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Younger Everyday

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YOUNGER EVERYDAY



BY - MELODY FORSYTHE





MY FAMILY MEASURES TIME BY
BIRTHDAY CAKES.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY NANA!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM!

WOW! TODAY, MY MOTHER IS 8!! WE TOOK HER TO HER FAVORITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT.



IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THERE IS JUST ONE CANDLE ON HER CAKE, AND NOT 8!; --



-- BECAUSE, SHE IS GETTING YOUNGER EVERYDAY.



WE LOVE YOU NANA!!!

YUMMMM ... CAKE!

I LOVE YOU TOO!

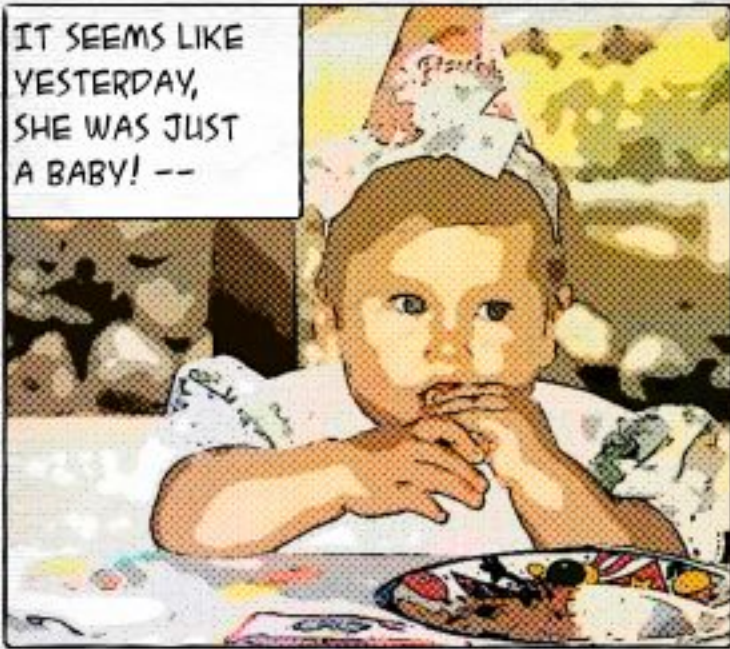


I MUST BE GETTING OLD
MY MOM HAS NEVER PUT A QUESTION
MARK ON MY BIRTHDAY CAKE BEFORE!

MY DAUGHTER ANGELICA ON
HER 25TH BIRTHDAY!



IT SEEMS LIKE
YESTERDAY,
SHE WAS JUST
A BABY! --



-- BUT IT HAS BEEN TWENTY-THREE-YEARS!

MY DAD'S LAST
BIRTHDAY CAKE WAS
OF HIM IN A
ROCKING CHAIR!



HE'S BEEN GONE
20-YEARS, NOW.

MY BROTHER
DAVID, WAS ONLY
38 WHEN HE
BLEW OUT HIS
LAST CANDLE. HE
DIED TOO
YOUNG.



ONCE, I MADE A
CAKE FOR MY
LITTLE BROTHER,
ERICH --



-- BUT,
EVEN HIS
HAIR IS GRAY
NOW! HE
THINKS
BECAUSE I
AM A GIRL, I
SHOULD
WATCH OVER
MOM WHEN
IT'S TIME.



THEN, THE PROBLEMS STARTED WITH MOM ...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU WERE IN AN ACCIDENT? ---

--- ARE YOU OKAY? ---

HI MOM!
WHAT'S UP?

--- WAIT ... SLOW DOWN. JUST TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED---

DID SOMEONE HIT YOU? ---

--- ARE YOU HOME NOW? ---

--- OKAY, I AM ON MY WAY! ---

--- YES, I AM LEAVING RIGHT NOW.

LORD, PLEASE WATCH OVER MY MOTHER.



MAYBE, SHE NEEDS TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?



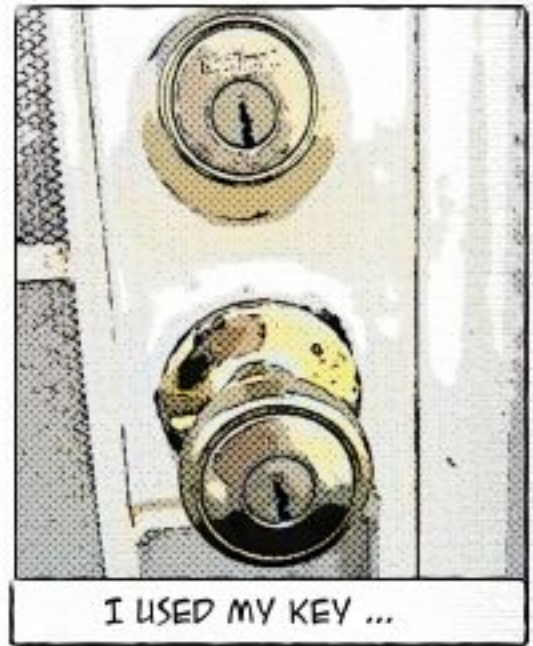
MAYBE, I SHOULD CALL HER DOCTOR?



OH MY GOD, I CAN SEE HER CAR PARKED IN THE DRIVEWAY, AND THE FRONT END IS SMASHED IN!



OH, NO! MOM!!!





AND SHE
SLAMMED ON HER
BRAKES !!!

I FOUND MY MOM TALKING TO THE
INSURANCE COMPANY.



NO! IT
IS NOT MY
FAULT!

IT WAS HER FAULT. SHE REAR ENDED
SOMEONE; BUT, SHE WASN'T HAVING IT.



THAT CRAZY
LADY JUST
STOPPED IN THE
MIDDLE OF TRAFFIC
TO LET SOMEONE
IN!!!



SHE JUST
STOPPED!

SHE SEEMED OKAY, ... SHE WAS FEISTY.



SO, I HIT HER IN
THE REAR!

SHE SEEMED UNUSUALLY GLEEFUL ABOUT
THE WHOLE THING. SOMETHING WAS OFF ...



YES, I WAS
IN AN
ACCIDENT SIX
MONTHS AGO.
WHAT DOES THAT
HAVE TO DO
WITH
ANYTHING?



I DON'T
CARE WHAT
THE LAW IS!



YOU
WEREN'T
THERE!

... AND SHE ABRUPTLY HUNG UP.



MOM,
MAYBE YOU
SHOULD NOT
BE DRIVING
ANYMORE.
MAYBE, YOU
WERE DRIVING
TOO CLOSE?



DON'T
TELL ME
WHAT TO DO!
I WAS DRIVING
BEFORE YOU
WERE BORN!
I DRIVE
PERFECTLY!



MOM, LET ME SEE YOUR EYES.

I AM FINE! I DON'T NEED A DOCTOR.

I CHECKED HER OUT AND LOOKED INTO HER EYES. SHE REFUSED TO GO TO THE DOCTOR.



YOU'RE NOT THE BOSS OF ME! I WILL DO WHAT I WANT.

SHE TURNED ON THE TV AND PULLED DOWN THE SHADE .



I DECIDED TO STAY THE NIGHT, AND MADE HER SOME DINNER.

AFTER DINNER, SHE BEGAN LOCKING ALL THE WINDOWS.

SOMEONE WILL CLIMB THROUGH THE WINDOWS. --

-- DO TERRIBLE THINGS TO ME ...

ROB ME, AND KILL US!! HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!!!





MOM, DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! NO ONE IS GOING TO CLIMB THROUGH THE WINDOW. YOU HAVE AN ALARM!

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT! ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS CUT THE WIRES, SHERLOCK!

I DON'T REMEMBER MY MOM EVER ACTING THIS WAY.



WE WATCHED SOME T.V. AND WENT TO BED.



ALL THE WINDOWS WERE LOCKED FOR THE NIGHT.



EARLY, THE NEXT MORNING ...

I TOLD YOU TO LOCK THE WINDOWS BEFORE YOU WENT TO BED.



I DID!

DON'T LIE TO ME! I CAN'T TRUST YOU! WHERE ARE YOU GOING IN YOUR COAT?



OUTSIDE!!!

I WENT OUTSIDE AND THOUGHT ABOUT JUST LEAVING.



DID SHE JUST SAY SHE CAN'T TRUST ME? WHAT THE HELL?

sigh

I WENT BACK IN THE HOUSE TO FETCH HER ...



COME ON MOM, I'LL TAKE YOU SHOPPING.

I SAT ON THE PORCH LONG ENOUGH TO FEEL SORRY FOR MYSELF

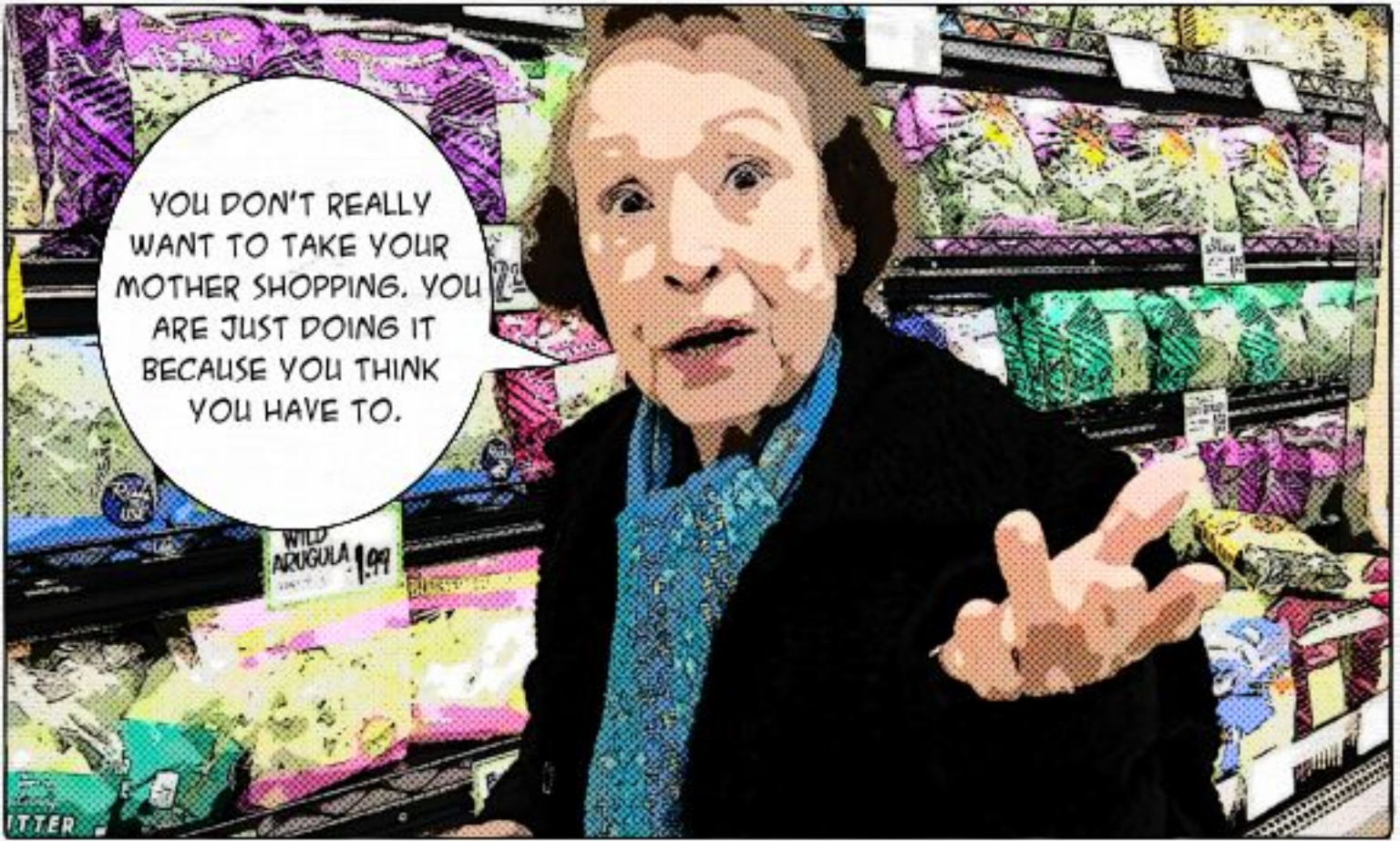


WHY IS SHE SO MEAN?

sniff

sniff

... AND I TOOK HER GROCERY SHOPPING; BUT, IT WASN'T EASY.



YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO TAKE YOUR MOTHER SHOPPING. YOU ARE JUST DOING IT BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU HAVE TO.



I AM TAKING YOU SHOPPING BECAUSE YOU WRECKED YOUR CAR AND YOU NEED GROCERIES --



-- AND BECAUSE I THINK YOU SHOULD NOT BE DRIVING

YOU'RE READING YOUR SCHOOL BOOK BECAUSE YOU WOULD RATHER NOT BE HERE.

I NOTICED MY MOM WAS ACTING A LITTLE JUVENILE.



LATER THAT DAY, MOM GOT HER FAVORITE SWEATER ON --

WOULD YOU LIKE A GLASS OF WINE?

I WOULD LOVE SOME!

-- AND WAS READY FOR THAT BOTTLE OF WINE. SHE WENT INTO THE KITCHEN.



SHE OPENED THE BOTTLE ...



... AND GOT TWO GLASSES --







NO, YOU
OPENED THE
BOTTLE! DON'T
LIE TO YOUR
MOTHER!



STOP
CALLING ME A
LIAR!

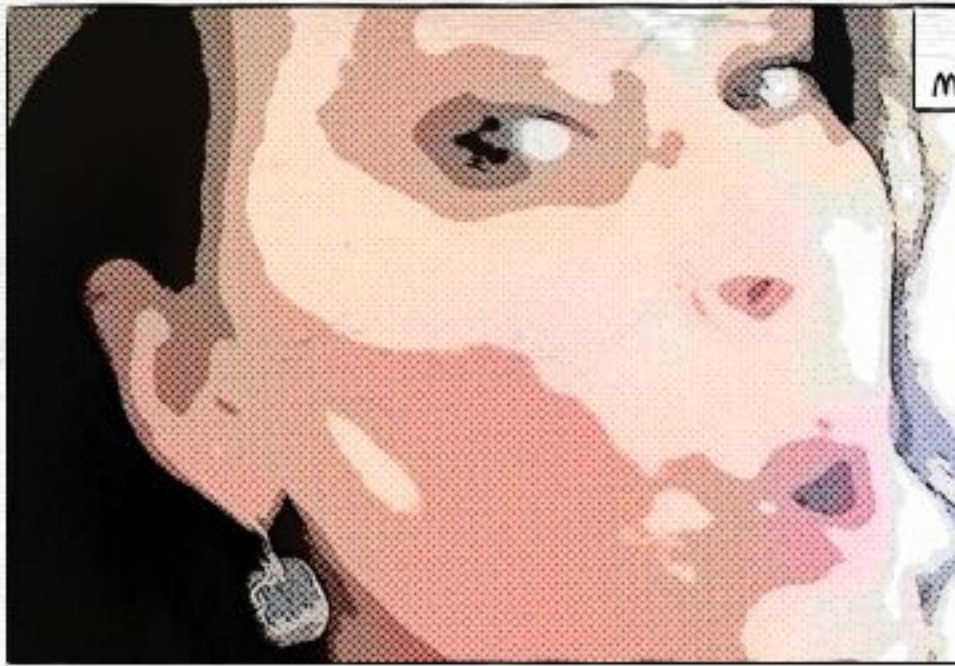


MELODY, I
SAW YOU! DON'T
LIE, CHRISTIAN
GIRL.



YOU
OPENED THE
BOTTLE!

NOW, I WAS FINGER
POINTING!



SUDDENLY, I COULD SEE MYSELF ... AND I FELT ASHAMED.

OKAY, SORRY MOM.



WEREN'T WE GOING TO HAVE SOME WINE?



I THOUGHT SO.



IT DOESN'T MATTER.



NOT REALLY!

WE NEVER SAID ANOTHER WORD ABOUT IT.



ANGELICA, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR GRANDMOTHER.

YESTERDAY, NANA REAR-ENDED A LADY; AGAIN!

NANA WAS IN A CAR ACCIDENT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



DON'T WORRY, SHE IS OKAY. I THOUGHT BECAUSE YOU HAVE A DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ME UNDERSTAND?



I NEEDED SOME TIME TO PROCESS. SO, I DROVE DOWN TO THE BEACH.



I TURNED ON THE RADIO.



WE CHOOSE HOW WE ARE GOING TO RESPOND IN FAMILIAL SITUATIONS.

THE TOPIC ON THE RADIO SEEMED TO BE SPEAKING TO ME.



WE CAN CHOOSE LOVE AND PATIENCE. WE ALL HAVE FAULTS, AND WE ALL NEED LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING.

THIS GAVE ME A LOT TO THINK ABOUT AS I ARRIVED AT PALISADES PARK.



I FOUND A QUIET PLACE WHERE I COULD BE ALONE WITH MY THOUGHTS ...



HOW CAN I BE MORE LOVING,
MORE THOUGHTFUL TOWARDS MY
MOTHER?

QUIET TIME ALONE ALLOWS ME TO REFLECT
AND SEE THINGS MORE CLEARLY.



I SHOULDN'T
YELL AT HER.

I COULD FEEL THE EMOTIONS BEGIN TO COME OVER ME.



I WAS
WRONG.

GUILT --



POOR
MOM...

-- SHAME --



I PROBABLY
UPSET MY
MOTHER.

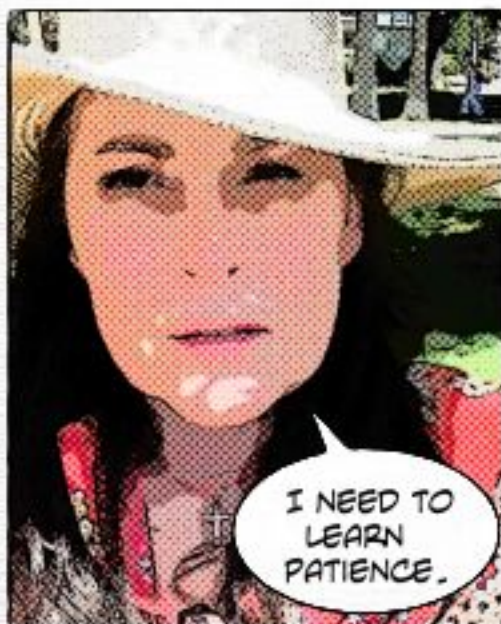
-- REMORSE --



I KNEW I NEED TO SHOW MY MOTHER MORE KINDNESS.



I KNEW, TO LOVE HER MORE WAS THE ANSWER.



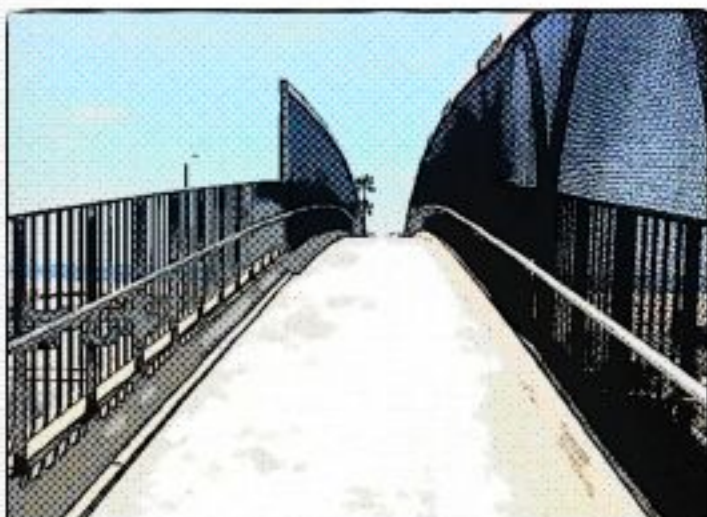


I DECIDED TO TAKE A WALK --

-- TAKING STEPS; LIKE, A METAPHOR FOR CHANGE.



THIS LIFE JOURNEY WILL TAKE MANY STEPS TO GROW.



LIKE THIS BRIDGE, I CAN OVERCOME OBSTACLES --

-- IF I PERSEVERE, DOORS WILL OPEN --





-- GRACE WILL
COME WITH
PERSEVERANCE.

THE OCEAN FELT LIKE HOPE FOR A NEW
BEGINNING --



-- I TOOK STEPS IN THE WATER AND IT
FELT FRESH AND CLEAN.



THE TIDE WAS COMING IN ...



I NOTICED A LITTLE GIRL BREAK-AWAY
FROM HER MOTHER --



-- TO GO AND EXPLORE THE OCEAN --



-- SHE REMINDED ME OF MYSELF, WHEN I WANTED TO EXPLORE THE WORLD --



-- SHE WAS CAREFREE AND SPLASHED ABOUT, AS HER MOTHER WATCHED FROM A DISTANCE --



-- AS THE TIDE ROLLED OUT, SHE RAN DEEPER INTO THE WATER --



-- AS THE TIDE CAME RUSHING BACK IN, SHE SCAMPERS BACK TO THE SAFE HARBOR OF HER WAITING MOTHER --

THE TIME HAD COME TO ASCEND TO THE NEXT LEVEL.



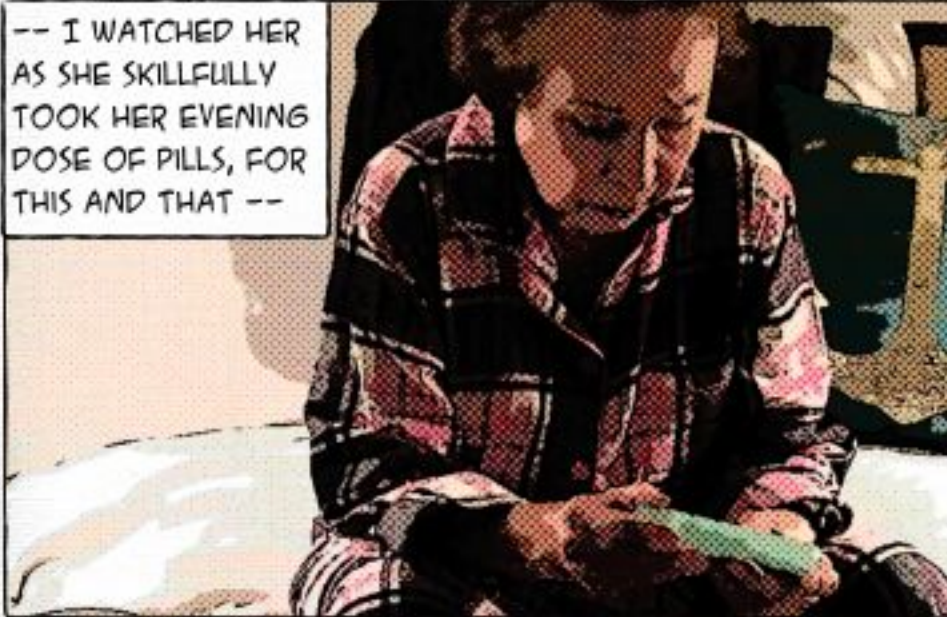


I WENT TO CHECK UP ON MOM AFTER WORK --



-- WHEN I GOT THERE AROUND 9 PM, SHE WAS WINDING DOWN AND ABOUT TO DRESS FOR BED --

-- I WATCHED HER AS SHE SKILLFULLY TOOK HER EVENING DOSE OF PILLS, FOR THIS AND THAT --



-- SHE WAS ONCE A NURSE.



YOU ARE WELCOMED TO STAY THE NIGHT.



DON'T STAY UP LATE.

OKAY, JUST FOR AN HOUR. I HAVE SOME HOMEWORK.

SHE LOCKED THE WINDOWS AND DOOR --



-- AND TURNED OFF THE LIGHTS, EXCEPT ONE --



-- SHE LEFT ME ONE LAMP ON IN THE LIVING ROOM.



TEN MINUTES LATER, SHE COMES OUT --

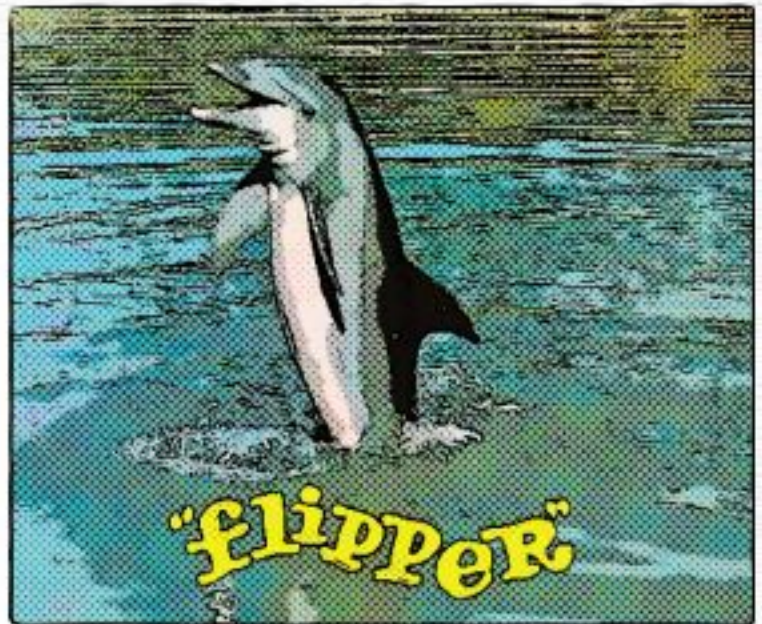




A WEEK LATER, I FOUND MY MOM UP AT 12:30 PM WATCHING T.V.



MOM,
ARE YOU
WATCHING
FLIPPER?



"FLIPPER"



YES, SO WHAT?
I LIKE FLIPPER! I
CAN DO WHAT I
WANT.

I THOUGHT YOU
GO TO BED EVERY
NIGHT AT 10 PM?
ARE YOU DRINKING
WINE?

SHE REMINDED ME OF A GRADE SCHOOL KID TRYING TO STAY UP PAST THEIR BED TIME.



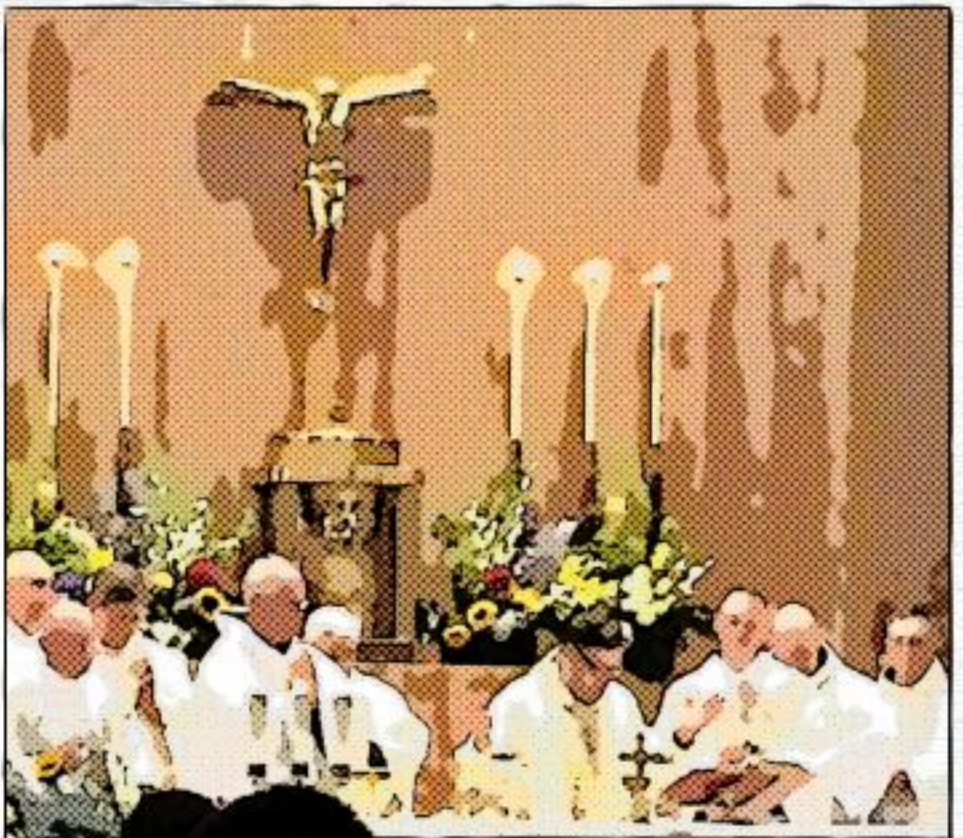
I WAS
UP DOING
LAUNDRY AND
FELT LIKE
HAVING SOME WINE.
FLIPPER IS IN LOVE
WITH THIS WOMAN
WHO IS DATING
THE RANGER...

SHE WAS ALL CHATTY.



MOM,
ITS TWO
O'CLOCK IN
THE MORNING.
WE SHOULD
GO TO BED
NOW.

WE WATCHED FLIPPER UNTIL 2 AM.

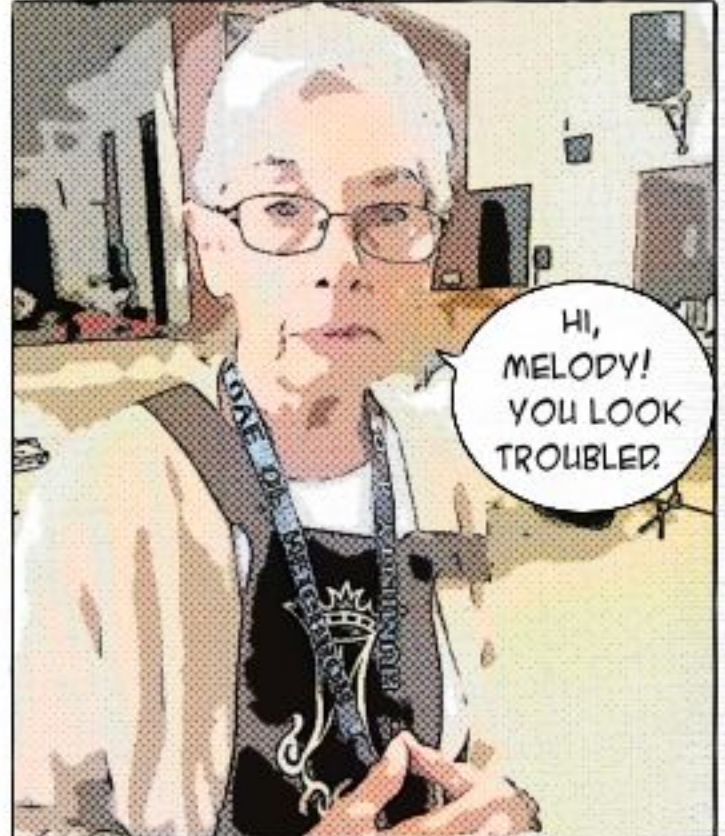


THE NEXT SATURDAY, I WENT TO MASS AND A CARMELITE RELIGIOUS GROUP MEETING AT ST. THERESE CHURCH.




WHERE IS ROSEANNE?

I WAS LOOKING FOR ROSEANNE, A GROUP MEMBER. I WANTED SOME ADVICE.



HI, MELODY!
YOU LOOK TROUBLED

IN THE PAST, SHE HAD GIVEN ME GOOD ADVICE ABOUT MY MOTHER.



MY MOM IS STARTING TO FORGET THINGS, AND SHE IS ACTING LIKE A KID. FRANKLY, SHE IS KIND OF MEAN TO ME.

IT IS CALLED RETROGENESIS. AS WE GET OLDER, WE BECOME YOUNG AGAIN.

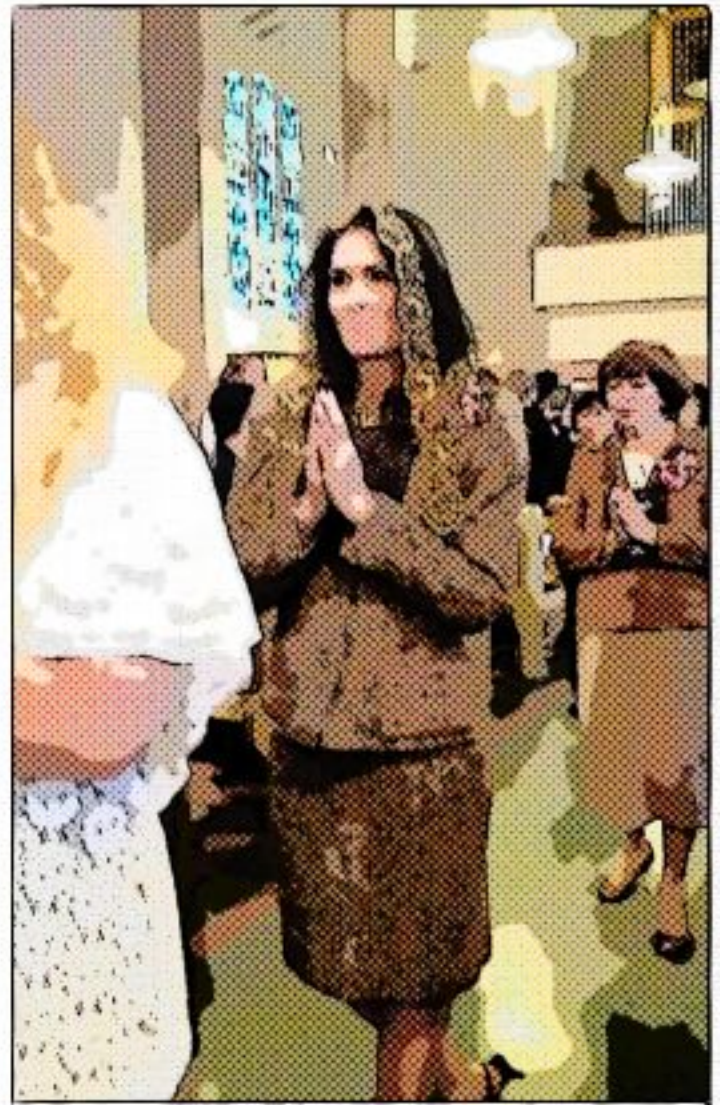


REALLY?
IS THAT WHY SHE SAID KEEPING ONE LIGHT ON WAS GOING TO BURN DOWN THE HOUSE? SHE TOLD ME I WAS TRYING TO KILL HER...

IT'S CALLED SUNDOWNING. AS THE EVENING COMES, SHE MAY GET MORE ANXIOUS AND PERCEIVE THINGS AS THREATENING.



I RECALL MY MOM PINNING ON MY FLOWER CORSAGE FOR MY CEREMONY.



SHE WAS THERE WHEN I BECAME A THIRD ORDER CARMELITE IN THE CHURCH.





LATER THAT DAY, I WENT TO MY MOM'S TO CHECK UP ON HER.



SHE WAS SLEEPING SO SOUND; IT REMINDED ME OF HER MORTALITY. WHAT IF SHE DIED?

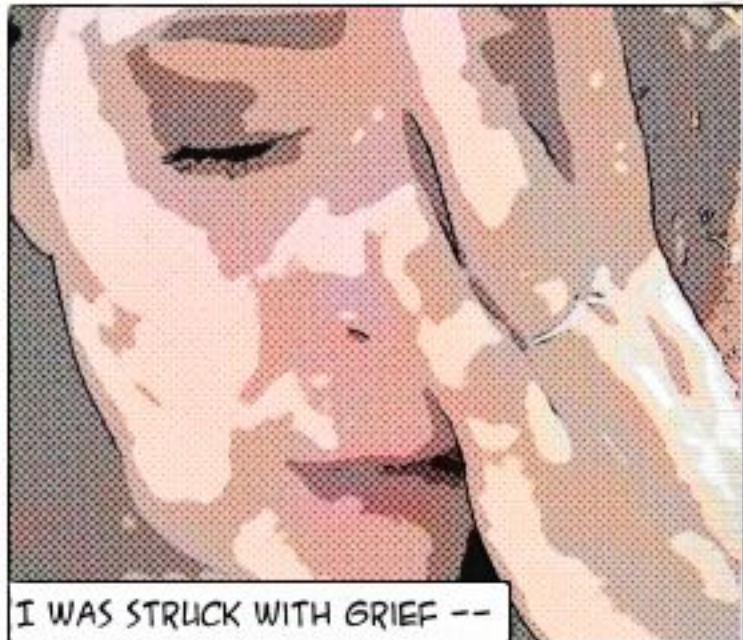


I WENT OUTSIDE --



ONE DAY, SHE WILL BE GONE.

I SAT UNDER THE TREE IN THE FRONT YARD



I WAS STRUCK WITH GRIEF --



I CRIED A TERRIBLE CRY --



-- I FELT SLEEPY AND STARTED TO FALL ASLEEP



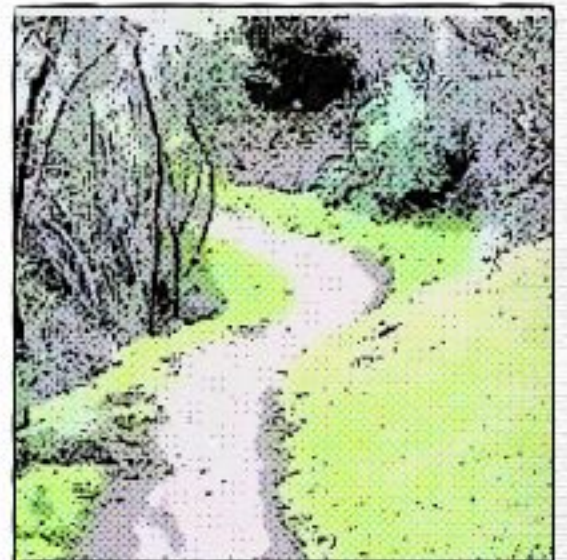
I FELT A PEACE COME OVER ME --



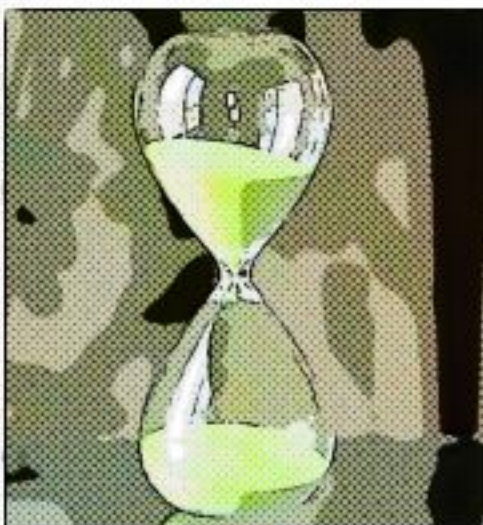
I FELT ASLEEP AND BEGAN TO DREAM.



WHERE AM I?



I SAW A PATH, SO I TOOK IT.



THE PATH LED ME TO A CHURCH --



IT'S ASH WEDNESDAY.



-- I SAW AN ANGEL.



THE ANGEL SHOWED ME A GATE AND TOLD ME TO ENTER.



A GUARD STOOD AT THE GATE. I WAS AFRAID.



I ASKED THE ANGEL IF I WAS DEAD?
IF THIS WAS MY GRAVE?



I HEARD, "NO, IT IS YOUR MOTHER'S!"



IS SHE DEAD? THE ANGEL SAID, "NO.
BUT, NO ONE LIVES FOREVER!"

THEN, I WAS WITH MY MOM IN THE DARK.





I SAW MY MOTHER WITH HER FIRST BORN CHILD, DAVID.



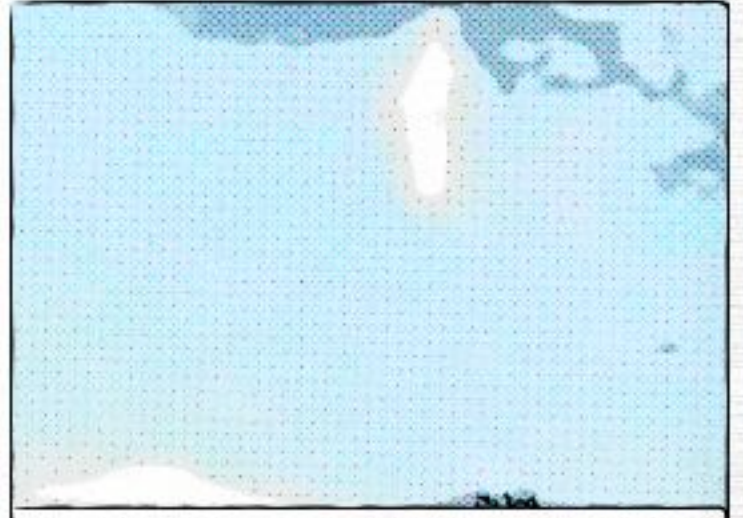
I SAW MY MOM AS A NURSE IN A HOSPITAL.



I SAW TIME GO BY, AND WE WERE LAUGHING.



THEN THE ANGEL SAID, "REMEMBER WHAT I HAVE SHOWN YOU!"

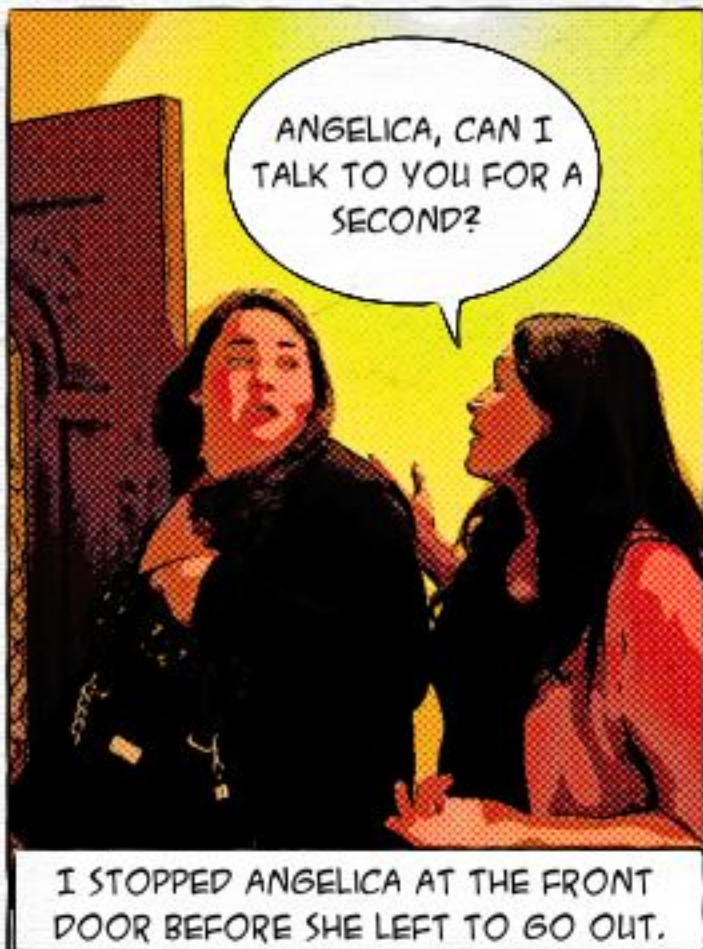


SUDDENLY, THE ANGEL FLEW UP INTO THE CLOUDS UNTIL I COULD SEE IT NO MORE.



I WOKE UP UNDER THE TREE, THINKING ABOUT WHAT THE ANGEL HAD SHOWN ME.











SHE RAISED ME AND MY BROTHERS --



-- TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE A LADY --



-- CELEBRATED LIFE WITH ME --



-- SHARED HOLIDAYS --



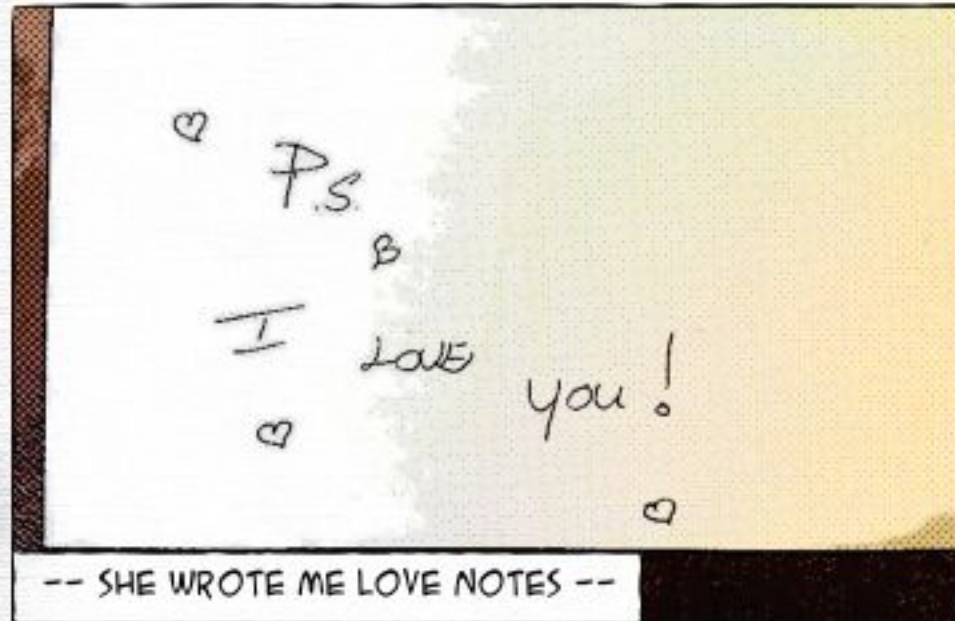
-- AND BIRTHDAYS --



-- SHE TRAVELED THE WORLD WITH ME --



-- ENCOURAGED ME TO BE A MODEL AND LIVE ABROAD --



-- SHE WROTE ME LOVE NOTES --



SHE WAS THERE WHEN I GOT MARRIED --



-- AND AT YOUR BIRTH, MY ONLY BABY --



-- SHE IS A GRANDMOTHER --



-- TAUGHT ME HOW TO LOVE AND BE A MOM --



-- SHE WAS THERE FOR YOUR GRADUATION --



-- AND FOR MY GRADUATION, TOO! --



-- SHE IS STILL ACTIVE AND POLITICAL --



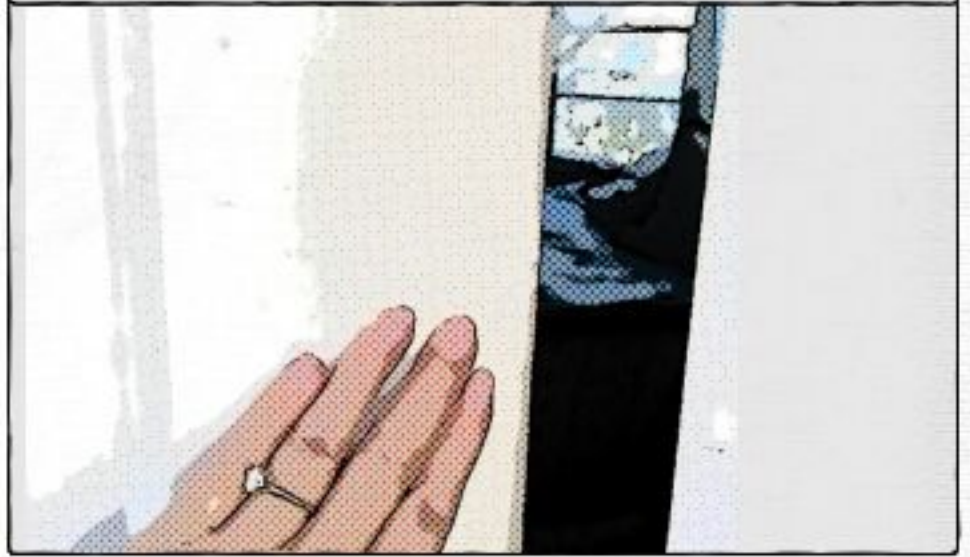
-- SHE HAS BEEN MY ROCK
MY WHOLE LIFE --

-- AND HAS ALWAYS THERE FOR NEW
BEGINNINGS --



-- NOW, SHE IS GETTING YOUNGER
EVERYDAY.

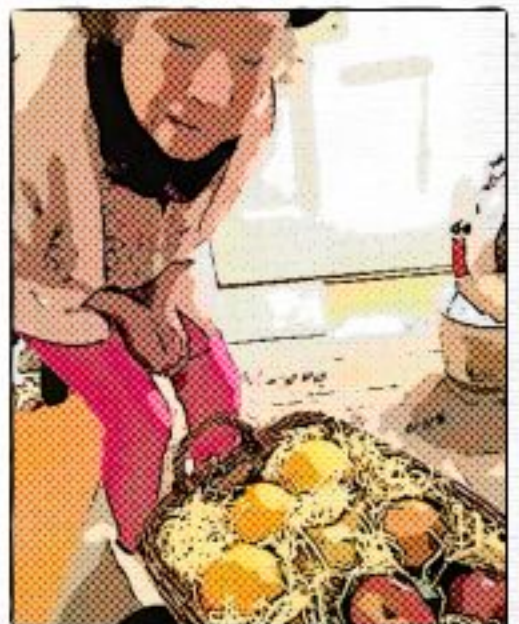
I DECIDED THE BEST THING TO DO IS SPEND AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE WITH HER, AND WATCH OVER HER --



-- BRING HER DELIGHTFUL THINGS --



-- MAKE HER FEEL LOVED --





-- WITH SURPRISE VISITS --



-- JUST HANGING OUT --



-- BEING THERE --



-- BEING A FAMILY --



KNOCK, KNOCK!



-- EATING OUT TOGETHER --



-- TAKING HER OUT FOR SPECIAL MEALS
AND OCCASIONS --



-- BECAUSE SHE IS SPECIAL --



-- AND NOW, IS THE TIME --



-- TO MAKE MEMORIES,
WHILE WE STILL CAN --



-- TO TREASURE HER;
BECAUSE, WE LOVE HER --



I AM
WHISPERING IN
MERCURY'S EAR!

-- AND INDULGE HER --



-- IN HER NEW FOUND YOUTH --



-- AND ONCE IN A WHILE, TAKE HER BACK TO SEE THE OLD HOUSE, UNTIL SHE FORGETS, AND THEN WE WILL REMIND HER OF THE GREAT LIFE WE HAVE HAD TOGETHER.