

Winter and Spring Synopsis

Together in suburban contentment, elderly painter Bud Kerr and his live-in carer Kit Myers have formed a surrogate father-daughter bond in the six years since a major heart attack left him unable to work alone.

At Bud's quarterly check up, the doctor pronounces him almost totally recovered, only needing a regular exercise program if he is to regain the last of his strength and become fully independent. Kit suggests a walking route through the local park but Bud is reluctant, not wanting to become just some old man on a bench. His reluctance covers his true fear, that his improving health will push Kit away from him.

At a dinner date, Kit's boyfriend George asks her to marry him. She doesn't accept, instead taking the ring and promising to give him an answer soon.

Bud and Kit begin walking in the park, Bud ignoring Keith, a friendly old man who sits on a bench along their route.

Having found Kit's engagement ring, Bud confronts her, asking her why she isn't wearing it. She feels conflicted. She loves George and wants to marry him but knows that doing so would take her away from Bud. She doesn't tell Bud though, instead accusing him of invading her privacy.

On their next walk, Kit deliberately strands Bud on the bench with Keith. Unable to resist the other man's charm and personality, Bud is drawn into a new friendship as Keith tells him of the joys of watching women play touch football.

Kit meets with George to accept his proposal of marriage on the condition that she stay with Bud until he is fully recovered. Although she doesn't realise it she is stalling for time, trying to hold off the inevitable, that sooner or later she and Bud must part.

Bud asks Kit what she thinks about the possibility of an old friend, Lily, moving in, now that he is stronger and Kit will be leaving soon to marry George. Kit is upset and doesn't hide it, she thought they would have more time together.

At a local art show Kit watches Lily and Bud sitting together and laments the flowering of their relationship over the withering of her own. After some soul searching she comes to terms with the fact that if she and Bud are to part it must be on good terms. She asks him if he has a timetable for Lily moving in, her way of telling him she has accepted the fact.

Bud takes his first solo walk in the park, stopping by Keith's bench but finding it empty.

Bud and Kit take a last trip to Mundaring Weir to walk the bush track and swim in the pool. At night they lie in their twin beds and share their mutual melancholy over their impending break-up.

Kit prepares for her wedding in her old bedroom at Bud's house. She tells Bud that, as a married woman, she will go by the more adult name Catherine rather than the childish Kit. They say a fond goodbye.

After the wedding, Kit's friend Lucy brings Bud home. She discovers that Bud never intended for Lily to move in, only telling Kit that so she would leave to marry George and be happy.

Bud walks in the park by himself. Keith is absent again. Bud watches the touch footballers run and play. He is healthy and independent once more, but all alone.