**Transcript from:**

**The Long Goodbye: Facing Dementia.**

**Introduction**

>> THE WHOLE CONDITION IS A HAZE. IT'S NOT CLEAR, LIKE MY BRAIN USED TO BLEED, SO EVERYTHING'S A BIT OF A BLURRY QUAGMIRE. I FEEL LIKE A MORON A LOT OF TIMES, FOR SIMPLE STUFF. YOU KNOW, WHATEVER IT IS, JUST TO REMEMBER SOMETHING, AND IT'S THERE, IT'S NOT THERE AT ALL, OR IT'S THERE IN BITS AND PIECES.

**Myrle and Ken**

>> HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY I GET ANGRY FOR HAVING TO ANSWER THE SAME QUESTION TIME, AND TIME, AND TIME, AND TIME, AND TIME AGAIN. AND AGAIN WHEN YOU SAY I'M NOT WELL THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN HAVING TO SAY THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN. AND HE JUST FIGHTS ME THE WHOLE WAY UNTIL I GET TO THE POINT WHERE I SAY DO IT YOURSELF.

**Tom and Brenda**

>> WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE IF YOU DIDN'T LOVE THE PERSON THAT YOU WERE LOOKING AFTER? -**Tom**

>> STRANGE- **Brenda**

>> WELL, A LOT OF PEOPLE BY THE TIME THEY'VE BEEN MARRIED FIFTY YEARS ARE FED UP LOOKING AT EACH OTHER, YOU KNOW? -**Tom**

>> YES. **-Brenda**

>> SO IT COULD BE A VERY NASTY TIME FOR BOTH, OR YOU COULD BE IN SOMEWHERE BEING LOOKED AFTER BY SOMEBODY ELSE. BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO ANYWHERE. -**Tom**

**Michael and Jane**

>> I CAN REMEMBER THE THINGS THAT ARE IN MY PAST, WHEN I WAS SANE AND SENSIBLE- **Michael**

>> MY OLD STUFF STILL SEEMS TO BE THERE, LIKE MY MEMORIES OF THE PAST LIKE ON A HARD DISK. THINGS THAT HAPPEN DURING THE DAY ARE SORT OF LIKE ON A FLOPPY DISK AND THEY TEND TO DISAPPEAR, OR DISSIPATE OVER THE DAYS OR WHATEVER. -**Michael**

>> CAN I ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR MEMORY, PLEASE? - **Therapist**

>> YES.- **Michael**

>> OK. THREE WORDS I NEED YOU TO REMEMBER, OK? TREE. CLOCK. BOAT. CAN YOU REPEAT THOSE FOR ME? -**Therapist**

>> TREE, CLOCK, BOAT. **-Michael**

>> OK, COMMIT THOSE TO MEMORY FOR ME. -**Therapist**

>> ALL RIGHT. WE'LL SEE HOW LONG THAT LASTS. **-Michael**

>> CAN YOU TAKE SEVEN AWAY FROM ONE HUNDRED? **Therapist**

>> I CAN'T BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO THINK OF TREE, CLOCK, BOAT. **Michael**

>> THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO DO THIS ONE. AND CAN YOU PLEASE TAKE SEVEN AWAY FROM THE ANSWER? **Therapist**

>> I HATE THIS. THIS IS TERRIBLE. SO NOW WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? I DON'T SEE WHY I SHOULD MAKE IT EASY. DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN? **Michael**

>> SEVEN AWAY FROM ONE HUNDRED. **Therapist**

>> UM, NINETY-THREE. THIS IS A MATH TEST. SEVEN. NINETY-THREE, EIGHTY-SIX, SEVENTY-NINE. **Michael**

>> YEP. **Therapist**

>> SEVENTY-TWO, SIXTY-FIVE. **Michael**

>> THAT WILL DO. **Therapist**

>> THANK YOU**. Michael**

>> OK, WHAT WERE THOSE THREE WORDS THAT I ASKED YOU TO REMEMBER? **Therapist**

>> TREE, BOAT, CAR? HOW MANY? **Michael**

>> TWO. **Therapist**

>> OH WELL. BETTER THAN MOST, ISN'T IT? ALZHEIMER'S SUCKS, THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT, BUT YOU CAN KILL YOURSELF USING YOUR BRAIN BEING DEPRESSED AND MOROSE IN SIX MONTHS. I DON'T PROPOSE TO DIE IN SIX MONTHS. SO WHATEVER'S LEFT OF MY BRAIN I'M USING TO SLOW DOWN THE EFFECTS OF ALZHEIMER'S AND TO IRRITATE MY FAMILY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. –**Michael**

**Michael and son Chris shooting basketball**

>> I'M GLAD THIS VIOLENCE IS ON CAMERA. **Chris**

>> DO YOU WANT SOME GOOD VIOLENCE, OR DO YOU WANT TO MAKE IT R-RATED? -**Michael**

>> LIKE YOU NORMALLY DO. -**Chris**

>> I USUALLY BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF HIM. -**Michael**

>> OH SHUT UP. -**Chris**

>> THE DOGS WOULD PROBABLY COME AROUND AND GET ME. -**Michael**

>> HE'S A FIFTY-YEAR OLD FIVE-YEAR OLD. HE IS THE BIGGEST KID IN THIS HOUSE. HE'S VERY METICULOUS IN EVERYTHING HE DOES. HE'S A PERFECTIONIST. EVERYTHING NEEDS TO BE TO A T. HE WON'T STOP UNTIL EVERYTHING IS EXACTLY HOW HE WANTS IT. THERE'S NO REAL CURVE BALLS WITH DAD. DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN? YOU KIND OF KNOW THE PERSON HE IS, AND BECAUSE HE'S THAT CONSTANT PERSONALITY ALL THE TIME, I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF HE WAS ANY DIFFERENT. -**Chris**

>> THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE A BLOODY WRECK. OH, LOOK AT THIS. **Michael**

>> OH, HE'S GONE AND GOT THE CUPS JUDY. **Jane (Michael’s wife)**

>> BLOODY HELPLESS. HOW MANY KIDS HAVE WE GOT? **Michael**

>> I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HE WONT KNOW WHO WE ARE AND WHO HIS CHILDREN ARE, OR WHO IS FAMILY IS. I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT TIME. THEY'RE ALL BRIGHT, SENSIBLE, LOVING CHILDREN AND THEY WILL ADAPT, AS I WILL. I'M SURE THAT THAT'S HOW WE'LL DEAL WITH IT IN THIS FAMILY. THEY'VE BEEN PREPARED ENOUGH TO SAY THAT WE WERE GIVEN A TEN-YEAR SENTENCE, LIFE SENTENCE, AND THEY KNOW THAT IT'S DEATH AT THE END. SO THEY KNOW THE BIG PICTURE. THEY JUST DON'T KNOW THE SMALL ONE. -**Jane**

>> OH, FRONT ROW. MAKE SOMEONE WORK. **-Michael**

>> SO THE EARLIER THAT IT'S PICKED UP, THE YOUNGER ONSET, THE BETTER THAT IT IS BECAUSE YOU CAN ALSO MAKE PLANS. LUCKILY WE PICKED IT UP NICE AND EARLY. WE'VE MADE OUR PLANS. -Jane

>> IT'S GOOD TO HAVE IT EARLY, ISN'T IT? WHO'D WANT TO GET IT AT SEVENTY-FIVE? -**Michael**

>> BUT YOU CAN MAKE PLANS. -**Jane**

>> THINGS DON'T ALWAYS GO IN A STRAIGHT LINE. THINGS DON'T ALWAYS GO THE WAY YOU EXPECT THEM TO GO. IF THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT YOU ADJUST, ADAPT, OVERCOME. SIMPLE AS THAT**. Michael**

>> YOU READY? –**Jane**

**Myrle and Ken**

>> MY WEDDING VOWS I WOULD SAY WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE, EVEN OVER MY CHILDREN. THE DAY I MADE MY WEDDING VOWS I MADE THEM WITH ALL THE HONESTY THAT I COULD GIVE. IT'S A TRUE SAYING, FOR RICHER OR FOR POORER, SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, AND YOU CAN EITHER ACCEPT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY OR YOU CAN REJECT THEM AND SAY I CAN'T HANDLE THIS, I'LL PUT YOU IN A NURSING HOME. AND TO ME THAT IS NOT YOUR VOWS. -**Myrle**

>> THIS IS GREAT, ISN'T IT? -**Ken**

>> I LOVE YOU AS MUCH TODAY AS I DID SIXTY YEARS AGO. -**Myrle**

>> THAT'S VERY GOOD. -**Ken**

>> AND LETS GO FOR THE NEXT FIVE. -**Myrle**

>> FIVE YEARS. -**Myrle**

>> SIXTY-FIVE, AND THEN WE'LL GO FOR SEVENTY. -**Myrle**

>> SEVENTY. -**Myrle**

>> AND THEN WE'LL GO FOR SEVENTY-FIVE. ALL THE BEST, LOVE. I'VE TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO HIM WHAT DEMENTIA IS, AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN HE'LL SAY, "WELL, I HAVEN'T GOT THAT". **Myrle**

>> NO PERSON LIKES TO THINK THAT THEY'VE LOST THEIR MEMORY. -**Ken**

>> OF COURSE THEY DON'T, LOVE. -**Myrle**

>> AND THAT'S IT, YOU SEE. -**Ken**

>> AND THIS IS TRUE, LOVE, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO TRY TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOU ARE LOSING YOUR MEMORY. -**Myrle**

>> I WILL ACCEPT IT. NOW WHAT DO YOU DO? **Ken**

>> THAT WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE A LITTLE EASIER, EH? -**Myrle**

>> ALL RIGHT. I'VE FORGOT. I DON'T CARE WHETHER I FORGET OR NOT BECAUSE NOBODY SUFFERS. -**Ken**

>> THAT'S RIGHT. -**Ken**

>> THAT'S THE MAIN THING, NOBODY SUFFERS. -**Myrle**

>> THEREFORE WHEN I SAY DO YOU DO SO AND SO, DO IT WITHOUT FEELING THAT I'M TRYING TO DOMINATE YOU. I'M NOT. I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU. -**Myrle**

>> THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I DON'T NEED HELP. I DON'T NEED HELP AT ALL. -**Ken**

>> NOW I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THREE OBJECTS, AND I NEED YOU TO REPEAT THEM AFTER ME SO I KNOW YOU HEARD THEM PROPERLY. POSSUM, FROG, AND CLOCK. -**Therapist**

>> POSSUM, FROG, CLOCK. -**Ken**

>> YEP. DO YOU WANT TO SAY THEM A COUPLE OF TIMES TO HELP YOU REMEMBER THEM. **Therapist**

>> POSSUM. POSSUM, FROG. OH BAGGETY CLUBS. -**Ken**

>> WE KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY FATHER, AND WE KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO. WHAT WE DON'T KNOW IS HOW FAR MOM CAN GO TO MAINTAIN THAT LEVEL OF QUALITY, YOU KNOW. SO I HAVE A BIG CONCERN ABOUT HER WELFARE, AND THIS JUST MIGHT BE THAT. **Peter (Myrle and Ken’s son)**

>> THE CARER RESPONSE CENTER. THEY'RE THERE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY, AND IT'S FOR PEOPLE TO USE IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. AN EMERGENCY COULD BE THAT JUST THAT YOU'RE NOT COPING VERY WELL TODAY. IT COULD BE THAT YOU'RE NOT WELL AND YOU CAN'T DO WHAT YOU NORMALLY DO FOR KEN. **Therapist**

>> I PROBABLY WOULD NEVER USE THESE UNLESS I'M SICK MYSELF BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT I WANT MY MAN BY MY SIDE, AND AS LONG AS I CAN COPE. **Myrle**

>> IT'S NICE TO KNOW YOU'VE GOT BACKUP THOUGH. **Therapist**

>> THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING. **Therapist**

>> THAT'S WHAT THIS IS. THIS IS BACKUP. **Myrle**

>> MOM'S A VERY INDEPENDENT PERSON, VERY INDEPENDENT, AND SHE THINKS THAT SHE CAN DO IT ALL HERSELF. BUT SHE'S FORGETTING SHE'S EIGHTY AND SHE CAN'T DO IT ALL HERSELF. AND WHEN SHE'S EIGHTY-ONE SHE'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO LESS THAN WHAT SHE'S DOING NOW, YOU KNOW. –**Jenny (Ken’s and Myrle daughter)**

>> GOOD MORNING DEAR. HOW ARE YOU? **Ken**

>> HEY. -**Myrle**

>> I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND I SAY, "WELL, YOU'RE STILL WITH ME LOVE, AND I'M STILL WITH YOU". MAYBE IT MIGHT SOUND A LITTLE BIT SENTIMENTAL, BUT I MEAN AFTER SIXTY YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE YOU DON'T WANT TO LET GO. AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET GO, BECAUSE HE'S MY WHOLE LIFE. **Myrle**

**Tom and Brenda**

>> KNEES DOWN DEAR, OK? -**Tom**

>> YOU'RE DOING IT ON PURPOSE. -**Brenda**

>> YOU DON'T REALLY NOTICE THAT YOU JUST SEEM TO TAKE OVER, TAKE UP THE SLACK OF WHATEVER HAS BEEN LEFT, WHETHER IT'S WASHING AND IRONING, OR COOKING OR CLEANING, OR WHATEVER. IT'S JUST GRADUALLY YOU PICK UP THE SLACK, UNTIL YOU'RE DOING IT ALL. I PUT A BIT OF TOMATO ON. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE GOING TO EAT IT OR NOT. -**Tom**

>> YEAH, I'LL EAT IT. -**Brenda**

>> WELL, YOU KNOW HIS BACKGROUND, HE'S VERY MACHO, AND IN THE NAVY. AND MOM LOOKED AFTER THE HOUSE AND COOKED THE DINNERS, AND LOOKED AFTER US KIDS. FOR HIM TO HAVE TO DO THE THINGS HE DOES FOR MOM, YOU KNOW, THE BATHING AND PUTTING ON CREAMS, AND LOTIONS, AND POTIONS AS HE CALLS THEM, AND TUCKING HER INTO BED, YOU KNOW, PUTTING A BRA ON. ALL THOSE SORT OF THINGS THAT MEN JUST DON'T DO. HE'S JUST DONE IT. HE JUST DOES IT. BACK ON THERE, THROUGH THERE, AROUND. **Sandy (Tom and Brenda’s daughter)**

>> YEAH, I THINK IT'S COMING BACK TO ME. **Brenda**

>> YEAH, YOU WANT THAT. **Sandy**

>> I'LL HAVE A GO. **Brenda**

>> I PICTURED HAVING MORE TIME WITH HER. WE ALWAYS DID GIRL STUFF. WE WERE BORN ON THE SAME DAY, AND MOM USED TO ALWAYS MAKE US AN OUTFIT, AND WE'D WEAR OUR BOOTS AND GO INTO THE CITY FOR THE DAY, AND SHE'D GET COMPLEMENTS, "OH YOU MUST BE SISTERS" IT CAN'T BE YOUR MOTHER. -**Sandy**

>> I HADN'T BEEN IN THE NAVY LONG WHEN I MET HERE. I HAD ONLY BEEN IN THE NAVY A YEAR. SHE HAD A BEAUTIFUL TAN AND SHE HAD THIS HEAD OF BLACK CURLY HAIR. SHE WAS A DIFFERENT GIRL THEN, FULL OF LIFE, VERY FIREY AT TIMES, TOO, SHE COULD BE. SHE USED TO FIGHT THE BEJESUS OUT OF ME AT TIMES. AND I THOUGHT, OH, THAT'S THE ONE. I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO LOOK AFTER HER FOR AS LONG AS I CAN. OBVIOUSLY I'M RELUCTANT FOR BRENDA TO GO INTO CARE. I'M TAKING THE STEPS TOWARDS IT IN THAT I'VE GOT THE PAPERWORK TO FILL OUT IN, AND WHAT HAVE YOU. BUT MY FAMILY THINK I'M PROCRASTINATING, I THINK, TRYING NOT TO DO IT. **Tom**

>> EVERYBODY'S GOT THEIR OWN BATHROOM. **– Lady at Facility**

>> OH, THAT'S NICE. -**Tom**

>> AND IT'S UP TO THE FAMILY, SO I'TS WHATEVER FURNITURE YOU BRING IN. SO MOST PEOPLE, NOT EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN TABLE, BEDSIDE TABLE. THERE'S A SHOWER WITH NO HOP, A TOLIET, AND A VANITY IN THERE. – **Lady at Facility**

>> I MEAN THERE'S NOTHING LIKE BOLT FROM THE BLUE DOESN'T EDGE YOU, POSSIBLY PEOPLE JUST GET FRUSTRATED AND EXASPERATED WITH WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO. AND YOU FEEL TIRED ALL THE TIME. YOU FEEL WORN OUT, SO I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE TO SAY THERE'S TIME, I'LL KNOW THE TIME. MAYBE IT'S JUST SHEER EXHAUSTION THAT MAKES YOU GO AHEAD AND DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT. DO I NEED TO GET TO THAT POINT? I DON'T KNOW. -**Tom**

**Michael and Jane**

>> I NEED AN E FOR THAT -**Michael**

>> NIGEL**. Jane**

>> EGG, OH THAT'S ONLY THREE. **Michael**

>> NIGEL. N-I-G-E-L. **Michael**

>> NO, YOU CAN'T PUT THAT DOWN. **Jane**

>> WHY NOT? NIGEL'S A DICK HEAD, ISN'T IT? **Michael**

>> YEAH, BUT SEE, I DON'T LIKE THAT. **Michael**

>> BUT IT'S NIGEL DICK HEAD, NOT NIGEL SMITH. **Michael**

>> BUT IT'S SLANG. I DON'T KNOW IF THAT WILL BE IN THERE. **Jane**

>> IF IT'S IN THE DICTIONARY IT COUNTS. N-I-G. **Michael**

>> LING, NO THAT'S GOT NO E. **Michael**

>> NIGEL. **Michael**

>> NO, WE'VE DONE THAT. **Jane**

>> HAVE WE DONE THAT? **Michael**

>> YEAH, YOU LOOKED THAT ONE UP. IT WASN'T THERE. **Jane**

>> NIGEL, DICK HEAD. **Michael**

>> YEAH, YOU'VE LOOKED IT UP ALREADY. IT WASN'T THERE. **Jane**

>> WE MUST GET A NEW DICTIONARY. SO WHAT SHOULDN'T BE THERE? **Michael**

>> NIGEL. **Jane**

>> I'M SURE IT WAS IN THERE. -**Michael**

>> DARLING IT WASN'T. WE LOOKED. **-Jane**

>> OH I PUT IN BECAUSE IT WAS AN OFTEN USED WORD. AS NICE AS IT IS TO BE WITH MY WIFE SHE DOESN'T NEED TO SEE ME HERE EVERYDAY AND ASKING YOU SOMETHING EVERY THIRTY SECONDS AND DRIVING YOU CRAZY, AND I DON'T PARTICULARLY WANT TO BE DOING IT EITHER. HERE SHE GOES WITH THE WHITE BOARD. SO DOES THE BOARD TELL ME WHEN YOU'RE COMING BACK HOME? -**Michael**

>> YES, THE BOARD DOES. **Jane**

>> EXCELLENT. **Michael**

>> THE BOARD TELLS YOU THAT I'M COMING HOME ABOUT FOUR-ISH. **Jane**

>> OK. **Michael**

>> ALL RIGHT, AND IT TELLS YOU TODAY AND WHERE I AM, AND WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE. **Jane**

>> RIGHT ON**. Michael**

>> OK, BYE. **Jane**

>> BYE. HAVE A NICE TIME. I LIKE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO, AND WHEN THERE'S NOTHING TO DO IT'S VERY DEPRESSING. **Michael**

>> AS A BARRISTER, WHEN I WAS WORKING, I'D BE DOING SOMETHING EVERY DAY THAT WAS DIFFERENT, AND EVERY DAY I HAD TO SOLVE SOMETHING, AND I DID IT PROPERLY, AND I DID IT HONESTLY, AND I DID IT REALLY WELL. I DECIDED TO RETIRE BECAUSE I COULDN'T REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT I WAS READING, AND IF I CAN'T GIVE A HUNDRED PERCENT TO WHOEVER I'M APPEARING FOR THEN I SHOULDN'T BE DOING IT. **Michael**

>> AT HIS FAREWELL THERE WERE SENIOR COUNCIL A-PLENTY, AND I WAS TOLD THAT BECAUSE OF HIS HONESTY AND INTEGRITY HE WAS FAST-TRACKING TO BE A JUDGE. THAT WAS VERY HARD TO HEAR. IT WAS AN EXCELLENT FAREWELL BUT THAT JUST, I CAN HEAR THOSE WORDS RINGING IN MY EARS, AND THAT'S WHERE HE WANTED TO GO. THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED TO DO. -**Jane**

>> AND HOW HAVE YOU BEEN GENERALLY? **Susan (Geriatrician)**

>> GOOD**. Michael**

>> I DON'T THINK THAT'S QUITE RIGHT. I GOT, I HEARD FROM THE BOSS THAT YOU'VE BEEN A BIT DOWN. LAST NIGHT? YOU'VE BEEN A BIT FEELING DEPRESSED AND NOT DO GOOD, AND NOT YOUR USUAL BRILLIANT**. Susan (Geriatrician)**

>> I WOULD JUST, YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN A VERY EXCITING WEEK. PAINTING CEILINGS AND STUFF LIKE THAT, AND IT'S TIRING. SO I GET DOWN**. Michael**

>> IT WASN'T JUST THAT. YOU'VE HIT A STAGE. **Jane**

>> OH, I'M JUST SICK AND TIRED OF BEING BRANDED. **Michael**

>> DEPRESSION, ACTUALLY DEPRESSION ITSELF IS QUITE COMMON IN DEMENTIA. BUT WE CAN THINK ABOUT A MEDICATION FOR THAT, AND THERE ARE A NUMBER THAT ARE PRETTY GOOD. **Susan (Geriatrician)**

>> ANTI-DEPRESSANTS? **Michael**

>> ANTI-DEPRESSANTS. **Susan (Geriatrician)**

>> OH, COME ON. I'LL HAVE TO BE REAL BAD BEFORE I DO THAT. **Michael**

>> WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT IT NOW, BUT YOU DO FORGET THAT YOU DO HAVE QUITE A FEW LOWS. **Susan (Geriatrician)**

>> WELL, I'M JUST PISSED OFF. **Michael**

>> AND DESERVEDLY SO. **Jane**

>> DESERVEDLY SO, AND SOME PEOPLE JUST GO INTO A LOW AND STAY THERE, AND THEY'RE DEAD WITHIN LITERALLY MONTHS. **Susan (Geriatrician)**

>> BUT I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY ABOUT IT, AM I? **Michael**

>> NO, THAT'S RIGHT. **Susan (Geriatrician)**

>> I'M A CRIMINAL BARRISTER OF THE SUPREME COURT IN NEW SOUTH WALES, YOU KNOW. I WASN'T INVENTED TO GO INTO SHOPPING WITH THE BRIDE EVERY FORTNIGHT. YOU KNOW? I COULD DO BOTH, YOU KNOW. I WAS VERY CLEAR WITH A ROCKET. I COULD WALK AND TALK AT THE SAME TIME. **Michael**

**Myrle and Ken**

>> HAVE YOU GOT EVERYTHING? **Myrle**

>> WHAT? FOR WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON? **Ken**

>> WE'RE GOING SHOPPING. **Myrle**

>> ARE WE? **Ken**

>> RIGHT. INTO THE CAR. **Myrle**

>> I'M GOING SHOPPING TO? **Ken**

>> GET INTO THE CAR. DON'T DEVIATE. HANG ON A MINUTE, YOU'RE SHIRT'S NOT TUCKED IN PROPERLY. WHAT ARE YOU GOING THAT WAY FOR? **Myrle**

>> WELL YOU SAID KEEP WALKING. **Ken**

>> TURN AROUND THAT WAY. **Myrle**

>> ALL RIGHT, AND WE'RE GOING. **Ken**

>> WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THERE DEAR? **Myrle**

>> I DON'T KNOW, BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. **Ken**

>> YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE CAR**. Myrle**

>> OH, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT. **Ken**

>> A LOT OF THING HAVE SHIFTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE I NOW TAKE THE CONTROLLING ROLE, WHICH I HAVE TO. IT'S NOT BECAUSE I WANT TO. BECAUSE I KNOW THAT KEN'S NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS. SO THEREFORE, WHERE HE MADE THE DECISIONS YEARS AGO, IT'S JUST COMPLETELY REVERSED. **Myrle**

>> SEEN ENOUGH? **Ken**

>> NO YOU TWO BEHAVE YOURSELF IN THE BACK THERE. **Myrle**

>> I CAN REMEMBER WHEN I WAS IN CHARGE. THOUGH I DIDN'T GO FOR SECOND IN CHARGE, THIRD IN CHARGE, OR FOURTH IN CHARGE. I'M NOW THE FIFTH IN CHARGE. **Ken**

>> WOULD YOU SIT BACK THERE AN RELAX, AND ENJOY NOT BEING IN CHARGE. **Myrle**

>> HE MAKES A JOKE OUT OF IT, BUT I KNOW THAT IT PROBABLY HURTS HIM WHEN, YOU KNOW, WHEN HE SAYS HE USED TO BE THE BOSS, BUT HE'S NOT ANYMORE. LIKE HE USED TO DRIVE THE CAR THEN HE WAS IN THE PASSENGER SEAT. NOW HE'S IN THE BACK SEAT. YOU KNOW, WE KIND OF LAUGH ABOUT IT, BUT I THINK DEEP DOWN HE MEANS IT, YOU KNOW. I DON'T THINK MY MOM UNDERSTANDS THAT. **Jenny (Myrle and Ken’s daughter)**

>> NO, NO, THAT DOESN'T GO THERE. THEY HANG UP. NO, THAT'S DOWN ON THE BOTTOM. **Myrle**

>> OH CHRIST. THAT'S ENOUGH. **Ken**

>> WHEN I FIRST STARTED IN THE POLICE FORCE, THEY SEND ME OUT ON THE BEAT AND I'D WALK THE OXFORD STREET IN SYDNEY. WHEN I BECAME A SERGEANT I FELT VERY IMPORTANT. IT WAS VERY NICE TO BE REFERRED TO AS 'YES SERGEANT, NO SERGEANT' BY THE PEOPLE, LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT. IN OTHER WORDS, I LOVED BEING A POLICEMAN, AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT. **Myrle**

>> MY DAD WAS SIX FOOT TWO, A MONSTER OF A MAN, AND IN UNIFORM HE LOOKED SIX FOOT TEN. HE DID EXTRUDE A LOT OF AUTHORITY IN HIS OWN QUIET NIMBLE WAY. HE NEVER RAISED HIS VOICE, AND I'M SURE THAT THAT TYPE OF INFLUENCE WENT INTO HIS WORKING LIFE WITH HIS SUBORDINATES AS WELL, YOU KNOW. VERY STRONG IN CHARACTER, A PERSON TO LOOK UP TO, ALWAYS, AND RESPECTED, AND TOOK MATTERS OFF. WHEN DAD SAID NO IT WAS NO. **Peter (Myrle and Ken’s son)**

>> I'D LIKE TO, BEING ON MY OWN YOU NEED, SOMETIMES I TALK TO SOMEBODY BUT I'M MOSTLY ON MY OWN, NICE AND QUIET. **Ken**

>> WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? DON'T YOU EVER DO THAT AGAIN. DON'T GO OUT WITHOUT TELLING ME, BECAUSE I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU'D GONE. **Myrle**

>> IT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU... **Ken**

>> YOU HAVE ME WORRIED. DON'T YOU DARE DO THAT AGAIN. **Myrle**

>> THE CAMERA'S ON ME**. Ken**

>> IF YOU DO I'LL PUT A CHAIN AROUND YOUR NECK. NO, I'M NOT JOKING, LOVE. I DON'T WANT YOU TO DO THAT AGAIN**. Myrle**

>> ALL RIGHT**. Ken**

**Tom and Brenda**

>> WELL, I'M FEELING A BIT TIRED, MORE AND MORE TIRED ALL THE TIME. IT MAKES IT HARDER FOR ME. IT'S SORT OF WEARING ME DOWN A BIT WITH THINGS THAT HAPPENED WITH BRENDA RECENTLY ABOUT GETTING UP DURING THE NIGHT. AT ONE STAGE THERE SHE WAS UP THE OTHER NIGHT EVERY HOUR, ON THE HOUR, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I PUT HER BACK TO BED. I HAVE BEEN SLIPPING OUT EARLY IN THE MORNING TO DO THE SHOPPING SO THAT I'M GONE ABOUT AN HOUR, BUT I'M GETTING MORE AND MORE CONCERNED ABOUT LEAVING HER ON HER OWN. I CAN'T BE OUT OF HER SIGHT FOR MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES. SHE'S WONDERING WHERE I AM AND COMES LOOKING FOR ME NO MATTER WHAT I'M DOING. **Tom**

>> DAD AND I WERE TALKING LAST NIGHT. IT'S TIME, AND HE KNOWS, FOR HER TO GO INTO FULL-TIME CARE. HE STILL CAN'T DO IT. SOMETIMES A PART OF ME THINKS HE'S PUTTING IT OFF. HE'S JUST SAYING, "I'VE GO SO MUCH PAPERWORK TO DO", BECAUSE FOR US IT'S PAPERWORK. FOR HIM, IT'S GIVING HIS WIFE AWAY, GIVING UP ON HER. HE JUST LOVES HER TOO MUCH. SO I THINK THAT'S WHAT'S TAKING A LONG TIME, BUT I THINK WE'RE GETTING CLOSER. **Jenny (Tom and Brenda’s daughter)**

>> DO YOU LIKE THIS PLACE, DEAR? WELL, I'VE TOLD YOU WHY YOU'VE COME HERE BECAUSE I CAN'T LOOK AFTER YOU, AND YOU'LL BE HERE A LITTLE WHILE, SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOT ALL YOUR OWN THINGS AROUND HERE, TO MAKE YOU FEEL MORE AT HOME. **Tom**

>> OH, OK**. Brenda**

>> AND I'LL BE ABLE TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH YOU, AND I CAN COME HERE AND HAVE A MEAL WITH YOU, ANYTHING, AFTERNOON TEAS, ALL SORTS. AND GO FOR WALKS. WE CAN GO AROUND THE SHOPS AND BANK. YOU KNOW THERE'S A BIG SHOPPING CENTER OVER THERE. **Tom**

>> YOU THINK? **Brenda**

>> YEAH, AND THEY'LL BE TAKING OUT IN THE BUS. **Tom**

>> I THINK WHAT WE HAVE TO HELP HIM THROUGH IS THE GUILT, TO SAY, YOU KNOW, WE'RE PROUD OF YOU AND THE DECISIONS YOU'VE MADE, AND SUPPORT. JUST BE THERE AND LET HIM CRY IF HE WANTS TO, LOTS OF HUGS. JUST REASSURANCE THAT HE'S DOING THE RIGHT THING. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT. HE'S GRIEVING TOO. IT'S TOO HARD. HE JUST LOOKS SO LOST. **Jenny**

**Michael and Jane and their son Chris**

>> OH MATE, DON'T. YOU SHOULDN'T SEND A BOY TO DO A MAN'S JOB. **Michael**

>> I'LL GIVE YOU A MAN'S JOB. **Michael**

>> OK, CHUCK IT ON. **Michael**

>> WHAT ARE WE DOING? **Chris**

>> THE CHARDONNAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. **Michael**

>> DON'T FORGET YOU'VE GOT TO RAKE OUT THE FRONT HERE ON THE PARTY DAY. YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT**? Michael**

>> ITS ONLY TUESDAY. **Chris**

>> KEEP THE PUPS INSIDE, ALL RIGHT? **Michael**

>> I'M NOT DOING THE SWEEPING NOW, DAD. I'M JUST SWEEPING THIS AREA. ITS ONLY TUESDAY. **Chris**

>> DON'T FORGET THERE'S A NICE LITTLE COLLECTION OF TURDS UNDER THE POTTING TABLE, TOO. DON'T MISS THOSE. **Michael**

>> I'M NOT DOING THE WHOLE CARPORT. **Chris**

>> YEAH YOU ARE. **Michael**

>> DAD. THAT'S ALL RIGHT DAD. I WANT TO DO IT IN A SPECIAL ORDER. **Chris**

>> OH, OK CHRIS. SPECIAL ORDER. **MIchael**

>> WHY WOULD YOU LOCK THE CAR? **Chris**

>> HE'S SO FUCKING BRILLIANT HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE CAR UNLOCKED. **Michael**

>> UNLOCK IT. WHY DID YOU LOCK IT? **Chris**

>> I DIDN'T. I THOUGHT I'D OPENED IT. I'M JUST TRYING TO SORT OF GET THROUGH THE DAY WITHOUT STUFFING EVERYTHING UP. AND THEN WHEN YOU HAVE AN ARGUMENT OR A DISCUSSION, YOU KNOW, HUSBAND AND WIFE, KIDS, WHATEVER, THERE'S TWO DIFFERENT VERSIONS. SO WHEN YOU'RE A BRANDED MORON YOU ADD THAT TO THE UNCERTAINTY OF YOUR RECOLLECTION IN THE FIRST PLACE AND MULTIPLIED BY ALZHEIMER'S IN FACT, WHICH IS VERY IRRITATING, PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE ARE THOSE MOMENTS WHERE I REMEMBER SOMETHING TO BE CRYSTAL CLEAR IN MY HEAD AND SOMEONE TELLS ME THAT'S NOT RIGHT. **Michael**

>> SO YEAH, HE WAS GETTING REALLY ANGRY AND KIND OF, I DON'T KNOW. HE EVENTUALLY GOT OVER IT, I THINK. **Chris**

>> YEAH, BUT I THINK YOU HAVE TO LET IT WASH OVER YOU A BIT MORE BECAUSE YOU WILL STAND UP AGAINST HIM. **Jane**

>> NO, BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I STAND UP AGAINST HIM, WHEN HE MAKES STUFF UP. THAT BURNS ME WHEN HE KIND OF FABRICATES THINGS TO TRY AND IMPLICATE ME DOING SOMETHING WRONG. **Chris**

>> I KNOW THAT, BUT HE'S NOT - IN OUR MIND, BECAUSE OUR MIND IS STRAIGHT AND NORMAL, TO US IT'S FABRICATING TO BLAME SOMEONE ELSE. BUT IN HIS MIND THAT'S HOW HE THINKS IT HAPPENED. **Jane**

>> YEAH, AND IT'S BLACK AND WHITE, LIKE THERE'S NO IF'S' OR BUT'S ABOUT IT. IT'S JUST BLATANTLY WRONG, AND YOU KNOW IT IS. **Chris**

>> BECAUSE I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOT THE ALZHEIMER'S AND EVERYBODY ELSE IS CRASH AUGHT, AND GUESS WHO'S NOT GOING TO DO WELL OUT OF THAT. MOST OF THE TIME I PROBABLY AM WRONG, GUARANTEE IT. BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME WRONG ALL THE TIME**. Michael**

>> BLOODY ISN'T A SWEAR WORD. **Jane**

>> IS SO**. Michael**

>> IS NOT. IT'S A PART OF THE BODY**. Jane**

>> WHAT'S THE SWEAR WORD? **Chris**

>> BLOODY**. Michael**

>> IT IS A SWEAR WORD. **Michael**

>> NO. IT'S A COMMON BODILY FUNCTION. **Jane**

>> I COULD GIVE YOU SOME BODILY FUNCTION. **Michael**

>> DAD, THAT DOESN'T REALLY WORK. LIKE, YOU KNOW WHEN SOMEONE SAYS. "YOU'RE A TREE" AND YOU SAY, "OH, I'LL GIVE YOU TREE", IT'S LIKE, EHH. **Chris**

>> SO SHE REALLY SHOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING**. Jane**

>> THAT WAS A BEAUTIFUL STEREO, EH? **Michael**

>> STEREO**. Jane**

>> I'LL GIVE YOU STEREO. **Michael**

>> THAT DOESN'T WORK. I'LL GIVE YOU STEREO. **Michael**

>> DAD, DAD, DAD. **Chris**

>> HOW ABOUT A PUNCH IN THE HEAD? HE'S SCARED. LOOK AT THAT, SEE THAT. HE ADMITTED IT. **Michael**

>> STEREO? **Chris**

>> I KNOW WHAT IT IS. **Jane**

>> SO WHY DID YOU SAY STEREO? **Chris**

>> BECAUSE IT IRRITATES HIM. IT SORT OF MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M ALWAYS GOING TO LOSE EVERY CONVERSATION, OR LOSE EVERYTHING BECAUSE, AS THEY USED TO SAY IN COURT, I'M NOT A RELIABLE WITNESS ANYMORE, AND THAT WON'T BE SOLVED. AND I'LL BE REMEMBERING LESS AND FEELING MORE DISTRESSED ABOUT THE FACT THAT EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE BEING QUOTED BACK TO ME AS BEING INACCURATE OR WRONG AT A HIGHER PERCENTAGE AS I DRIVE ALONG THIS WONDERFUL ROAD. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, AND THERE'S NO SCORE FOR SOMEONE WITH A BAD MEMORY. **Michael**

>> NOW YOU SAID YOU WERE KEEN THAT WE TESTED HIM AGAIN? **Therapist**

>> YES, I AM. **Michael**

>> WHAT'S THAT ABOUT? **Therapist**

>> HE'S GONE RAPIDLY, RAPIDLY, THERE'S BEEN A BIG CHANGE. I DON'T WANT TO SAY RAPIDLY DOWN HILL BECAUSE THAT'S NOT RIGHT, BUT THERE'S BEEN AN OBVIOUS CHANGE. **Jane**

>> OVER WHAT SORT OF PERIOD OF TIME? **Therapist**

>> SINCE WE'VE, THE LAST THREE MONTHS REALLY. I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW FAST IT'S GOING. HE HAS INAPPROPRIATE RESPONSES AND INAPPROPRIATE REACTIONS TO THINGS THAT I SAY. **Jane**

>> HAVE THE KIDS NOTICED A DIFFERENCE AS WELL. **Therapist**

>> TEMPER IS WORSE. YES, THE CHILDREN HAVE NOTICED IT AS WELL, AND THEIR FRIENDS HAVE NOTICED IT. **Jane**

>> SO IT'S PARTICULARLY MAYBE JUST A SHORTER FUSE? **Therapist**

>> MUCH SHORTER FUSE. **Jane**

>> AND THAT CAN BE A SIGN OF YOU GETTING VERY FRUSTRATED THAT YOU CAN'T DO WHAT YOU WERE DOING BEFORE. **Therapist**

>> WELL I'M NOT TREATED THE SAME WAY EITHER. LIKE THEY GET A BIT AGGRESSIVE. IT'S A TWO WAY STREET. EVERYBODY'S GOT A SHORT FUSE WITH ME TOO. SO IT GOES BOTH WAYS. **Michael**

>> I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THREE WORDS I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER. BOOK, CLOCK, AND TREE. **Therapist**

>> BOOK, CLOCK, TREE. **Michael**

>> GOOD, NOW REMEMBER THOSE. NOW, CAN YOU SPELL WORLD FOR ME? **Therapist**

>> NOT WITHOUT LOSING THOSE THREE WORDS. **Michael**

>> THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT. **Therapist**

>> WHAT'S THE WORD? WORLD? **Michael**

>> SPELL WORLD FOR ME. **Therapist**

>> W-O-R-L-D. **Michael**

>> NOW SPELL IT BACKWARDS. **Therapist**

>> D-L-W, UM, A-W. **Michael**

>> WHAT WERE THOSE THREE WORDS I GAVE YOU A MINUTE AGO. **Therapist**

>> WORLD? **Michael**

>> NO, BEFORE THAT. IT WAS BEFORE THAT. WORLD WAS WHAT I ASKED YOU TO SPELL, BUT THERE WERE THREE WORDS. **Therapist**

>> I HAVE NO IDEA. **Michael**

>> THE FIRST ONE WAS BOOK. **Therapist**

>> NO. THANKS FOR THE TIP. **Michael**

>> NO, NO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT. **Therapist**

>> EVEN CHEATING DOESN'T GET IT. **Michael**

>> IT WAS BOOK. **Therapist**

>> WORLD. **Michael**

>> THAT'S INTERESTING. IT'S BOOK, CLOCK, AND TREE. **Therapist**

>> OH. **Michael**

>> I THINK WE CAN SAY VERY DEFINITELY THERE'S BEEN A BIG DROP JUST IN THAT FIRST, THAT'S THE FIRST HALF OF THE TEST, AND IN THAT YOU'VE GOT, YOU'VE MADE A FEW MISTAKES THAT YOU WEREN'T MAKING SIX MONTHS AGO, DEFINITELY. BUT JUST IN TERMS OF YOUR IRRITABILITY, I GUESS THAT'S WORRYING ME A BIT BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT IT'S HAVING ON THE REST OF THE FAMILY AND THE IMPACT IT'S HAVING ON YOU, AND WHETHER WE SHOULD BE LOOKING AT GIVING YOU SOMETHING THAT WILL SETTLE THAT. MAYBE WE'LL GIVE YOU A TRIAL OF ONE OF THE ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND SEE HOW YOU GO. **Therapist**

>> AND I'LL SPEAK TO THE KIDS AND WE'LL WORK ON PULLING IT IN AGAIN. **Jane**

>> YEAH, I THINK IT'S WORTH SAYING TO THE KIDS. **Therapist**

>> YEAH, I KNEW TODAY WOULDN'T BE GOOD NEWS. **Jane**

**Myrle and Ken**

>> OH, I WONDER WHERE HE'S GONE. HE'S BEEN GONE FOR A QUARTER OF AN HOUR. I THINK I BETTER GO AND HAVE A LOOK FOR HIM. I DON'T WANT HIM TO SEE ME IN THE CAR. AS SOON AS HE GOES OUT THE DOOR I THINK OF AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING LETTING HIM GO? AND I'VE GOT TO SAY TO MYSELF YES, I AM. I CAN'T TAKE HIS INDEPENDENCE AWAY TOO EARLY. THERE HE GOES. HE'S GOING INTO THE SHOP, SO I'LL JUST GO AROUND HERE AND HE WON'T EVEN KNOW. THERE HE COMES. WELL HE NEGOTIATED THAT ALL RIGHT. THERE'S GOING TO COME A TIME THAT HE'S GOING TO FORGET WHICH WAY TO GO, AND THAT'S ONE OF MY MAIN CONCERNS. OH, I DON'T LIKE THAT KENNETH. I DON'T LIKE YOU DOING THAT, MATE. WHY AREN'T YOU ON THE FOOTPATH? I DON'T LIKE HIM DOING THAT AT ALL. **Myrle**

>> TAKE YOUR SHIRT OFF**. Myrle**

>> OH CHRIST Ken

>> MY FAMILY WHO ARE VERY, VERY CLOSE, THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT GOES ON HERE SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. THEY ONLY KNOW WHAT GOES ON HERE WHAT I TELL THEM, AND THAT'S NOT VERY MUCH BECAUSE WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT? IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER THE MAN I MARRIED. YOU ALL RIGHT NOW? I'M GOING TO GET YOU WATER. I KNOW THAT I'M LOSING A PRECIOUS PART OF MY LIFE, AND AT TIMES, WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, I GO AWAY AND HAVE A LITTLE CRY BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THAT'S IN FRONT OF ME. I KNOW I'M LOSING HIM, AND THAT REALLY HURTS KEN. IT DOES HURT. SORRY, LOVE. IT REALLY HURTS BECAUSE OF THE WONDERFUL MAN HE WAS. IF HE'D BEEN A BUGGER OF A HUSBAND IT PROBABLY WOULD BE EASIER TO BEAR, BUT HE'S BEEN SUCH A GOOD PERSON AND I CAN FEEL HIM EVEN NOW SLIPPING AWAY, AND I'M TRYING TO HANG ON TO HIM. AND IT IS HARD. **Myrle**

>> OH DEAR. **Myrle**

>> WHAT'S GOING ON? **Ken**

>> I FEEL SICK LOVE. **Myrle**

>> YOU FEEL SICK? **Ken**

>> YEAH. ARE YOU GOING TO BRING ME A CUP A COFFEE OR A GLASS OF MILK? THANKS LOVE. **Myrle**

>> YOU'VE GOT ME ALL BLOODY CONFUSED. I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM, WHAT I'M DOING. AM I IN CHARGE? **Ken**

>> YES LOVE. NO, I'LL GET UP IN A MINUTE DARLING AND GET YOU SOME LUNCH. **Myrle**

>> OH I CAN GET THAT. I CAN DO THAT. I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START. **Ken**

>> OH GOD LOVE YOU. IT APPEARS I'VE PICKED UP SOME SORT OF A BUG. I REALLY FEEL, REALLY FEEL DOWN. I THINK IT'S MORE FRUSTRATION THAN ANYTHING TO THINK THAT I CAN'T DO WHAT I WANT TO DO, BUT THAT'S ME. AND I ALWAYS FELT THAT I WAS VERY STRONG, STRONG WILLED TO DO WHAT I HAD TO DO, BUT I'VE BEEN SO SICK I JUST HAD TO GIVE IN. **Myrle**

**Tom and Brenda**

>> I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS, BUT IT'S BEEN PROBABLY FIVE WEEKS NOW, NEARLY SIX WEEKS SINCE SHE'S BEEN HOME, AND IT'S JUST EMPTY. EVERYTHING'S EMPTY. SOMETIMES I'M LYING IN BED AND I THINK I'M JUST GOING TO GET HER BACK. I'M GOING TO GO AND GET HER BRING HER HOME, AND THE FAMILY SAYS YOU CAN'T DO THAT. THINK OF ALL THE HARD WORK. I SAID WELL, I DON'T CARE. IT'S WORTH IT TO HAVE HER HOME, YOU KNOW, BUT OBVIOUSLY COMMON SENSE PREVAILS IN THE LONG RUN AND I JUST GET ON WITH IT. YOU GOING TO FINISH THIS CUP OF TEA? **Tom**

>> YEAH. **Brenda**

>> YOU LOOK HALF ASLEEP. I THINK YOU'RE READY FOR A SLEEP. **Tom**

>> YEAH. THEY'RE REALLY LOOKING AFTER ME. **Brenda**

>> THEY'RE LOOKING AFTER YOU HERE? THEY'RE DOING A GOOD JOB. THEY'RE LOOKING AFTER YOU BETTER THAN I COULD. **Tom**

>> I DON'T BELIEVE YOU. **Brenda**

>> YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? YOU'VE GOT THE DOCTOR HERE AND EVERYTHING, HAVEN'T YOU? **Tom**

>> I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE COMING TODAY. **Brenda**

>> OH WELL, HERE I AM. **Tom**

>> YOU'RE STAYING NOW? **Brenda**

>> FOR A LITTLE WHILE, UNTIL I HAVE TO GO. ALL RIGHT, I'M GETTING ANOTHER KISS OUT OF THIS. **Tom**

>> STAY WITH ME. **Brenda**

>> NO, I'VE GOT TO GO DEAR. I CAN'T STAY WITH YOU. SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW. I'LL STAY LONGER TOMORROW, OKAY? I DO HAVE TROUBLE COPING WITH THE FACT THAT BRENDA'S IN THERE, AND I THINK I USE A DEVICE I USED TO USE IN THE NAVY WHEN I WENT BACK OFF LEAVE. AS SOON AS I LEFT THE HOUSE I USED TO HAVE WHAT I CALLED MY STEEL SHUTTER PULLED DOWN, AND I WAS BACK IN THE NAVY THE MINUTE I STEPPED OUTSIDE THE DOOR. THE ONLY WAY I CAN COPE IS TO SHUT IT OUT TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, BECAUSE I GET VERY EMOTIONAL IF I START THINKING ABOUT IT. LIKE NOW. I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT IN LIFE AND I NEVER CRIED ABOUT ANYTHING, YOU KNOW, BEFORE. IT JUST SEEMS TO HAVE COME ON ME. MY DAUGHTER KEEPS SAYING, "WELL, YOU'RE GRIEVING FOR YOUR WIFE", I SUPPOSE. **Tom**

>> SHE'S RIGHT. THERE'S THE LOSS OF A RELATIONSHIP THAT YOU'VE DESCRIBED, AND YET THERE STILL IS A RELATIONSHIP. THE CONNECTION AT AN EMOTIONAL AND HEART LEVEL WILL STAY EVEN THOUGH AT THE MIND LEVEL THEY MAY NOT ALWAYS PUT EVERYTHING TOGETHER. AT A HEART LEVEL, AT A SPIRIT LEVEL, YOU KNOW, SOUL TO SOUL THERE STILL IS THAT CONNECTION THERE, AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT. **The Pastor**

>> ONE OF THE THINGS I THINK SHE LIKES IS THE BODILY CONTACT. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING TV AND SHE'LL CURL UP INTO ME AND PUT HER ARMS AROUND ME. OR IF I WALK IN AND HUG HER WE STAND THERE AND SHE DOESN'T LET GO. SHE JUST STANDS THERE HOLDING ME. SO I THINK SHE MISSES THAT. **Tom**

>> ABSOLUTELY, BECAUSE THAT'S A VERY BASIC NEED, AND IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S NORMAL FOR YOU AS A COUPLE, YOU KNOW, AND WE ALL NEED CONTACT. TOUCH IS VERY, VERY STRONG. IT'S VERY STRONG, AND YOU NEED THAT CONTACT TOO. **The Pastor**

>> YEAH. **Tom**

**Michael and Jane and son Chris**

>> I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COMING. I DON'T FEEL PREPARED AT ALL FOR ANYTHING THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WITH DAD. WELL, WE'RE A VERY CLOSE FAMILY AND I THINK THAT WHATEVER HAPPENS, WE'LL SEE IT THROUGH. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I HAVE CONCERNS FOR ALL OF THEM. THINGS ARE GOING TO GET HARD, YOU KNOW, BUT I DON'T KNOW. YOU KIND OF JUST HAVE TO GET THROUGH IT, I SUPPOSE, AND JUST RELY ON EACH OTHER BECAUSE NO ONE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT THEMSELVES. SO YEAH, WE'VE ALL GOT TO RELY ON EACH OTHER. HAVING A NORMAL FAMILY LIFE IS WHAT WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON. IT'S WHAT DAD THRIVES ON. WE'D ALL WORK AS A UNIT TO TRY AND KEEP EVERYTHING AS CONSTANT AS WE POSSIBLY CAN. **Chris**

>> OK, DAD STOP STICKING OUT YOUR TONGUE. ARE WE READY? **Chris**

>> IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US. YOU CAN'T LET IT DOMINATE YOUR LIFE BECAUSE THEN IT JUST CONSUMES EVERYONE, AND THAT IS SO DESTRUCTIVE. **Michael**

>> WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS ACTUALLY GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME, YOU KNOW, IN THE SENSE OF WHETHER I JUST SORT OF, YOU KNOW, PLUMET STRAIGHT AWAY OR JUST, YOU KNOW, FADE AWAY INTO THE SUNSHINE OR SOMETHING. SO, I DON'T NECESSARILY NEED TO WORK ALL OF THAT OUT FOR SOMETHING THAT'S IN A YEAR OR TWO, OR FIVE YEARS OR TEN YEARS, OR SOMETHING OR OTHER, WHEN WE'RE STILL IN THE PRESENT. **Michael**

>> WE DON'T DISCUSS WHAT WILL HAPPEN. I HAVEN'T BOOKED HIM INTO ANY. **Jane**

>> HOME**. Michael**

>> CARE FACILITY. **Jane**

>> HA, A CARE FACILITY. THAT'S A HOME. **Michael**

>> SEE, I WOULDN'T HAVE MUCH CHANCE AT BOOKING YOU IN ANYWHERE. **Jane**

>> I'LL BE STAYING AT HOME AND SHE'LL BE LOOKING AFTER ME, WON'T YOU DARLING? **Michael**

>> YES. **Jane**

>> BECAUSE REMEMBER, THAT WAS THE RICHER OR FOR POORER, SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH. **Michael**

>> OH, WELL WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT LATER DOWN THE TRACK. I WILL LOOK AT NURSING HOMES. I HAVEN'T CROSSED THAT OFF AT ALL. **Jane**

>> WELL YOU'LL NEED ABOUT SIX BLOAKS TO GET ME IN THERE. **Michael**

>> IT'S NOT SOMETHING ONE CAN IMAGINE HAPPENING. SEE, HE'S SAYING IT TAKES SIX BLOAKS TO GET ME IN THERE. HE PROBABLY WILL BE AT THE STAGE WHERE HE WON'T KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING AND HE MAY BE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH, IN A NURSING HOME, AND NOT REALLY. IT'S ALL IF, WHAT, WHEN. **Jane**

>> WELL, LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT NURSING HOMES JUST AT THE MOMENT, THANK YOU DEAR. I THINK I DON'T CARE TO FIGHT OUT NEXT WEEK AND JUST MAKE SURE I'M STILL AT HOME. **Michael**

>> I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT NEXT WEEK MIKEY. **Jane**

>> THAT'S ALL RIGHT, I'M JUST CHECKING. **Michael**

**Tom and Brenda**

>> WELL, I KNOW I MADE THE RIGHT DECISION. PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY YOU'LL KNOW WHEN, YOU'LL KNOW WHEN, WHICH IS TRUE. I DID KNOW, BUT I THINK THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THAT ACHE INSIDE REGARDLESS, THAT SHE HAD TO GO IN THERE AND GO AWAY FROM HOME, AND AWAY FROM ME. WELL THE ONLY THING THAT HELPS ME HANDLE IT IS THE FACT THAT SHE'S STILL THERE. I'VE STILL GOT HER PHYSICALLY, AND THE VISITS HELP ME TOO. I LOOK FORWARD TO GOING OVER THERE, SEEING HER, HAVING TIME WITH HER. WE STILL HAVE THAT UNSPOKEN ATTACHMENT. I CAN JUST SEE IT IN HER FACE. SHE'S LIKE A LIVING PART OF ME. THAT'S THE BEST WAY I CAN EXPLAIN IT. **Tom**

>> BRENDA, WHO IS THAT? WHAT'S HIS NAME? I'VE FORGOTTEN HIS NAME. WHAT IS HIS NAME? HE LOOKS LIKE A VERY LOVELY MAN. **A Nurse**

>> HE IS. **Brenda**

>> HE IS? **A Nurse**

>> HE'S MY MAN. **Brenda**

>> HE'S YOUR MAN? **A Nurse**

**Myrle and Ken and son Peter**

>> WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET THROUGH TO ME FOR A WHILE, I HAVEN'T ACCEPTED IT IN THE FACT THAT MY BIGGEST PROBLEM IS MYSELF AND TOO INDEPENDENT. AND I HAD TOO MUCH ON MY PLATE. I'M TRYING TO PROTECT DAD. I'M TRYING TO PROTECT EVERYBODY BUT MYSELF, AND THAT'S WHERE IT IS. I'M NOT GOING TO BE INDEPENDENT ANY LONGER. I'M GOING TO ACCEPT THE HELP THAT IS FREELY GIVEN, AND I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE WITH YOU. **Myrle**

>> GOOD. **Peter**

>> AT ONE TIME I'D SAY I WOULD NEVER PUT HIM IN A NURSING HOME, BUT NOW I KEEP SAYING TO MYSELF NEVER SAY NEVER. **Myrle**

>> I'M GLAD. I'M GLAD YOU SAID THAT, BECAUSE I HAVE SAID TO MYSELF HE MIGHT HAVE TO GO TO ONE, YOU KNOW. **Peter**

>> HERE WE ARE. **Myrle**

>> WE'LL DO THE JITTERBUG SOON. AYE, YA-YA. **Ken**

>> THIS IS OUR LOVELY LITTLE CENTER. **Myrle**

>> IT'S ALL RIGHT. **Ken**

>> PART OF YOU FEEL ALL RIGHT? IT'S NOT EASY, IS IT? **Daycare Worker**

>> NO. **Myrle**

>> I KNOW. **Daycare Worker**

>> DON'T START, LOVE. **Myrle**

>> OK. WE'LL MAKE IT WORK. IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. **Daycare Worker**

>> I'VE GOT TO GO AND DO A LITTLE BIT OF SHOPPING. **Myrle**

>> GLORY, GLORY HALLELUJAH. WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE? **Ken**

>> WOMEN AND SHOPPING. WE'LL DO A BIT OF BOWLING, AND CARDS AND STUFF. **Daycare Worker**

>> SHE KNOWS VERY WELL I CAN'T GET UP TO WATCH WHAT SHE'S SPENDING. **Ken**

>> THAT'S THE IDEA. I WON'T BE LONG LOVE. I'LL BE BACK TO PICK YOU UP. YOU BE GOOD. MY FAVORITE PRAYER IS TO STAY TOGETHER, AND IF I'VE GOT TO BE A LITTLE BIT HUMBLE AND ACCEPT HELP THEN I'LL DO IT. WE'LL BE AROUND FOR A WHILE YET. I'VE GOT A LOT OF LIVING TO DO YET, AND I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS OLD BOY WITH ME. SO LONG HE BEHAVES HIMSELF WE'RE OK. WE'RE OK. I'VE GOT A NICE LITTLE ORNAMENT IN THERE OF A BRIDE AND GROOM. NOW WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE SITTING UNDER THE AZALIA TREE AND THE MORETON BAY FIG TREE, REMINISCING OF THEIR SIXTY-TWO YEARS TOGETHER. THAT WOULD BE ME AND ME MATE. **Myrle**

**Michael**

>> IF THEY REMEMBER ME TO THE GREATEST DEGREE THAT I LOVED THEM AND I LOOKED AFTER THEM, AND THAT I CARED FOR THEM. THAT'S THE BEST I COULD DO. I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT AS WELL TODAY AS I DID A COUPLE YEARS AGO, AND I MIGHT BE EVEN BLOODY MORE HELPLESS IN A COUPLE MORE YEARS. THOUGH I THINK THE KIDS AND JANE KNOW THAT I LOVE THEM AND THEY LOVE ME, MOST OF THE TIME THESE DAYS**. Michael**



