



Once upon a time,  
in the land of the Big Mitten in the  
not-so-exciting town of Grand Rapids,  
there lived a princely man named Larry and his  
princessly wife, Roberta.

They shared their “Fuller Hope” house with five  
feline companions and a wise old woman they  
called “Mom.”

Larry and Roberta filled their days working in  
churches and offices and running around in  
circles to make the money to run the household  
that the felines demanded.

Larry spent his days of the jubilee year as the  
Worship Coordinator and Music Director in a  
church in the village of Sparta.

Roberta continued as a coordinator in a  
nonprofit dedicated to making the lives of the  
oldest and frailest among us a little brighter.

The wise old woman they called “Mom” filled her  
days with music and laughing and becoming one  
with the space around her.

And the felines sat around and purred and  
enjoyed the amenities of the household that  
they had demanded.

From the wise old woman they called “Mom,” the  
princely Larry and princessly Roberta learned  
much. Some of these lessons include:

- ❖ Songs are a pathway to the soul. You may  
forget your name, what time it is and whether  
you want your midday tea, but your heart  
will always give you a song to sing.
- ❖ Just because you don’t hear from them, or  
maybe they verbally can’t or don’t talk to  
you, doesn’t mean that those people you  
love don’t love you back. Sometimes  
distance and discomfort get in the way of  
our true feelings – but love and friendship  
still exists.
- ❖ Granola is one of the perfect breakfast  
foods. Especially with bananas. And yogurt.
- ❖ The day-to-day course of diseases,  
especially ones like Alzheimer’s, are a lot like

vacuum cleaners. They both really ... well,  
you know.

- ❖ When you can’t walk anymore and someone  
must carry you, you can still give them a  
warm hug and a kiss and a smile.
- ❖ We all have a gift to give – whether we  
realize it or not. Our mission in life isn’t over  
until our last breath is taken.
- ❖ Felines make good feet warmers in the  
middle of the night.
- ❖ You’ll enjoy life a lot more if you wear silly  
hats, don silly shoes and most importantly  
have attitude and actions as silly as you want  
to be. And don’t care about what others  
think of your outer shell – it’s your inner  
journey that’s the important thing.
- ❖ There is an up side to every down side and a  
lesson in every event, no matter how painful  
– sometimes it just takes awhile to learn the  
lesson. And sometimes you’ve learned it  
even when you don’t think you have.
- ❖ Don’t assume that others don’t know what’s  
going on. Usually they’re smarter than you  
think and are probably a step in front of  
you.
- ❖ There’s a lot more around us than our  
conscious mind leads us to believe.
- ❖ Who cares about ‘chads’ when there’s  
chocolate to eat and music to hear?
- ❖ Wear purple.

And so it was that the princely Larry and  
princessly Roberta and the five feline  
companions and the wise old woman they called  
“Mom” lived together in the “Fuller Hope” house  
in the not-so-exciting town of Grand Rapids in  
the land of the Big Mitten. And because this  
story is still unfolding, we must wait until the next  
installment to find out how the story continues.

However, to all of you they give you their  
holiday greetings and warm hugs and virtual hot  
chocolate and best wishes for a year of  
enlightenment and peace.