

EDNA

Written by

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(Writing sample version)

INT. EDNA'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

EDNA RYAN is a woman in her mid seventies with grey hair, shiny eyes and always wearing a subtle shade of blue eye liner. She is sitting on a bed feeding HAROLD RYAN, a man in his late seventies, ill looking and bed-ridden. She feeds him with a medicine spoon. In the background the television is on, which Harold is watching.

Edna takes the spoon from Harold's mouth. He speaks in a raspy voice.

HAROLD

That's not a quarter inch bi-valve,
you idiot TV scumba-

Edna quickly refills the medicine spoon and inserts it back into Harold's mouth. He swallows and she pulls it out.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

bag. It's half inch.

EDNA

I'll bring your desert in twenty
minutes.

Edna gathers up empty plates onto a tray and leaves the room.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Edna opens a large tub of ice cream and spoons some out. She listens to Gardener's Question Time, a conversation about errant plums which makes her smile.

On the wall is a timetable of Edna's day, with the times Harold eats and take his medicines. Every day identical.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Harold is dozing but perks up for ice cream when Edna enters the room.

HAROLD

Vanilla, again? Feels like I've
been eating it for months.

EDNA

It was on three for two. I bought
six.

HAROLD

Jesus woman. Don't you ever have any?

EDNA

I don't like Vanilla. I can put some raisins in tomorrow for you.

HAROLD

Chocolate raisins?

EDNA

I'll ask Doctor Chang.

Harold, eating his ice cream, makes a dismissive noise.

HAROLD

Bloody Chinese doctors.

(beat)

Doctors should be Indian.

Edna frowns.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - OFFICE. EVENING

Edna is grocery shopping online, browsing ice cream. There is a large advert for Vanilla ice-cream, three for two. The price is very low and Edna looks tempted, but also guilty. She clicks on it anyway, and orders twelve.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

Edna is watching television and dozing off. She wakes up to see a butch topless man cleaning a window. Edna frowns and turns off the TV.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Edna gets into a single bed near to Harold's and turns her lamp off. Harold snores and Edna lies with her open eyes glinting in the low light.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Edna leans against the kitchen counter, drinking tea. She hears the front door unlock and someone enter.

SCOT RYAN (early thirties, always wears shirts) enters the room.

SCOT
Hi Mum.

EDNA
Hi Scot, good to see you

SCOT
You too.

There is an awkward pause as they both stand in opposite sides of the room and make no move towards each other.

EDNA
How's work?

SCOT
Fine. How's Dad?

EDNA
The same.

SCOT
Oh.

EDNA
Want some tea?

SCOT
Coffee please.

EDNA
Milk and sugar?

SCOT
Just black.

Edna looks surprised and turns to put the kettle on.

EDNA
Stain your teeth.

SCOT
It's fine, I balance it out with
yoghurt.

He smiles, joking, but Edna has turned away and does not see.

EDNA
Does that work?

SCOT
No, it was a joke.

EDNA

Oh.

SCOT

I'll go up and...

EDNA

Yep, see you.

Scot leaves the room. Edna sighs.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - SITTING ROOM - DAY

Edna, holding a cup of tea, walks into the sitting room. She goes over to the fireplace and looks at framed photos on the mantelpiece.

There are pictures of Scot as a boy with Harold on fishing trips. They are both smiling, clearly happier times.

Edna looks sadly at the pictures as she moves along the mantelpiece. She is notably absent from all but one, where she just appears in the background.

The final photo is Scot and Harold in the sitting room. They are holding a mounted, slightly startled looking, moose head. Edna looks up at the wall where the same moose head is still hung. She frowns at it, clearly not too keen.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Edna walks into the bedroom carefully carrying a tray. She wears different clothes as this is a different day. The television is on in the background. Harold holds a bowl in his lap, which Edna glances at as she puts down the tray.

EDNA

You've not eaten your soup?

Harold does not respond. When Edna looks at him properly she see's something is wrong; he looks clammy and still. Edna gasps, and steps back in shock.

She reaches out and puts her finger under his nose. No breath. She takes the soup away and listens at his chest. Nothing.

Edna steps back again, a sense of panic building.

EDNA (CONT'D)

Umm, umm, ummm...

She runs out the room.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

On her computer Edna searches, "What to do if someone has died?" She frowns when life insurance adverts pop up.

Edna clicks "Top Ten Things to do on finding a body". The page loads agonisingly slowly. She shoves the unresponsive mouse.

EDNA

Come on!

The page loads showing, "Number 1, call your doctor to confirm death." "Number 2 call a funeral directors."

INT. EDNA'S HOME - SITTING ROOM - DAY

Edna sits on the sofa, dry eyed but in shock. Through the open door she sees suited FUNERAL DIRECTORS carry a body bag on a stretcher through the hallway.

A moment later one of the Funeral Directors comes back to sit with Edna. He speaks soothingly.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

We'll be off now misses Ryan. I'll be in touch in a few days.

EDNA

It was the only time he didn't spill his soup.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Right... have you got any family you can call?

Edna looks at him in realisation.

EDNA

My son, I should probably tell him.

James Brown's *I Feel Good* starts to play in the room. The Funeral Director quickly pulls out his smartphone and silences the ringtone. He takes a second to regain his composure, though Edna is distracted by his flashy phone.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Sorry again for your loss, I'll see myself out.

The Funeral Director leaves. Edna looks out the window as the black van pulls away.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - HALLWAY - DAY

Edna sits on the stairs looking at her house phone. She braces herself and dials SCOT from the menu. It rings.

SCOT (V.O.)
Hello? Mum?

EDNA
(breaking into sobs)
Scot, it's happened.

SCOT (V.O.)
What, the boiler's died?

EDNA
No. The boiler's fine.
(beat)
It's your Dad, he's passed away.

Scot's voice cracks as he breaks into tears.

SCOT (V.O.)
What, how did it happen, did he say anything?

EDNA
No, I just went to bring him his tea and he was gone. He seemed peaceful though, and at least... well Homes Under the Hammer wasn't his favourite, but...

The doorbell goes. Edna slowly goes to answer it.

SCOT (V.O.)
I can't believe it, we've expected it for years, but it's still a shock.

Edna opens the door. Outside is a SUPERMARKET DELIVERY MAN holding a crate overflowing with Vanilla ice cream. Edna breaks into floods of tears, leaving the man looking awkward.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

A small group of MOURNERS is gathered around an open grave, a coffin being lowered. Edna and Scot are amongst them. A VICAR stands at the foot of the group.

VICAR

Throughout his long illness Harold could not have asked for a more dutiful wife, who nursed him for almost ten years.

Edna smiles appreciatively.

VICAR (CONT'D)

But for such an active man it was hard for him to remain bed-ridden...

I Feel Good starts to play, confusing the mourners. The Funeral Director frisks himself looking for his phone. He then slowly, painfully, looks down at the coffin.

VICAR (CONT'D)

...yet he faced his illness with the selflessness and dignity we-

The Funeral Directors whisper to the Vicar, who looks at Edna nervously.

VICAR (CONT'D)

Mrs Ryan, it seems a mobile phone was left in the casket and needs to be retrieved.

The Funeral Director whispers again to the Vicar.

VICAR (CONT'D)

This could happen later, or now if everyone wouldn't mind looking away.

Edna looks disturbed by the idea. She looks to Scot for support but he shrugs.

EDNA

Later, would be preferable.

The Vicar continues his sermon. Edna reaches for Scot's hand, which he flinches away from initially, but then reaches for.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - SITTING ROOM - DAY

The room has a table laid out with food and used paper plates from the wake. Scot sits alone on the sofa. The front door is heard closing. Edna walks back in and sits next to Scot.

EDNA

I thought she'd never leave.

SCOT

Yep.

The awkward silence returns. Scot indicates the moose head.

SCOT (CONT'D)

I thought you might have taken him down already.

EDNA

I probably will, but it's too soon, feels wrong.

SCOT

Yeah.

More solemn silence.

EDNA

I've been thinking about what I'll do now I'm not... well, anyway, I've made a bucket list.

Scot looks surprised. Edna gets up to retrieve her list and hands it to Scot.

SCOT

Wow. I'm impressed you even know what one is.

EDNA

Of course, it's things you want to do before you die. I heard about it on Radio 4.

Scot reads from the list.

SCOT

"Re-connect with old friends. Go to confession. Finish grouting the shower." This isn't a bucket list, it's a To Do list.

EDNA

Yes, it's things I want to do before I die.

SCOT

But it's supposed to be things to live for, like skydiving or swimming with dolphins. Not "Re-felting the shed roof."

EDNA

Why would I want to swim with dolphins? Would they want to swim with me? No, this is my life now.

SCOT

You need something more, and I think I know what. This is Barry.

Scot holds up his phone; an ad for an unhappy looking white cat.

SCOT (CONT'D)

He's local and cheap.

EDNA

I'll think about it Scot.

Scot sighs, concerned as he reads Edna's list.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - BEDROOM

Edna stands looking at Harold's bed. She starts removing the sheets and putting his pill bottles into a black bag.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Edna peels her timetable off the wall and throws it away. She puts up her bucket list in its place.

EDNA

Right then.

She looks out the window at the shed.

EXT. EDNA'S HOME - GARDEN - DAY

Edna, wearing a coat, stands looking at her shed. The loose felt roof blows unappealingly in the wind. Edna frowns and turns back to the house.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - CUPBOARD - DAY

Edna stares at a bucket of grout and closes the cupboard.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - OFFICE - DAY

Edna sits at her desk reading an address book. She finds a number and calls it on her house phone.

EDNA
 Hello is Maureen there.
 (beat)
 Oh, how long ago?

Edna crosses Maureen from her address book.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - OFFICE - DAY

Edna is in another call.

HUSKY MALE (V.O.)
 He's been dead for about two years.

EDNA
 Oh that's so sad.

HUSKY MALE (V.O.)
 Actually I'm trying to get rid of
 his old fridge. Would you like it?
 Perfect way to remember him.

Edna frowns.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - OFFICE

Edna is calling another number from her book. A woman,
 BRIANNY, answers with a whispery voice.

BRIANNY (V.O.)
 Hello?

EDNA
 Hello, may I speak to Brianny, if
 she's still in existence.

BRIANNY (V.O.)
 More or less, thank you. Who is
 this?

EDNA
 It's Edna Ryan.

BRIANNY (V.O.)
 Edna! How good to hear from you!

EDNA
 You too. Are you still in the
 neighbourhood? I'd love to come and
 see you.

BRIANNY (V.O.)
Certainly. Though I'm not doing too
well these days. How's tomorrow?

Edna smiles.

INT. EDNA'S HOME - OFFICE - EVENING

Edna is planning her route online, she prints out maps and bus timetables which she places into a neat folder.

INT. BUS - DAY

Edna, wearing black mourning clothes, is sitting on a bus. She anxiously stares out the window and leafs through her printed maps trying to keep track of where she is. She rings the bell.

INT. STREET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Edna gets off the bus and it pulls away. She spins around trying to get her bearings on the map, but she's lost.

A GREY HAIREW WOMAN in pink and black clothes walks by. Edna stops her.

EDNA
Excuse me, do you know Carlisle
Street?

GREY HAIREW WOMAN
Rings a bell.

The Woman gets out her phone to look at a map.

EDNA
Think I did that too early.

The Grey Haired Woman smiles. She points.

GREY HAIREW WOMAN
Three streets down on your left.

EDNA
Thank you.

Edna sets off with a wave. The Grey Haired Woman salutes.

EXT. CARLISLE STREET - DAY

Edna sees turns down the road and checks her notes for the house number.

EDNA

Thirteen.

There is a black van parked outside number thirteen. FUNERAL DIRECTORS carry out a body bag while a SAD FAMILY watches.

As Edna stands watching in shock everyone notices her; this strange woman, already in mourning clothes, like some kind of hearse chaser. They give her a dirty look. Edna realises how she must appear and shakes her head wanting to explain. Words fail her and she rushes away.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Edna tearfully walks down the same street as earlier. Coming the other way she sees the Grey Haired Woman. Edna sighs and hides behind a tree. The Grey Haired Woman comes over.

GREY HAired WOMAN

We're only strangers so I can tell
you the hard truth. You're terrible
at hiding.

Edna bursts into tears. The Grey Haired Woman looks concerned.

INT. CAFE - DAY

A cheap cafe. Edna sits alone building sugar cube towers. The Grey Haired Woman sits down opposite her with a tray of coffee and biscuits.

GREY HAired WOMAN

I'm Val, by the way.