



Assisted Living Conversation

Kristin: I just got off the phone with my mom.

Joe: Oh, how's she doin'?

stressed out: very worried

Kristin: Oh, she's a little bit **stressed out**. We, um, we just had a long conversation about my grandmother.

Joe: Oh, how's your grandmother doin'?

so-so: not good and not bad

Kristin: Eh, **so-so**. My...

Joe: Yeah?

have their hands full: very busy

Kristin: ...mom and my uncle have their hands, really **have their hands full** right now.

Joe: Yeah.

every once in a while: sometimes

erratically: unpredictably

Kristin: Yeah, y'know, they s-, a while back they started to notice things **every once in a while** with my grandmother. For example her starting to drive more **erratically**. And they got concerned about that. And went to her doctor and explained everything to her doctor. And the doctor agreed, "Yeah, she shouldn't be driving." So the next time my grandmother went in my uncle and mom both went and her d-, my grandmother's doctor confronted her and said, "Y'know, I just think it's time to give up the keys and not drive anymore."

Joe: Wow, I guess that was...

Kristin: And understand-, understandably my grandmother was not happy but she did it.

bound to happen: very likely to happen

sooner or later: at some time in the future

Joe: Yeah, I mean, y'know, when you get to that age I guess that's **bound to happen sooner or later**.

quite a few: many

passed away: died

kind of: sort of

gone downhill: to have become much worse

in general: overall

Kristin: Yeah, but now, um, here lately there have been **quite a few** more things concerning my mom and uncle. So, y'know, ever since my grandfather **passed away** a few years ago, uh, my grandmother's just **kind of gone downhill** since. They'd been living in Florida and my mom and uncle decided to move my grandmother up just to be closer to them. There's no other family in Florida. She had friends there but no family. And I think it helped her a bit but, um... she's just, **in general**... I think,



Assisted Living Conversation

since he passed away, she's just been going downhill. For example, she has emphysema...

Joe: Uh-huh.

Kristin: ...but, um, just I'd say in the past year she's been on her oxygen tank **a good bit**, a lot, and, and was even hospitalized. So it's a... it's been a problem in the past several years. But it's got... definitely gotten worse over the past year. Uh, something else is... she's on **a bunch** of different medications, unfortunately. And she's just been **mixing them up** lately, which is not good. I think it just makes her **cloudy** and confused then, in general.

Joe: Yeah, I mean that can be really dangerous. I mean she could take a, uh, the wrong **dosage** of a medication. And it... it could be **lethal**.

Kristin: Yeah. Yeah, exactly. So...yeah, they're just... they're thinking more and more like I said, **assisted living**. Y'know, I'd say about a month or so ago they had, uh, sat my grandmother down and given her an **ultimatum**. Y'know, when... when they were noticing a few things here and there, like with her driving, they decided, "Okay it's time to do something." So they sat her down and, and said, "We're givin' you three choices. You can go into assisted living. Or you can have someone start coming in **regularly** to sit with you, make sure you're taking your medications, the correct ones at the correct times. Or you can go and live with, um, Susan"... my mom. And...my grandmother decided she didn't want to live with my parents. She didn't want to **put them out**. And she definitely didn't want to go to assisted living. So she chose to have a sitter. She didn't like that either, but she realized she had no choice. Well, she had to choose one of the three choices. So she's been having a woman coming in like three days a week. And since that - this woman has been coming in then - my mom and uncle have realized, "Oh, she needs someone actually, kinda seven days a week, not just three." And they talked to the agency. Uh, this particular woman couldn't come in seven days a week. So the agency actually found someone else. I think... I think she's only... this new person's only coming in two days. So that leaves still two days out of the week that my grandmother doesn't have anyone coming in. But my mom and uncle are even thinking it's to the point that she kinda needs someone **twenty-four seven**. Well, not when she's sleeping, I shouldn't say, but, when... definitely when she's awake.

Joe: Yeah, I mean that... this sounds like a really difficult situation. I really **feel for** your mom.

a good bit: a lot

a bunch: a lot
mixing them up: confusing them

cloudy: not clear

dosage: amount

lethal: deadly

assisted living: a place for older people to live when they need extra help

ultimatum: a last request to do something before action is taken

regularly: usually or often

put them out: to inconvenience

twenty-four seven: 24 hours a day seven days a week

feel for: feel sorry for