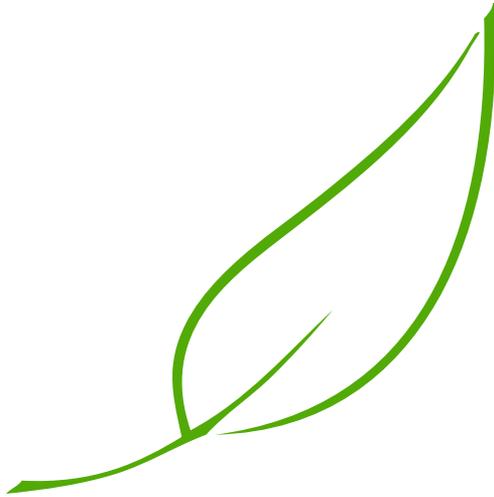


# THE CURSE OF GRANNY

by Ken Bradbury



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Characters: Father, Mother, Bobby, Rene ...  
a typically American and slightly dysfunctional family.

**FATHER:** (*entering in a huff*) I can't stand it! I just can't stand it anymore!

**MOTHER:** (*entering*) Dear, they're just children.

**FATHER:** How can they stand their music that loud! Don't they have headphones?

**MOTHER:** Headphones can cause ear damage, dear.

**FATHER:** And that loud music doesn't?

**MOTHER:** No, it just causes nerve damage for you and me.

**FATHER:** You know, sometimes I wonder why we ever had children.

**MOTHER:** John!

**FATHER:** They're driving me crazy!

**MOTHER:** Don't even say that, John! Remember, you might get what you say!

**FATHER:** That's ridiculous.

**MOTHER:** Not according to Granny Johnson.

**FATHER:** There we go again with the Granny Curse! That's ridiculous!

**MOTHER:** Granny lived to be a hundred and three. She surely had something going for her.

**FATHER:** The same lady who would have to spit between her fingers to remove the curse every time somebody mentioned bad luck? The same old dame who'd hung chicken feet over doorway to keep measles away?

**MOTHER:** Make fun if you want, the woman was usually right. She said that if you claim something, you'll get it.

**FATHER:** I think I'll go hang garlic around our kids' neck. Maybe it'll soften their music. (*shouting off*) Turn that garbage down!

**BOBBY:** (*entering*) What'd you say, Dad? I couldn't hear you over the music!

**FATHER:** That's just the point!

**RENE:** (*entering*) Why's Daddy shouting?

**MOTHER:** (*shouting*) It's the music, dear! It makes him crazy!

**BOBBY:** I can't hear you, Mom!

**FATHER:** You kids are gonna go deaf some day! I mean it! Stone cold deaf from all that loud music!

**RENE:** (*slapping her ears a bit*) Wow. That's weird. Dad, your lips are moving but I can't hear what you're saying.

**BOBBY:** Who turned off the music?

**FATHER:** What're you doing?

**BOBBY:** Can't hear you, Dad. And I can't hear the music.

**RENE:** Daddy, I'm not kidding! I can't hear a thing!

**BOBBY:** Are you talking to me? Speak up!

**MOTHER:** John!

**FATHER:** What's going on?

**MOTHER:** They can't hear, John! You cursed them!

**FATHER:** I never swear!

**MOTHER:** Granny's curse! You told them they'd go deaf!

**BOBBY:** Man, it's quiet.

**RENE:** (*hugging her brother, in tears*) Oh, Bobby.

**BOBBY:** What's the matter? Did we lose the game?

**MOTHER:** Remove it, John!

**FATHER:** What?

**MOTHER:** You've got to remove the curse! Spit between your fingers!

**FATHER:** Huh?

**MOTHER:** Spit! Spit!

**BOBBY:** (*to Rene*) What's she saying?

**MOTHER:** (*grabbing Father by the throat*) Spit!

**FATHER:** I can't! You're choking me! (*she lets go*) This is ridiculous. (*he spits between two fingers*)

**RENE:** Oh! I can hear! I can hear!

**FATHER:** You're kidding.

**BOBBY:** Wow. Some trick, Dad. You learn that in the Army?

**FATHER:** It was a ... I don't ... a fluke ... something you ate for dinner.

**BOBBY:** I don't even like fluke.

**FATHER:** Just turn down that music so I can have some peace and quiet.

**BOBBY:** Sure thing, Pop. *(stops to take a drink of something)*

**FATHER:** Since when did you drink coffee?

**BOBBY:** Just started. This yours?

**FATHER:** It doesn't matter. You start drinking coffee at your age and it'll stunt your growth.

**RENE:** Oh Daddy, you're so silly. *(she drinks a cup)*

**FATHER:** Can anybody hear me?

**BOBBY:** Can now. I think the coffee unclogged my ears. Want a cup, Dad?

**FATHER:** *(to Mother)* You let them drink coffee?

**MOTHER:** Ever since they were little.

**BOBBY:** Hey! What's happening? *(he and Rene have started to "shrink" before their very eyes, slowing going down and down until they eventually end up on their knees)*

**RENE:** Mommy! I'm getting shorter! I'm getting shorter! What a world! What a world!

**MOTHER:** John! John, look what you've done!

**FATHER:** I didn't touch them!

**MOTHER:** The curse! You said it'd stunt their growth! Look at them! Just look what's happening!

**FATHER:** They're getting shorter. Now that is really weird. Great, now we'll have to buy all new clothes.

**RENE:** Dad! My legs are getting so short they hardly touch the ground! Do something!

**BOBBY:** And I was gonna play for the Bulls someday! Do something, Pop!

**MOTHER:** Spit, John! Spit!

**FATHER:** This is ridiculous!

**MOTHER:** *(grabbing him)* Spit! *(he spits and the two kids start resuming their original height)*

**BOBBY:** Cool! Dad, I never knew you were a magician!



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*CURSE OF GRANNY*

*by Ken Bradbury.*

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