

GRANDMA'S LAST DAY

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After with the serving and chatted with friends for an hour or more. Someone had driven her home where she had her supper alone. In the evening, there was to be the weekly card party back at the Senior Citizens Club, and she phoned to ask for a ride with her best friend in the group - a woman who had run one of the White Sulphur Saloons that had so often thorned Grandma's earlier life. They had nearly arrived at the card party when, in the midst of something joked by one or the other of them, Grandma cut off in the middle of a chuckle and slumped, chin onto chest. The friend whirled the car to the hospital a block away. A doctor

instantly was trying to thump a heartbeat-rhythm into Grandma, but could work no flicker of response from her. She had gone from life precisely as she had lived it, with abruptness and at full pace.

- **thorned** - роздратований, тяжкий, болісний, обтяжений
- **trace out** - прослідити (за чимось)
- **pace** - крок, темп, хода, швидкість
- **chuckle** - здавлений сміх, хихикання; кудкудакання
- **abruptness** - раптовість, несподіваність; різкість, стрімкість
- **to chut with smb.** - базікати, патякати; невимущено розмовляти з кимось

Questions about the reading

- If the writer had not called the woman “GRANDMA” you would still have some idea of her age. Which details indicate her age?
- Did Grabd ma live in a town or in the country? Which details help you decide where she lived? Did she live alone? Which details tell you?

Writing Assignments

- Write a narrative paragraph in which you tell about the daily activities of a person you admire or, if you prefer, of a person you dislike.
- Think of someone who has influenced your life in some way. Tell about several things that person did that influenced you.

Dinesen was the pen name adopted by the Danish baroness Karen Blixen.

The baroness lived in British East Africa from 1914 to 1931, managing a coffee plantation that she and her husband had purchased. Her stories of African life, published in *Out of Africa* and *Shadows on the Grass* with their wealth of exotic detail, appealed to many readers and more recently, with the appearance of a movie based on *Out of Africa*, to moviegoers. In this paragraph she describes the beauty and toil of running the coffee plantation.

There are times of great beauty on a coffee-farm. When the plantation flowered in the beginning of the rains, it was a radiant sight, like a cloud of chalk, in the mist and the drizzling rain, over six hundred acres of land. The coffee-blossom has a delicate slightly bitter scent, like the blackthorn blossom. When the field reddened with the ripe berries, all the women and the children, whom they call the TOTOS,