

POPOPS LIVES ALONE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

POPOPS sits next to his wife's hospital bed holding her hand. He is a man who has spent his 70-some-odd years making lifelong friends out of everyone he meets.

The BEEPING HEART MONITOR interrupts the silence as she sleeps... until it FLATLINES.

Popops pulls the plug on the machine and kisses her forehead.

POPOPS
Goodbye my love.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

The cantor sings the Mourner's Kaddish at the funeral.

Popops takes a flask from his pocket and drinks.

EXT. GRAVESITE - DAY

The cantor continues to sing (V.O.) as the family members take turns throwing a handful of dirt on the coffin.

Popops takes another drink. He removes his wedding ring and throws it -- along with the dirt -- into the grave.

CONGREGATION (V.O.)
(in unison)
Amen.

INT. POPOPS'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The mirrors are all covered up with black cloth and there is an abundance of food on almost every flat surface. People still dressed in their funeral attire mill around -- schmoozing and noshing.

Popops is playing gin rummy with BENNY -- his youngest grandson who worships the ground he walks on. Two huge helpings of kugel arrive for the two card sharks.

POPOPS
I ever tell you about how me and
Lenny caught Field Marshal Rommel?

Benny shakes his head.

POPOPS (CONT'D)

We found out that the Desert Fox --
that's what they called him --
loved lokshen kugel... the sweet
kind with raisins and apricots.

RACHEL -- Popops's daughter and Benny's mom -- stands in the doorway talking to a FAMILY FRIEND. She is now the sole remaining responsible member of her family.

FAMILY FRIEND

What is he going to do now? He
can't live here alone.

RACHEL

Something tells me he's not going
anywhere without a fight.

POPOPS

Rommel was a tough son of a bitch;
we had been losing to him all
across North Africa.

EDNA -- an elderly neighbor -- approaches Popops with her walker.

EDNA

I am so sorry for your loss,
Adrian. If there's anything I can
do... I'm just down the street.

POPOPS

Thanks, Edna. Now where was I?
Right; once we learned his weakness
we knew exactly how to beat him. We
met privately with General
Eisenhower to tell him about our
plan and he loved it! So one night
we set up tents upwind from
Rommel's camp and cooked a hundred
pans of kugel... his favorite.

Benny is immersed in the story and is letting his hand show.

POPOPS (CONT'D)

The smell lured Rommel out of his
tent; still half-asleep... and
that's when we got him!

RACHEL

Absolutely nothing that you just
told him is even remotely true.

POPOPS

(to Benny)

Never let the truth get in the way
of a good story.

Popops gets up from the table to go to the bathroom, but Rachel stops him.

RACHEL

You could come live with us...
please at least consider it, Dad.

POPOPS

I appreciate your concern, but I'm
staying here. This has been my home
since your mother and I bought it;
since before you were born!

EDNA

I am so sorry for your loss. If
there's anything I can do I'm --

POPOPS

"Down the street," I know where you
live. See even Edna lives alone and
she's lost all but one or two of
her marbles.

RACHEL

Dad!

POPOPS

What? She can't hear me. You think
she remembers to put her hearing
aids in every morning?

EDNA

What?

POPOPS

See, I'll be fine. If I need
anything, I can call Edna. Now if
you'll excuse me, I have to take a
piss before your son takes any more
of my money.

RACHEL

I told you not to play for money
with him. He's only six!

Popops waves away her concerns as he turns to make his way
toward the bathroom, but his progress is immediately impeded
by condolence-givers.