than she's

ever looked. Judy rejects Peter's support and storms off to see Ruth, who's still in intensive care.

There is a quiet meeting with Kyle. Natalie, out of desperation, agrees to have Peter medicated. Either that or he's out of the home, and she can't have that. They never had any trouble with the tenants before Peter arrived. He's obviously the cause of the trouble. As she leaves, Jim's son is waiting outside Kyle's office.

Marcus arrives in Peter's room and gives him a powerful sedative. Between Judy's sadness and Natalie's anger, he's feeling pretty bad about everything and doesn't resist taking them.

Devon and Dawn, on their bikes, come to see their grandparents. Devon finds Peter sitting in the lounge, staring at a mute TV. Peter's given up. It's pretty heart breaking to see them all sedated and put out for display in deck chairs staring at nothing all day long. Judy is holed up in her room, incapacitated by her guilt. Dawn is with her, when Marcus comes in with a sedative for Judy. She takes it without a fight, much to Dawn's dismay.

Devon comes home and is really upset because his grandfather looks like an old man, ready to die. This sets off Natalie, into sadness. They're sad together, and don't know what to do.

Natalie is not able to visit Peter, she just can't handle what the medication has done to him and is feeling horrible about her decision to sedate him. She drives up to the home, parks but can't get out of the car. She cries for a bit and then drives away. Marcus is watching from the foyer.

Kyle gets home from another exhausting day at work. He's still talking on his cell phone to the home when he comes in the front door. Walking thru the house, he finds Beth sitting at the kitchen table. She's really upset about him sedating his own mother. But what else can he do? She's a danger to herself and to their child. Kyle truly does believe this.

Dawn comes home, walks right by him, and doesn't say a word. She storms up to her room, the door slamming behind her. Beth starts again. How could he do that to his own mother? What would his father think? Kyle lashes out, he's not his father, and he's got to do what's right for the tenants because they can't do it for themselves!

Jim is struggling on his medication too. Disoriented, he tries to go downstairs instead of taking the elevator. But he slips on some water at the top of the steep staircase and tumbles down the full flight. He hits the landing and doesn't move.

The next day at school, Jim's grandson finds Devon and Dawn. He tells them that his grandfather fell and broke his hip and his arm. He's in the hospital in pretty bad shape. They realize that something's got to be done.

Later that evening, the three quietly sneak around town putting up posters questioning what's going on at the home.

Marcus comes in to Peter's room to give him his sedative. Peter is sitting in his chair, staring at the wall. Shaking his head, Marcus pockets the meds and leaves.

Kyle spots one of the posters while driving home that evening. He stops his car and grabs it. But as he drives off, he notices that just about every lamppost has a poster on it. The poster says that there's going to be a general meeting at the home the very next night. A meeting that Kyle doesn't know anything about. Everything's getting out of control.

Marcus arrives at Peter's room to find him up and doing stretching exercises. Peter asks him why his sedatives were stopped. Marcus sighs. He wouldn't want to be suppressed like that when he's old, and he doesn't want to look after a drooling bunch of zombies either. That's just too boring. At least life's been interesting since Peter showed up. Peter smiles. Marcus turns serious. Peter's got to follow him, and be quiet about it. Peter frowns, and follows.

A nurse checks Jim in his hospital bed. He's in pretty bad shape. Cast on his arm, IV, bruises all over his face. Peter quietly slips into the room and stops cold. He wasn't prepared for how hurt Jim was. Peter takes a chair and sits silently beside his friend. He's been so wrong. His concern turns to frustration, and then to an unspoken resolve.

Kyle is trying to calm down everyone at the huge meeting. There are a lot of rumours in the town because of the mysterious posters. People are concerned. Kyle goes on the offensive. They don't pay him enough to deal with their parents if they're going to act up like they are. He threatens that he might have to medicate all the tenants to keep them controlled. And it's a suggestion that the other people really like. They've got so much on their plates; they just can't deal with a troublesome

elderly parent. That's why they put them into the home in the first place. It's a real eye opener for Kyle of why people have put their parents into his home.

Peter walks into the room and up to the front. He's got something to say to everyone in attendance. Taking a breath, Peter talks of living a full life, of working hard to be able to retire and do all that he wanted to do. Kyle interrupts him, still very angry about all the trouble that Peter has caused him and the home. There's going to be a regulatory investigation of what happened. Peter gets angry, he isn't finished what he's there to say. He continues with the support of the audience. He didn't work all those years so he could be put out to pasture and forced to do nothing but watch TV and play bridge. Peter explains all he wanted to do was do a little fishing, and spend some time with his grandson; he wasn't doing it to hurt anyone.

It's a passionate and emotional speech about everyone trusting each other and about trusting to know when to help and when to stand back. It's like teaching a child to ride a bike. No matter what you do, the parent can't hold on to the back of the bike forever, they've got to let go. And now, Peter, and Jim and the rest are getting to the point in their lives when they might need a little help, a bit of a hand on the back of the bike, but it doesn't mean that they have to held onto all the time. How can you trust us, if you can't trust yourself? Peter finishes talking and turns to go in the silence that follows his speech. Kyle calls out that what he said is irrelevant. As he's walking out, his fellow tenants start to applaud, a rousing chorus accompanying him from the building.

Kyle follows him out of the room and confronts him in the hallway. Kyle is furious at how much Peter has ignored the needs over everyone else and just looked after himself. Peter throws it back at him, maybe he's just jealous, maybe that's all Kyle wants – to do what he wants. For once in his life. Peter walks away, leaving Kyle stewing in the hallway.

Kyle goes up to see his mother. She's sitting in her room, staring at the wall. He realizes that this isn't the way that he wants to see her in her final years. Marcus comes up beside him. They talk for a bit and Marcus nods in agreement.

Kyle at church with his family. The sermon is about control. Needing control, having control, wanting control. And about letting go of control. Of opening yourself up to trust, and to faith. The pastor uses the same metaphor Peter did about having to let go of the bicycle when helping a child to learn. Except

that he adds that it's the responsible parent who lets go of the child. It gives Kyle things to think about.

It's evening and the sun is sliding towards the horizon. Down at the edge of the property, Peter and Kyle are talking, looking out at the setting sun. Judy, coming out of her self-imposed exile and off her sedatives, steps shakily out of the home, squinting in the bright sunlight, and spots them. She's concerned until Peter offers Kyle a cigar. They light up and sit there in the enjoying evening silence.

Peter looks at Kyle, "There's going to have to be some changes around here." Kyle takes a puff of his cigar and nods. "Yes there are." Their peace is shattered by Chuck running out, past Judy, his face and hands dyed bright blue, screaming.

With a gentle smile coming to her face, Judy steps back into the home. Kyle frown at Peter. Peter slowly shrugs. "Not everything is going to change..." They both slowly smile.

At the Main Street diner, Jim, Peter, Judy and Ruth are having a happy and contented breakfast. Jim is looking much better, his bruising has gone down a lot but he's still got a cast on his arm. As they have their nice breakfast, Devon and Dawn saunter by, hand in hand, passing a car with the name of their seniors home on the side. All is looking good.

Along the banks of the river, everyone is fishing together. Peter and Judy, Jim and Ruth, the grandkids, and the kids. The only person absent is Kyle. He's got to work, unfortunately, nothing has changed regarding that.

Peter looks back up to the road and notices Kyle watching them, from his car. Kyle starts to leave but Peter comes up to him and convinces him to come join the party. It's been a long time since Kyle fished. Not since his dad passed away. Peter nods, but it's never too late to pick up a fishing rod. It's just like riding a bike. Kyle smiles and follows Peter down to the river. Everyone is thrilled that he's joining them.

### **The End**

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