

Margo Asher Died Here

SYNOPSIS

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Nestled in the rural hills of Litchfield, Connecticut is the Margo Asher Home for the Aged - a Chateausque mansion once owned by the independent, world-traveling photographer Margo Asher. The nursing home is overseen by its anal-retentive Executive Director, Roger Managee, assisted by a headstrong, no-nonsense nurse (Mabel) and a more gentle, social-climbing Somali immigrant (Aamiina).

One day, a new resident comes to live at the Margo Asher Home – an elderly man named Mr. Wixom, confused and barely communicative – brought there by his son, David, a gruff owner of a construction company. Before too long, the elderly gentleman is found to be connected at the hip to another resident, the more alert, vinegary Mrs. Chatwick, whose professional, feminist daughter, Shirley, is a women’s rights attorney.

As Mr. Wixom and Mrs. Chatwick become more and more of a pair, David and Shirley grow closer, too, sharing similar stories of parental neglect and similar feelings of parental pity.

Then it happens...

One night, Aamiina enters Mr. Wixom’s room to ensure he is sleeping soundly, but finds this is not the case - he and Mrs. Chatwick are having sex.

While seemingly consensual, this sexual incident causes ripples of controversy, including among the other residents, with the antiseptic Managee seeking to downplay and limit the sexual encounters, the cautious, career-focused Aamiina following Managee’s lead, and the headstrong Mabel rejoicing in the sex as a sign of rebellion and true living. David and Shirley similarly are of differing opinions. Shirley sees the sexual relationship as evidence of her mother’s liberation after years of being a forced housewife. David worries that his father is being used, as he was by exploitive employers throughout a poor, working-class life.

As time passes, the controversy grows greater and greater, the battle lines grow deeper and deeper, and the questions become ever starker... Are Mr.

Wixom and Mrs. Chatwick using sex to express some great burst of freedom and life – or is this something darker? Is the old Mr. Wixom aware enough to consent? Does he even know who Mrs. Chatwick is? Is this rape? Is Mrs. Chatwick unfairly targeted for disdain? And what role does the head nurse, Mabel, really play in all of this – and what might be her motivations?

The answers are enough to tear apart the seams of more than one relationship.