

# THE WRITER'S HOME

Story by

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V14

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The **secret** of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your **enthusiasm**.

--Aldous Huxley

TWILIGHT, WE HEAR...

NICOLAS (O.S.)  
I hate this place.  
Most of all, I HATE TED!  
Tonight, it all ends.

**(PROLOGUE) INT. THE HOME. ROOM. LATE NIGHT**

A Bed, BAY-WINDOWS, It's "*Faumey*" a mixture of *faux* & homey, all cloaked in shadow. A rustling under the covers.

An e.WHEELCHAIR lights the space in blue ghostly-figures.

NICOLAS (V.O.)  
It's 4 AM. I havta pee... Again.

Nic groans. We only see a inky-shape, this is TED. The MOON progresses from night to dawn. Packed Bookshelves loom over. A cinnamon colored CAT rests on the window sill.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
*Happiness is good health and a bad memory.* Which one do I have, I can't remember?

Gloom turns to morning light. LOS ANGELES *paradise* beckons just outside his window. Enticing yet somehow in-vain.

**(ACT ONE) INT. HOME. MORING LIGHT ON...**

TED's silhouette reads. Nic's agitation draws her.

TED  
Are you okay?

Nic grunts a...

NICHOLAS  
Yeah!

Our first good look at **NIC**, well-past 80s, he's a massive *PAIN-IN-THE-ASS* to everyone he's ever met.

Right now, all his considerable willpower is focused on 'NOT, needing Ted's help.

TED  
Are you hungry?

Nicholas turns away from Ted.

NICHOLAS

No!

TED

Do you want me to fluff your pillow?

NICHOLAS

No I don't need a *fluffer!*

At that Ted gives him nothing.

TED

(Yet a bit flustered)  
Hum. Well, Wouldcha like to hear a nice story I just wrooo.../

INTERRUPTING...

NICHOLAS

FUCK NO!

An uncomfortable silence sucks the air away.

TED

Do you need the potty?

NICHOLAS

POTTY! Do I look like I'm two?

TED

So that's a "*no thank you, Ted.*"

NICHOLAS

No. Fuckyouverymuch, *Ted'ache!*  
I can do it myself.

Nic tries to transfer. His arms tremble.

TED

Nicholas, I can help you. That's why I'm here.

NICHOLAS

I don't need '*your-kind*' of help!

Ted's back to us, moves to help. Trembling, Nic doesn't refuse, a painful, arthritic laborious process.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)

I really *HATE* Ted. 'It' sucks.

Ted unplugs the e.Wheelchair, her blouse rides up to reveal a DARK MOLE. Boldly Nic stares at it. --A dark smile. (p)

INT. BATHROOM. FINALLY IN THE MORING WE SEE...

TED, she waits outside, freshly-pressed SCRUBS, A nurse's practical demeanor, Ageless 20s, flawless androgynous, pristine hair, teeth, & EYES that dare you to look away.

We assume Nic is behind the DOOR?

His voice dispels the mystery...

NICHOLAS (O.C.)  
*Ted'ache! Let's get somtin  
straight: henceforth "potty" shell  
be any of the following phrases...*

Nic exits the...

NICHOLAS  
THE CRAPPER, The shitter,  
thunderbox, stool pool, riding the  
porcelain bus, commode, wiz box,  
the throne, asshole microphone, the  
head, the oval office, fudge pot,  
oompa-doompa, poopatorium, Shit-  
box, & my fav, *The Facebook chair*.  
--Got it?!

TED  
(Verbatim, kinda...)  
Yes, got it: The *blankety-blank*,  
The *blankety-blank*, thunderbox,  
stool pool, riding the porcelain  
bus, commode, wiz box, the throne,  
*blankety-blank* microphone, the  
head, the oval office, fudge pot,  
oompa-doompa, poopatorium, *blankety-*  
*blank-box*, & *The Facebook chair*?

Nic rolls his eyes at her earnest '*blankety-blanks*.'

She ponders...

TED  
What's The Facebook?

NICHOLAS  
It was a Russian website.

Ted narrows her eyes.

**E/I. HOME. ROOM. MORNING**

Distant city lights glitter. A BILLBOARD blinks: 'Cyber medicine: generous health-care for every citizen.' Center poster: A robotic looking nurse offers a plastic-smile.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)

I voted for this crap? "The most consistent companionship the State can provide. The future is here... NOW!"

**INSERT: 15 SECOND QUICK CLIPS OF... (OPTIONAL)**

A *no-frills* Robot helps an old lady into bed.

Next feeding an elder some-sort of GRUEL.

Old man & Bot hugging as if BFFL (best-friends-for-life).

Lastly, A Bot taking an old man's temperature, from the 'Wrong end' old dudes eyes go W-I-D-E!

**HOME. ROOM. SAME MORNING AS...**

TED sits quietly. Nic, rests on the bed, stares at her.

NICHOLAS

Bullshit!

TED

You alright? Do you need to use the restroom once more?

Nic tries to turn over, he tremble.

TED

I'm here for you.

NICHOLAS

Go..away... Okay.

TED

You've been getting up more often at night. The doctor wants to run tests. Do you think you can give me a sample?

NICHOLAS

No *Ted'ache!* It's called a prostate.

It occurs when you get old, but you  
wouldn't know 'bout that, wouldcha?

Ted twists her face in uncertainty.

**INT. HOME. TIME-LAPSE - SUN LIGHT...**

Travels across table revealing photos. Military-man on some  
distant frozen shore. "Love ya grandpa" penned on it.

NICHOLAS S(V.O.)  
Days and days where we don't see  
one human face. Nobody, just F'n  
Bots pretend'n to giv'a damn. Well,  
that ends. Weeks of planning,  
tomorrow they won't have me.

Nic plays 'When I cry' on his PIANO: The sound fills the  
space. His eyes moisten as if some long-lost-love whispered  
from the fog of his past.

Ted Enters

Nic's warmth evaporates in a flare, replaced by loathing.

TED  
Nicholas, what's upsetting you?

NICHOLAS  
(Deep Anger)  
You don't know what its like to  
lose someone, how could you."

The Reddish Cat is now inside, as if magic!

**(ACT TWO) INT. HOME. THAT NIGHT**

Ted slides slippers on Nic's feet, her vivid green SHOES glow  
in the dim room's halflight.

NICHOLAS  
Good God!

Ted looks up.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
Who wears those shoes? See, one of  
the things the gov. figured was old  
geezers like me were more likely to  
bond with our caregivers if the  
bots had weird quirks,  
idiosyncrasies, like having...

Nic SCOWLS at Ted's shoes.

NICHOLAS  
God-Awful fashion sense!

Ted doesn't react, yet stands.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
They call it the '*Flick Factor*,'  
the phenomena is suppos'ta make us  
feel sorry for our Bots and wanna  
be friends with'm. As if putting a  
hat on my toaster will make us care  
'bout it. That's such a load of...

Baloney!

Ted gives Nic a pat on the shoulder as she pushes the chair  
to the bathroom. She has a SAMPLE CUP in her hand.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
You see the cup? Right? A human  
would've forgotten it. Not a Bot.

TED  
If you took your Meds? Like your  
friend takes his, you would sleep  
right through the night.

NICHOLAS  
What friend?

TED  
Antony.

NICHOLAS  
I'm not his friend!

TED  
Well.

Cutting in...

NICHOLAS  
Don't tell me shit.

Ted tilts her head.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
Antony's my best friend, can't let  
'it' know that. You don't want a  
BOT in your head. Dammit, hope  
'its' not on to our plan?!

Interjects as a diversion.

NICHOLAS  
Ted'ache, I don't like pills. They  
make me skin itch, my mind fuzzy.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
'It' bought it.

JUMP CUT TO:

**INSERT. SCREEN CARD:**

*THE SWITCH*

Nurse Ratched (Jud Taylor) Enters. Begrudgingly helps Nic  
with his pillow. She's super sweet & nice & Pure Evil.

RATCHED  
Time for Meds Nicholas.

NICHOLAS  
No its not and it's Mr. Lozar.

RATCHED  
Honey, yes your right. Now open up.

NICHOLAS  
No.

RATCHED  
Come now, you will feel better.

NICHOLAS  
NO!

RATCHED  
Do you want me to tell your wife  
your not taking your medication?

NICHOLAS  
(Confused)  
She's here?

RATCHED  
No Honey you killed her. Dontcha  
remember, dear, your a drunk and a  
fiend.

NICHOLAS

That's not true, you said she's here, right now, you just did.

RATCHED

Darling you got drunk and ran off the road, right into that Oak tree.

NICHOLAS

No...?

RATCHED

Now take your *deserved* pills and be done with it. Or should I call you wife?

Nic looks as if up is down & right is left & if left is right. Ted enters.

TED

(Firm & smooth like a robot)  
I will take it from here, Nurse.

In Ted presents Nic comes back to himself. Focused by his deep dislike.

As Ratched departs we see Nic has her Key-Card, & she has his Blockbuster Video Card.

**INSERT. SCREEN CARD:**

*MORE WATER*

That evening: Nic asks Ted for more and more water, which he dumps into his 1000ml Urinal Incontinence Bottle.

**INSERT. SCREEN CARD:**

*SALT OF THE EARTH*

After dinner, Ted takes the plates away, but can't find the table Salt. As Ted exits Nic dumps all the salt into his hidden bottle.

--*What's he up to?*

INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT -- INSERT. SCREEN CARD:

THE BIG SHORT

Nic rolls into the *blankety-blank*-Can. Pulls out the hidden Urinal Bottle. Stands over the %\$#\*-Can.

NICHOLAS

I don't care how old I'm. If I can't piss standing up, I don't deserve to be around.

Nic ties his PJs. Tastes the water in the Bottle.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)

Hmm, Salty! What to computers hate?

TED (O.C.)

Nicholas, I need to collect that sample. Can you open up?

Ted idle, holding the cup.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)

I almost feel guilty for what I'm about to do... Almost.

NICHOLAS

Ted, I need help sitting.

Ted enters. Nic points at the e.Wheelchair; Ted closes the distance to help him into the chair.

Nic shifts his weight. Ted must lean forward. Her shirt rides up revealing the BLACK MOLE, the hidden OUTLET.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)

It's got the same shape as the outlet on my chair, but they made it look like a mole. Clever.

TED

Just let me know when you're ready, Nicholas...

NICHOLAS

I'm good?

What happens next happens fast. Nic's back in the chair.

When...(p)

Nic digs his fingernails into Ted's "mole" - yanks it off. He takes the bottle of salt water, pours it on her e.Socket.

Shocked, Ted releases Nic into the chair, jumps backward, slips on the spilled water, hits the CEILING LAMP, then hits her head on the sink, collapses on the floor.

Electrical-Sparks rain down.

From his chair, Nic pores the last of the water down on Ted. It settles on the green shoes. --More sparks.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
Call it my 'bad, deed for the day.

Nic pulls out of the %\$#\*-Can.

NICHOLAS  
Flick Factor, my ass. I know a toaster when I see one. I may be old and a little forgetful, but I know electronics don't like saltwater, not one bit, or byte.

He swings around, returns to his room.

JUMP CUT TO:

(MID POINT) INT. ROOM. NIGHT

INSERT. SCREEN CARD:

*THE GET AWAY*

Nic faces a solid-appearing DOOR w/o handle. Takes a BREATH, drives through it as if it weren't there.

NICHOLAS  
*"They may take our lives, but they'll never take our freedom!"*

WHOOSH CUT TO:

(Back to normal story pacing at this point.)

**INT. HOME. HALLWAY. NIGHT**

Spinning his chair around, Nicholas looks back into his room. From his side, there appears to be no door at all.

NICHOLAS  
Bunch of perverted voyeurs!

Nicholas dumps his MEDS on the ground, turns to face the deserted hallway. Signs hang from every wall.

**INSERT. SIGN:**

NO RESIDENTS OR COMPANIONS OUT OF THEIR ROOMS AFTER 9PM.

BACK TO SCENE:

NICHOLAS  
A bloody nut house, that's what  
this is.

Nic passes more hologram-doors where elderly patients sleep.

NICHOLAS  
Full of doped-up, empty-headed,  
cattle. No thank you!

The e.Wheelchair emits an alarm, lights blink.

WHEELCHAIR  
Restricted area after 6 PM. Please,  
go back to your room.

NICHOLAS  
What the F...

He stops at a doorway. A large man sleeps in the bed.

**INT. ROOM. NIGHT AS...**

Nic glides in, punches the sleeper.

NICHOLAS  
(Whispers) Let's go. Wake up.

The body is too soft, pliable, pillow-like.

ANTONY (O.C.)  
Behind you.

Surprised, Nic spins around with his fists raised.(p)

ANTONY (70s), a big man, steps out of the shadows. He wears a dark rain slicker, broad-rimmed hat that obscures his kind eyes. Behind his smile it feels like he's a bit slow.

ANTONY  
Fooled ya.

Antony points at the bed with a ham-hock finger.

ANTONY  
I used pillows to make it look like it was me sleeping. I fooled ya, didn't I?

Lowering his hands, relieved, Nic grins at the hoax.

NICHOLAS  
You didn't take the pills?

ANTONY  
Nah. You said you were gonna break out. I believed you.

Nic raises a bushy eyebrow at Antony's clothes.

NICHOLAS  
Is it going to rain?

ANTONY  
(Shrugging)  
It might. Never hurts to be prepared. What happened to Teddy?

NICHOLAS  
(Grinning proudly)  
'It' had a Short-Circuit.

Nic is still holding Ted's outlet cover. He tosses it into the corner.

ANTONY  
Oh, I loved that movie!

NICHOLAS  
But I don't know how long it'll take 'it' to reboot, so we haveta be quick.

Anthony GRUNTS, walks through the seemingly solid door out into the hallway. Nic follows.(p)

**INT. HALLWAY. NIGHT**

Nic & Antony begin down the hall. Abruptly, Antony stops, turns back.

ANTONY  
Oh, almost forgot Dave.

Abruptly, Antony returns to his room. Nic spies through the Halo-door as his friend searches the room.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
Antony grand-kid visited him once, maybe ten years ago, and left him Dave as a present. It was meant as a joke, a way to break the ice or something, but since they never came back, the toy became the most precious thing to him.

Grinning, Antony returns gripping a YELLOW BATH DUCKY. It SQUEAKS cheerfully as he slips it into his rain slicker.

ANTONY  
Close call.

NICHOLAS  
Did you get the crowbar?

ANTONY  
Better. I watched'm put in the code.

NICHOLAS  
Well done!

Quickly, they trek down the hall.

WHEELCHAIR  
RESTRICTED AREA

Nic hits the chair's control panel. The duck SQUEAKS softly with every step Antony makes.

NICHOLAS  
Did you tell anyone bout this? You kept it quiet, right?

ANTONY  
As quiet as cotton. (Glancing around) Why? Do you think someone's watching?

TED (O.C.)

Nick!

The men freeze, look back down the corridor.

TED (O.C.)

Hey! Nick! Where are you?

NICHOLAS

Crap!

Nic runs over Antony's foot as he rushes forward.

NICHOLAS

'Its' powered back on! Com'n!

Hobbling, SQUEAKING, Antony hurries to catch up.

ANTONY

She sounds upset.

TED (O.C.)

Why am I soaking wet?

Ted appears at the end of the hallway, a foreboding shadow.

TED

I hit my head, but I'm okay. You don't need to get help. Come back to the room.

Startled, Antony & Nic turn back towards the door. The wheelchair STOPS suddenly.

WHEELCHAIR

Safety mode engaged, returning to room.

Nic knocks out the e.Wheelchair's controller.

Antony pushes the wheelchair as the lock tires are rubbing against the floor. Ted wet sneakers SQUISH as she hurries toward them.

They reach the END of hallway. KEYPAD blinks red.

NICHOLAS

What's the code? Quick!

ANTONY

I think...

Nic turns on him, his expression a mixture of frustration, dread & hope.

NICHOLAS

No thinking. We only get one shot  
at this.

Ted sprints, her sneakers FLASH GREEN in the dark.

ANTONY

Try 2001.

Nic punches in the code, the door springs open.

TED

Where are you going, Nick? You're  
not supposed to leave.

Ted is nearly on them. She looks stern. Water drips from her  
hair, and there's RED on her scrubs. Nic & Antony step  
through the door.

TED

Don't do this, Nic..../

The door slides closed on her cry.

**INT. HOME. SECOND HALLWAY. NIGHT (NEW ENDING)**

Nic & Antony race to reach the far end. A RED EXIT sign  
promises a new hope. He uses his ill-gotten Key-card. RED  
turns to inviting GREEN. Nic pushes the Door -it's stuck on?

NICHOLAS

Help me.

Not even Antony's "Hodor" weight can open it.

ANTONY

It ain't moving.

NICHOLAS

Wait here.

Nic disappears.

BACK TO:

**INT. HOME. FIRST HALLWAY. NIGHT**

Ted's at the locked door. Nurse Ratched stomps down the hall.

RATCHED

Move aside Ted. How could you have  
let this happen?

TED  
I-I well, he just. Ah...

RATCHED  
Just let me handle this.

She whips out her key-card. SWIPE.

**SWIPE**

**FASTER SWIPE**

**ANGRY SWIPE - SWIPE**

TED  
What is a "Blockbuster?"

Ratched flushes a deep rose.

RATCHET  
Wait here, I'll get the Doctor.

She sashays down the hallway, fluffs her hair in wasted anticipation, never to return.

TED  
Well, okay then.

The LOCKED DOOR pops open at the same moment as...

SMASH TO:

**ACT THREE**

**EXT. HOME. THE DOOR. MOON'S NIGHT**

A MASSIVE DOOR cracks open with a KLAXXON of breaking ICE, SNOW and lack of use. A group of ELDERS...

*"Break on through to the other side."* --THE DOORS

NICHOLAS  
This can't be right?

ANTONY  
It's snowing.

As each of the elders passes Antony he hands out compact fluffy coats to all, including Nic.

The Elders spread out, enjoying the fresh air and falling snow flakes, not a care in the world. Not Nic though, he flops down defeated.

MS. WIEMAN

Look I made you a snowball.

She hands it to Nic.

MR. KILLROE

Ms Wieman, might I have this dance?

They spin around each other, more join the dance under the moon-lit snow.

MR. JONES

Come let's make snow-angels.

NICHOLAS

What did we do! Are we out?

Somber, Antony hangs his head.

ANTONY

That we did.

Confused, Nic squints up at Antony.

NICHOLAS

What's wrong?

ANTONY

Nothing. I just hate this part.

NICHOLAS

What part? We're free. We just need to lay low.

ANTONY

(Gloomy)

Right. Lay low.

A Distant Bell Tolls for No-One.

ANTONY

It's time to go.

Antony waves everyone inside. All elders seem to understand.

The SNOW has stopped falling.

Nic stares at Antony for a lingering beat before turning, they're in an open-air courtyard. Faraway ice covered mountains surround...(p)

NICHOLAS

Wait. This is all wrong. We're supposed to be outside the home.

ANTONY

I know.

Antony kneels down so he's eye-level.

ANTONY

But, we never are. Most of the time we don't get this far.

Distressed, Nic runs his fingers over his head.

**INT. HOME. SECOND HALLWAY. FLASHBACK.**

Nic stares at Antony for a beat before turning.

NICHOLAS

Wait. This is all wrong. We're supposed to be outside the home.

ANTONY

I know.

Antony and Nic wear different outfits, Antony kneels down so he's eye-level.

ANTONY

But, we never are.

Distressed, Nic runs his fingers over his head.

BACK TO:

**INT. HOME. SECOND HALLWAY. (TP2)**

NICHOLAS

We have done this before!

Antony rests a meaty hand on Nic's shoulder.

ANTONY

Yeah I'm sorry, Nick...

Ted's coming outside.

NICHOLAS

I don't remember Ted. Who's she?

ANTONY

Your granddaughter, she's a writer  
too, an enormous fan of your books.

Nic's hands tremble as he covers his face.

NICHOLAS

She's not a robot?

Antony shakes his head. His hat GLINTS in the moon light. Nic  
glances down at his hand. There's dried BLOOD on it.

NICHOLAS

I-I think I hurt her.

ANTONY

(laughing)

Yeah the first time yes, a little.  
We did our magic with a hologram.

NICHOLAS

I pored saltwater all over her.

ANTONY

Yeah, I think you've gonna haveta  
apologize for that one.

Ted's closing in.

NICHOLAS

I was sure she was a bot. I mean,  
that's one of the rules. Right? If  
you don't take the meds, they  
assign you a companion-bot.

Antony gives a slow nod.

ANTONY

Yeah. That's the rule.

NICHOLAS

I've a companion bot?

ANTONY

Yes, you do.

Nic stares at the downcast head of his best friend, seeing  
only the rim of his hat.

NICHOLAS

No.

Paralyzed, Nic rolls back.

NICHOLAS  
Don't. Please. Don't.

Slowly, kindly, Antony takes off his hat, looks at Nic with BRIGHT ROBOTIC EYES.

ANTONY  
Like I said. I hate this part.

Nic looks panicky.

NICHOLAS  
Lemme get out! NOW!!!

Nic breaks down sobbing.

ANTONY  
Nic look around you. See how happy you made all these people. You are what they need.

Nic's dark mood softens at that.

JUMP TO:

**INT. HOME. SECOND HALLWAY. NIGHT**

Antony lifts Nic out of his chair, punches a code into the lock, and it slides open.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
Antony is my best friend. No matter how many times we escape; he never complains, never gets tired, and he never makes me take the pills.

Ted looks up at the enormous robotic companion, sees Nic safely cradled in its arms, and relaxes.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
Ted's new at our little adventure, but I'm sure she'll get better at it in time.

Antony's rubber duck SQUEAKS as he carries Nic back to his room. Ted walks beside the pair. Nic, completely lucid, puts his hand on Ted's shoulder.

NICHOLAS  
Tomorrow, I'll read your novel.

Ted's liquid-soaked shoes SQUISH as she trudges alongside.

NICHOLAS  
I just hope I like your work better  
than your shoes Ted'ache!

Her shoulders bent low.

TED  
You always say that.

She smiles to hide a frown.

FADE TO...

**INT. HOME. MORING LIGHT ON... (DENOUEMENT)**

Our LOOP again: TED silhouetted, reads. Nic's agitation draws her again. This time the Cinnamon colored CAT rests on Nic's lap. Ted's hair is down, she seems softer. She's Teddy now.

TEDDY  
Are you okay?

Nic grunts his normal...

NICHOLAS  
Yeah!

TEDDY  
Hum. Well, Wouldcha like to hear a  
nice story I just wrote?

INTERJECTION...

NICHOLAS  
FU... (Stops himself) You know  
what, on second thought, Sure go  
ahead. Why not?!

For the first time in our little tale, we see Teddy truly smile. A real one this time.

END CREDITS OVER SNOW:

WORLDWIDE, NEARLY 50 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE ALZHEIMER'S OR  
RELATED DEMENTIA  
[www.site.com](http://www.site.com)

THE END