

Taking Care of Uncle Reece

It was the day of the Gunther family's extended family holiday. It was also Erroll's unfortunate task to get his Uncle to the airport on time.

He noticed that Uncle Reece had fallen asleep in the back of the Uber. The elder then startled himself awake, called out the name of his late wife, and promptly died of what was later determined to be a massive stroke. It was such a quiet, almost elegant death that his nephew Erroll's first instinct, who sat beside him in the car and was a celebrated doctor, was not to disturb the man.

A quick check of his pulse confirmed the worst.

"Uncle Reece?" Erroll inquired. He couldn't think of much else to say. "Why was I the one who had to deal with him?" he thought.

It was then that Erroll's phone rang. It was his mother who was also Uncle Reece's older sister. She was calling from the airport, surrounded by extended family members, excited for the trip.

"He-llo," Erroll said.

"Thank you for taking care of Uncle Reece. He's not drunk, is he?"

"Not anymore."

"We are all sitting just past security at the airport. We can't wait to see you."

"Who?" said Erroll, a little lost.

"The whole family!"

"Ok."

"Can I talk to Uncle Reece?"

"Yes," said Erroll, then added, "no."

"Why not?"

"She wants to talk to you," he said to his late Uncle. The elder still reeked of alcohol. Erroll had cleaned him up best he could after finding him on his couch, empty bottles and pornographic materials strewn about.

"Reece?" said the mother. "We are so excited you are coming on this trip. Let's start fresh, Ok?"

"Uh-uh" mumbled Erroll in an Uncle Reece sort of way.

"Let's you and I go out for dinner. But no drinking, OK?"

"Uh-huh," replied the imposter.

"Put Erroll back on."

"Hi," said Erroll in his most natural voice.

"We appreciate you doing this."

"Uh-huh." He hung up.

He then searched on Google for nearby funeral centers. He re-routed the Uber app to the Moskowitz Funeral home and the driver took note. Upon arrival, Erroll directed the car toward the intake entrance.

Uncle Reece was taken in by a sympathetic undertaker. Information and credentials were exchanged.

Erroll then rerouted the Uber app to Kennedy Airport, satisfied that he had taken care of Uncle Reece best he could.