

'Seniors High'

Treatment for a Feature Film
by David Goossen
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, PAUL, a feisty and alert 75 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 Paul climb out and stretch. Devon ignores them. Around the wide entranceway, the occasional senior glances over at the new people. KEVIN, the controlling, suave, and very purposeful owner/operator of the home, strides out to meet them. It's kind of like Paul's first day at a new high school.

With a large, serious staff member, MARCUS, taking his suitcase, Kevin leads Paul and Natalie into the home. As they walk down the hallway, Paul pauses to look at a photo on the wall of a pretty older woman. A burly, angry looking guy, CHUCK, bumps into him intentionally. They exchange verbal barbs with each other and it looks like it might escalate to violence when another old guy, JIM, steps between them, calms Chuck down and moves Paul away. Jim agrees with Paul's assessment of Chuck - he's a complete idiot with a big chip on his shoulder. Jim leaves Paul at Kevin's office.

As Kevin shows Paul around the home, Paul comments to Natalie that there's something about Kevin that he doesn't quite like. Paul's daughter shushes him. She thinks that Kevin is quite caring. Natalie tells him that she thinks the home's nice and that he'll have a nice time there. Paul isn't so sure.

That evening, after getting settled in his room, Paul 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. Paul 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, Paul 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 JOANNE - the woman in the photograph. It seems that Paul 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 Paul to move, advising him that he doesn't want to be on the wrong side of "The Bee's". With a frown, Paul grudgingly moves to sit with Jim.

Back in his room, Paul 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. Paul asks, innocently about Joanne, 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... Kevin. Paul sighs, figures, the only interesting woman in the place and she's related to the boss.

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

Kevin 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 big city kid with the big city attitude. Along with Beth, Kevin is struggling to be a good parent and control their daughter, but it's a constant challenge.

As the days go by, Paul 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.

Paul 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, Paul 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 Paul 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.

ACT 2

On his first Sunday at the home, Paul 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.

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

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. Joanne is noticeably missing. Through the plate glass windows, unnoticed by everyone but Chuck, Paul 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 Kevin 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. Joanne 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. Paul 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.

Kevin 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 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.

Paul 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. Paul 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.

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

Back at the diner, Paul and Jim have moved back to the booth and are sitting with Joanne and her best friend, RUTH. It seems that Joanne has been sneaking out to have breakfast once a month with Ruth, who is still living in her family home, on the outside. And Joanne has told everyone that she's been at church with her daughter-in-law and granddaughter. Paul pulls a practical joke on the table by switching the salt and sugar.

Paul's daughter and grandson are at the church too, part Natalie's plan to fit in to the town. Devon hates it and is

only there because he has to. This is something that he's got in common with Kevin's daughter as she tries to secretly text message with her friends during the service.

When Ruth drops off Joanne later that afternoon, Kevin is waiting for her. Ruth quickly zips off; she doesn't want to be around for the fight. Kevin 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. Kevin 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, Joanne's flame, sees Paul and Jim returning via the woods. Paul and Jim wave to him as they slip into the building. Chuck finds out, thru a phone call to his daughter, who works at the diner, that Joanne and Ruth were having breakfast with Paul and Jim.

Chuck confides to his buddies that Paul 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 dung heap.

ACT 3

Jim and Paul are leaning out on their balconies. Jim is filling him in on the latest announcement by Kevin. Paul 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.

Paul 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 Paul 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 head in the face. He flings the mop away and looks up and down the empty hallway. Jim and Paul are snickering around a corner.

Paul is having dinner at his daughters' tiny two-bedroom apartment. Devon chomps down his meal and heads out. Paul's

complaining about the home during dinner makes Natalie crack after her son leaves. Life isn't that easy for her either. Paul finds out that Natalie's ex is not paying alimony and she's having a tough time. She's also feeling pretty guilty about taking Paul away from the home that he grew up in and moving him to a far off town that he hates. Paul 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 Kevin 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 Kevin 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 Paul 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, Paul 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. Paul grins.

One night at dinner, Chuck storms over to Paul and Jim. One of his eyebrows is missing, he's furious and he blames them. In threatening them, Chuck flicks some mashed potatoes onto Paul. Paul 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 Paul. Paul ducks and the plate hits the guy sitting behind him. Someone yells, "Food fight!", and the dining hall erupts.

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

Paul and Jim are sitting in Kevin's office, still covered with food. Kevin comes in with Natalie and Jim's son. Kevin is furious and won't listen to any of their protestations of innocence.

He's really frustrated as his control of the tenants is slipping. But Kevin 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, Paul and Jim are given a real talking to by their kids. Joanne overhears and is torn. Her son, Kevin, 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 Paul'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 Paul and Jim play a game of "Go Fish" with Joanne and Devon - who's visiting -, Paul 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 Paul's head.

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

Just outside the town, the three cars come to a halt. Paul 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, when there's

a knock at the door. It's Dawn here to hang out with her son. Devon looks so happy that she 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. 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.

Kevin 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. Kevin 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.

ACT 4

The four are driving back. They pass a sharp corner where some serious accident happened, years ago. What accident, Paul asks. Jim pauses. Joanne tells him to tell the story. Jim doesn't want to, but Joanne insists. Jim tells the story of how Joanne's husband, Kevin's dad, died. He was out trying to find some tenants who had gone for a day trip. It was late; apparently they had stopped at the corner for a break. Kevin's dad couldn't stop in time and drove right into the back of the stopped car. Everyone was killed.

And Kevin 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 Kevin and his intentions a bit more. And then Kevin 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. Paul 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 Paul, Jim's grandson drops him off and Ruth drops off Joanne.

Kevin tries to talk to Joanne. He knows what he saw and accuses her of lying to him. Joanne won't tell Kevin what she was doing, and is hurt that Kevin doesn't trust her, his own mother. And Kevin 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, Kevin finds out that his daughter is hanging out with Devon. He doesn't like that because Paul is a troublemaker; therefore his grandson is also. The conversation ends up in a fight with both his daughter and his wife. For Kevin, it isn't raining, it's pouring as he loses more and more control in his life.

Kevin lashes out and puts more restrictions on things around the home. 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 Kevin'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 Joanne was off for the day with Paul. 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. 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.

Paul 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. Joanne leaves with Ruth, Paul with Devon and Dawn, Jim with his grandson. Kevin is watching, as always. He doesn't like what's happening but he can't do anything about it.

The three cars pull over, just like last time, at the side of the road. But this time, all the kids tell them that they're not covering for them. They're coming too. And there's nothing that the grandparents can do about it. 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. Joanne 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, Paul and Devon are fishing and looking along at Joanne and Dawn. Paul casually asks Devon how things are going with him and Dawn. And they end up around in a conversation about Paul's attraction to Joanne and what he's going to do about it.

Back at the home, one of 'The Bee's" takes ill. A stupid practical joke that Chuck tries to pull on Paul goes wrong and she's startled into having a heart attack. Kevin 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.

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

As the group returns home that evening, singing along with some song they all like on the radio, the Suburban suddenly dies. Ruth 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. Each of the kids tries their cell phones to no avail. They're out of signal area. And it's getting dark. This isn't good.

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

Finally, out on the road, someone comes by and is able to get the Suburban started. It's now really late but they're pretty sure that they'll be able to not be in trouble. Wrong. When they arrive where the other cars should be parked, they find them gone. The kids all freak out; they're so going to be in trouble! Not knowing what else to do, they decide to head back to the home and take it from there.

As they drive up to the home, they can see the flashing lights of a couple police cars and an ambulance outside. That's pretty odd. But what's worse is Kevin, Beth, Natalie and Jim's son standing at the front door with a couple police officers. They all look pretty frantic. Paul looks at Jim; they're definitely in trouble.

When the parents spot Ruth's Suburban, a crazy scene ensues as everyone yells at the grandkids and at the grandparents. They all lied to Kevin, to their parents, to their kids, to everyone! And, if that's not bad enough, Joanne's friend died, without her by her side.

They put their grandchildren at risk, and they were totally irresponsible. And they are dangerous to themselves and to others. Kevin storms inside. Natalie glares at Paul then drags Devon off. Jim's son does the same with his son. Joanne is left standing there, with Beth and Dawn, trying to comprehend that her friend is dead.

ACT 5

The next day, the fun is over. The grandkids are getting it from their parents for being irresponsible. Paul is trying to support Joanne as she struggles with the guilt that Kevin threw at her about her friends' death. She's having a really hard time with it and it's showing. She looks older and frailer than she's ever looked. Jim is trying to be supportive of them both yet he's also getting it from his son.

There is a quiet meeting with Kevin. Natalie, out of desperation, agrees to have Paul 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 Paul arrived. He's obviously the cause of the trouble. As she leaves, Jim's son is waiting outside Kevin's office.

Jim's son is given the same ultimatum, but won't have Jim medicated. Kevin does what he has to do and Jim is kicked out of the home. With nowhere else to go, the son transfers him to the dodgy home with no freedoms at all.

Marcus arrives in Paul's room and gives him a powerful sedative. Between Joanne'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 Paul sitting in the lounge, staring at a silent TV

showing some talk show. Paul's given up. It's pretty heart breaking to see them all sedated and put out for display in deck chairs where they stare at nothing all day long. Joanne is holed up in her room, incapacitated by her guilt. While Dawn is there with her, Marcus comes in with a sedative for her. 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 Paul, 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.

Kevin 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. Kevin 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? Kevin 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 at the other home. All of the other tenants are either locked in their rooms or are stuck in a grimy common room with one battered TV blaring in the corner. Frustrated, he tries to go downstairs and outside. But he slips on some water at the top of the steep staircase and tumbles down the full flight, smashing into the floor at the bottom. He 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 pretty bad shape. And none of it would have happened if he'd stayed at the old home. 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 Paul's room to give him his sedative. Paul is sitting in his chair, staring at the wall. Shaking his head, Marcus pockets the meds and leaves.

Kevin 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 Kevin doesn't know anything about. Everything's getting out of control.

Marcus arrives at Paul's room to find him up and doing stretching exercises. Paul asks him why he the 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 Paul showed up. Paul smiles. Marcus turns serious. Paul's got to follow him, and be quiet about it. Paul frowns, and follows.

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

ACT 6

Kevin 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. Kevin 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 Kevin of why people have put their parents into his home. So that Kevin would control them.

Paul walks into the room and up to the front. He's got something to say to everyone in attendance. Taking a breath, Paul talks of living a full life, of working hard to be able to retire and do all that he wanted to do. And that 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. Paul explains that 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, Paul, 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? Paul finishes talking and turns to go in the silence that follows his speech. As he's walking out, his fellow tenants start to applaud, a rousing chorus accompanying him from the building.

Kevin 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.

Kevin 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. It gives him things to think about.

It's evening and the sun is sliding towards the horizon. Down on the dock, Paul and Kevin are talking, looking out at the setting sun. Joanne, coming out of her self-imposed exile and off her sedatives, steps shakily out of the home and spots them, squinting in the bright sunlight. She's a bit confused and concerned until their conversation ends and Paul offers Kevin a cigar. They light up and sit there together in the evening silence. With a gentle smile coming to her face, Joanne steps back into the home.

Paul looks over at Kevin, "There's going to have to be some changes around here." Kevin takes a puff of his cigar and looks at Paul, seriously. "Yes there are."

At the Main Street diner, Jim, Paul, Joanne 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 hip and 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 good.

The home has been transformed into a more active, more respectful senior's home. A couple guys are out putting on a new putting green; some ladies are biking around. And all the staff and tenants love it. Marcus, now in a management role, is dealing with Chuck and a couple of his buddies stomping around the foyer. They've booked the car for 11am and Paul is late returning.

Paul and the gang return from breakfast. As soon as everyone exits the car, Chuck is in their face, threatening all sorts of retribution if he ever is late again. Paul just quietly steps back and holds the door open for Chuck, much to the surprise of the others.

Chuck gets into the car and is about to head off when there is a sudden 'pop' and the car starts to fill up with shaving crème. Before they can do anything, the car is completely full, with more shaving crème oozing out the sunroof.

Paul smiles to Jim, takes Joanne's arm and they walk off, leaving Chuck trapped. Marcus struggles to hold back a laugh as he watches Chuck struggle to get out of the car.

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

Paul looks back up to the road and notices that Kevin is watching them, from his car. Paul excuses himself. Kevin starts to leave when Paul comes up to him and convinces him to come down and join the party. It's been a long time since Kevin has been fishing. Something he hasn't done since his dad passed away. Paul nods, but it's never too late to pick up a fishing rod and catch some fish. It's just like riding a bike. Kevin smiles and follows Paul down to the river. Everyone is thrilled that he's joining them.

The End

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