

# REGAL CARE

## Prologue

High on a hill, Regal Care, an assisted-living complex, stood imposing and majestic. The location was about one hour from Orlando, Florida and about ten miles from the popular retirement community, The Villages.

At first sight, most people were in awe when the tree hidden mansion-style home seemed to appear out of nowhere. Almost everyone had the same jaw-dropping reaction after one visit. Generally, the comments were similar. *“It’s charming, inviting, and well-maintained along with a professional, friendly, efficient staff.”*

Very few families want to place their loved ones in a health care facility. Usually, after touring Regal Care, family members leave feeling better and more confident about making their decision. How could they go wrong leaving their husband, father, mother or significant other in such a luxurious, loving atmosphere?

Regal Care’s staff would agree with the people’s assessments except for the night-shift employees. They had a constant dread when working the late hours. To them, the peaceful, friendly atmosphere changed after dark.

Although the staff had trepidations about working the night shift, not one of them could prove his or her suspicions. With apprehension about someone or something lurking around Regal Care, the unknown made the personnel more alert and watchful when performing their duties.

Most of the nurses and aides admit their fears began when a high number of patients died unexpectedly on the night shift. The staff voiced their concerns to the director and attending physicians. Their response was, *“Regal Care’s population is 70 and older. With age, death happens.”*

From that dismissive statement, employees believed management had little concern for their elderly patients. One of the older nurses, Shelley, overheard the director say, *“I don’t know why the employees are so concerned about our patients. Most of them are in the last quarter of their lives. In some cases, they are nothing but coffin dodgers.”*

The director’s attitude was disturbing, yet what could the staff do? Shelley rejoiced when the children of an eighty-five year old woman refused to accept the

explanation given regarding their mother's death.

The director stated that their mother died from natural causes, therefore, no need for an autopsy. The children insisted on having one since their mother recently had a physical and nothing was medically wrong with her. The reasons she moved into Regal Care were that she no longer wanted the responsibility of a house and didn't want to live alone.

The autopsy report indicated that the cause of death was murder. The police conducted an investigation, and after the probe, they arrested a nurse, Mabel Wilson. She killed five residents, and the jury found her guilty.

In court, when the judge sentenced Mabel to life in prison, she responded with a loud outburst. *"You might have put me in prison, but neither Regal Care nor the police can stop the work of The Chosen."*

The arrest and conviction should have calmed the night shift's fears. Not knowing if Mabel's threat was real or not, the staff continued to work in fear. When the blanket of darkness entered Regal Care, the staff waited, wondering who would be the next victim.