

Granny Always Said

Traditional Parenting Tips for Today's Parents

Grant Charles, Hali McLennan, & Thom Garfat



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Introduction



There are a lot of books out there on parenting. Some of them very good, some not so good. However, regardless of their content they all seem to have one thing in common. They're just too complicated. They talk (not that books can talk) in great detail about what you should do and shouldn't do. "Great parents do this, bad parents do that. If you don't do this or that by a certain age your kid won't grow up to be a perfect adult". This stuff can get quite scary and gosh, most of the advice in these books is darn near impossible to do on a consistent basis. There's nothing wrong with the advice but a lot of it just seems to make parents feel bad or inadequate about themselves.

This isn't the way it's supposed to be. Parenting just isn't as complicated as these books make it out to be. In fact, it's pretty straightforward for most of us. There's stuff you have to do, some stuff you shouldn't do and some stuff you have to learn to do but nothing that most of us won't learn to do just fine. It's

not rocket science. For the most part it's just good old common sense.

We don't need a pile of long-winded books to help us be good parents. All we need as parents is some straight-forward support and some good old-fashioned advice. Not from books that give you a headache as you try to figure out exactly how to do in real life what they are suggesting. Instead we need the kind of knowledge that our grandparents knew so well. They didn't learn what they needed from books full of new space-aged theory. They learned about parenting from doing it and living it. They had a lot they could teach us.

Granny Casey knew how to parent. It's easy to conjure up an image of the ideal grandmother. Quiet, soft spoken, grey haired, gentle. Plates of cookies, bowls of candies. A loving touch. A great mental image.

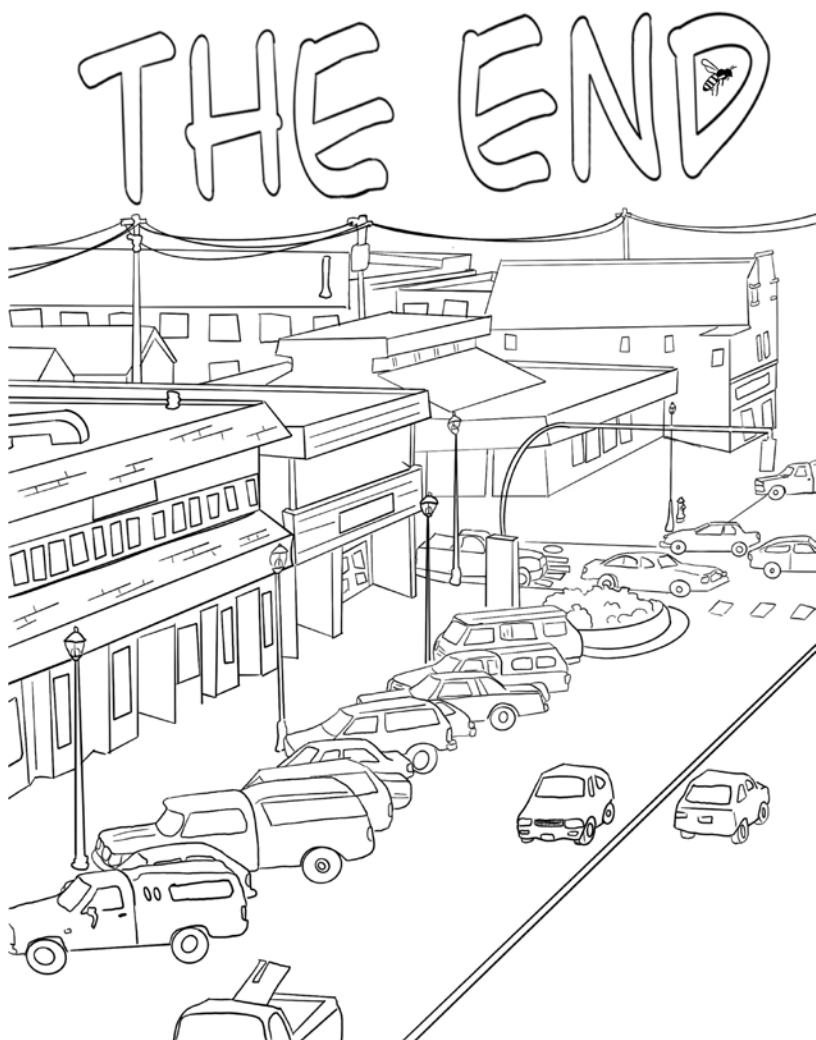
Well, Granny Casey wasn't anything like that. She was a hard fisted, loud, driven woman. She lived in hard times, raised her kids after the war when times were still tough. She had to fight for survival. She didn't know the meaning of gentle. She made mistakes and accepted them because she knew that was part of being a parent and a person.

Granny Casey was Irish. Least ways as Irish as anyone could be if they had an Irish name but came from the stock of all sorts of different people. You see her family has been here for many years so no one knew what they were. She was so short that she wasn't even five-foot-tall in her dreams. She was a good parent. No hands-off parenting for her. She was an in your face type of parent so rarely seen today. She was clear on what good parenting was. No pampering or self-actualization for her kids. Her kids were raised to live in the world. They were raised to be

respectful, responsible and realistic. Granny had clear expectations of her children. She raised good kids.

Granny might not have always been right but she was right so often that when she wasn't it really didn't count. These are stories about our uncles and aunt when they were being raised by our grandmother during tough times in this country. What follows is advice Granny Casey either gave or would have given about parenting given half the chance.

Granny Casey knew the importance of magic for young people. She knew that in order to learn to hope for the future young people have to first think that anything is possible. Granny always said that believing in magic was the first step.



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