

## Them Other People

When Mike was a boy and he was asked about the world, he had it divided up this way: “There’s me, Poppa, Dranny, Dean, Barbara and then there’s them other people.” He spent a lot of time with Poppa, and that’s where he learned about them other people and how he ain’t to be like them, always doing foolishness.

Mike and Dean both learned that lesson well, although Dean enjoys his occasional foolishness, and Mike married into a family who know it too. We’ve seen that in these last several years as Dranny got older and became more difficult to look after. Them other people might have put her in a nursing home; them other people might have told the doctor to drug her up where she’d sleep all the time; them other people might have gotten mad and left when Dranny would fly mad and not believe them when they didn’t see the same things she was seeing; them other people might have left her home alone; them other people might have ignored her and kept their children away; that’s the type of things them other people do.

Them other people wouldn’t have stayed with her around the clock, no matter her mood or what they’d rather be doing. Them other people wouldn’t visit with great-grandchildren and Harmons and Hoards every Sunday under the shade tree where Poppa had dispensed most of his wisdom years ago. Them other people wouldn’t always think of Dranny and try to keep her happy and bring her whatever she’d thought she could eat. Them other people wouldn’t have sat by her bedside at the end, worrying about what else they might have been able to do.

In a world filled with them other people, it’s good to know a few who ain’t.