

GRACE AND GLORIE

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GRACE. Is this how I give my life value, by leavin' behind a pile o' money?!

GLORIA. I'm not talking just about money, I'm talking – Grace, you have a chance here to give Luanne all the things you never had. Education, opportunity. And freedom, Grace. Freedom to grow and blossom as she pleases. And all you'll have to do is –

GRACE. NO! NO MORE! Honey I got to ask you a big favor. Please stop helpin' me. *(GLORIA sits, picks up a pamphlet and reads. A moment passes)* What's that you're reading?

GLORIA. I thought you were going to take a nap.

GRACE. You thought wrong. What're you readin'?

GLORIA. Just something from Hospice.

GRACE. That tell you how to handle a sentimental old woman?

GLORIA. No.

GRACE. What's it say?

GLORIA. It's not important.

GRACE. If it's not important why'd they write it down? What's it say?

GLORIA. Grace, take your nap, please.

GRACE. Read it to me.

GLORIA. I'm not reading this to you.

GRACE. It might make me fall asleep.

GLORIA. I'll find something else. Your Bible. I'll read from your Bible.

GRACE. I don't want to hear the Bible. What's it about?

GLORIA. Grace.

GRACE. What's it about!

GLORIA. It's about – if you must know, it's called “The Signs and Symptoms of Approaching –”

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GRACE. Death.

GLORIA. I just picked this up. It doesn't mean anything. I was looking for something to do!

GRACE. Read it.

GLORIA. Please, Grace.

GRACE. What are the signs and symptoms?

GLORIA. Why are you doing this?

GRACE. Don't I got a right to know what to expect?

GLORIA. Yes. You have a right.

GRACE. Then read it. Well? Listen, Glorie, you're not goin' to shock me. If there's one thing I know about –

GLORIA. It's death. Yes, you told me. All right! "The Signs and Symptoms of Approaching Death!"

GRACE. Go on.

GLORIA. Grace.

GRACE. Go on!

GLORIA. "The arms and legs of the body may become cool to the touch. You may notice the underside of the body becoming darker in color. These symptoms are a result of blood circulation slowing down."

GRACE. That happened to Roger Lee. He got all cold.

GLORIA. "The patient will gradually spend more time sleeping and at times will be difficult to arouse. This symptom is a result of a change in the body's metabolism. The patient's vision may begin to fail. As will the hearing. Saliva may gather in the back of the throat. This causes a rasping sound when the patient breathes. This sound is commonly called –"

GRACE. Death rattle. That's what it's called. Death rattle.

GLORIA. Yes.

STOP —