

RUSH THE MOON
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Logline: A gifted grandchild sees his Grandfather for the child he really is resulting in a joyful last hurrah for the Grandfather and all the residents of the retirement home who surrender to the boy's special touch.

Genre: Family

Audience: Families, Retirees, Baby Boomers

Themes: Valuing our Elders, The Inner Child, Self-worth

Synopsis: Benny Rush is a 9-year old boy with a pale freckled face and messy brown hair. His world is turned upside down when his mother suddenly goes missing one day. Benny believes it is his fault. He's filled with a sense of worthlessness and isolation and spends much of his time hiding in the woods. William Rush is Benny's 81-year grandfather living in a retirement home in Oregon. It's a happy place, filled with activity, naughtiness, and exhausted nurses and orderlies. William is playful, a prankster, a young boy in an old-man's body. Benny begins visiting his grandfather on weekends when Benny's father works. Benny and William aren't sure what to think of each other until William takes Benny out into the garden. There, their mutual love of nature takes over and they find themselves running and hiding and playing like children. William can see Benny is a special boy, can practically feel the trees and the plants responding to his touch. He suggests they plant a tomato patch. Some of the other residents are curious and come out to help. Over the next several weeks, Benny, William and the residents play in the garden while the tomatoes grow. One day, they are ready. Benny hands a juicy red tomato to his grandfather and watches as he bites. In a flash of golden light William becomes the 9-year-old boy he once was, right before Benny's eyes. They are both delighted. They run and play until sunset when they slowly walk back to the retirement home, hand in hand, an old man and his grandson. Over the following weeks Benny comes to visit his grandfather every weekend and each weekend they dine on tomatoes. They play as children. The residents take notice and reluctantly try a tomato. Each time the magic happens again. The garden becomes a playground for children. Benny finds a community and a sense of worth. He learns the lives of each of these fascinating people – the history professor, the nurse, the military man who built Navy ships for WWII, the mother of twelve, the carpenter. And they delight in telling him their stories. But the world outside the garden continues seeing these people as very old and nearly forgotten humans. They are fools, thinks Benny, grateful for the family he has found. One day in the garden, 9-year-old William approaches. "Should we play Hide and Seek?" asks Benny. "Not today, I'm afraid," says William. "I think I'll lie down." They exchange knowing looks. A big hug. And that is the beginning of the end for William. He returns to his bed and sleeps. The next weekend when Benny visits he sees his 81-year-old grandfather asleep in his bed. He holds his hand and stays with him to the end. After he is gone, Benny feels a presence behind him. He turns and looks in the doorway to see 9-year-old William watching him. "Thank you for playing with me, Benny. Thank you for always seeing me as I truly am." Benny smiles. "Don't forget the others," 9-year-old William says. "They need to be seen." "I won't," promises Benny. And he doesn't.

Unique Marketing Potential:

In a world of humans living longer, there is a market for stories told from the perspective of the aging population – that they are worthy, individual, lovely people. And our aging population can provide a wonderful sense of community, and a priceless source of history, for our young people of today.