

The following story takes place in 2030. A young boy called Johnathon always loved sitting under the same tree every day to read the same book. Johnathon loves to read but he only reads one book and this book is called ""The old, wise tree". The book talks about a talking tree that gives pieces of wisdom and advices to the young kids who sit under it. I guess you can understand now why Johnathon has never switched books or switched trees. Johnathon is so young and naïve that he believes reading this book will get the tree he sits under daily to talk. Johnathon tried naming the tree and he was surprised that the tree didn't talk back to Johnathon when he gave it a name which made him lead to the following conclusion: "Please talk Mr. Simeon" Johnathon said to the tree miserably "Why aren't you responding?" he wondered. "Aha! Maybe you aren't a mister after all, maybe you are a female and you were too shy when I gave you that name so you decided not to talk back to me" Johnathon said "I am really sorry about that. I actually think that this better establishes our relation" Johnathon said while looking hopefully at the tree. "Johnny it's time for dinner" Johnathon's mom called "Ok mom I am coming. Can Mrs. Addilyn come?" Johnny asked while at the tree. "Well Johnny, I don't think Mrs. Addilyn wants to eat" Johnathon's mom said while laughing. "Why not?" Johnathon asked. "Well..." his mom stuttered. "She just ate" his mom lied. "That's weird, I sat here all day and I haven't seen her flinch...." "Oh come on you silly boy" Johnny's mom interrupted "The food is getting cold". Johnathon's mom really loved her child, she really did. She loved him so much that she couldn't risk hurting his feelings and telling him that the tree doesn't talk or move. Although it is the right thing to do, she decide to keep up with this lie. "Maybe Johnny will figure it himself" She pondered. "Maybe if I tell him he will go insane cause I crushed his hopes". Just saying multiple nonsensical sentences to delay what's inevitable. Some call her lazy, some call her right. From my point of view I think Johnny's mom is a bit more like you. I know you care but you haven't done a single move to prove it. But, who am I to judge?

A month passes and Johnathon grew more and more impatient. Johnathon finished the book over 50 times, he keeps shouting at the tree to talk but then apologizes for his rudeness. The other kids think Johnny has gone insane but at least he has the courtesy to sit outside without a phone or an I-pod. At least he is living his childhood right. Whether right means screaming at a tree or rereading the same book every day. Anyways but something weird happened in the week following. Johnny sat down under the tree and started crying. His

mother saw him from the house's window. She might not care enough to tell him that this tree is never moving or talking however many times he reads the book but at least she knows when to step in to do her duties as a mother.

"What's wrong Johnny?", "Is the tree still not talking back?" his mother asked. Johnny didn't respond. "I think it is just a matter of time before..." "THEY ARE GOING TO KILL MRS. Addilyn" Johnny screamed while interrupting his mother.

"What makes you think that?" Johnny's mom asked with surprise. Johnathon proceeded to hand his mom a piece of paper that looks like it was hanged somewhere. "I found this nailed on the tree" He said. The paper said that the town is running out of wood and lumberjacks are going to pass by every house to cut any tress in the lawn and the property owners will be given money for the following process. The paper was also signed off by the mayor and many other public figures. Blinded by the mentioned money, Johnathon's mom started to think about the possibilities of cutting down that tree. She won't have to tell Johnathon about the tree's truth and she will get a respectable amount of money. So as you expected, Johnathon's mom saw this situation as a win-win. But, seeing her child so devastated she had to do something. So, she ran to the lumberjack workers that were in the house nearby to ask them about the date which they will cut down the tree in-front of their house. "Well, Ma'am we are not so sure yet but it is definitely not today" The lumberjack responded "My body and I are tired from all the cutting and lifting and we just want to go home". "Thank you fine gentlemen" Johnathon's mom responded while rushing in happiness back to Johnathon. She seemed to have a plan or something in mind. Will she focus on making her son forget about the tree or will she direct her main focus to satisfying her soul to not feel guilty about the action. Either way the money is not letting her think this properly. "Did you convince them to remove the tree mom? They won't kill Addilyn, right?" Johnathon asked with the face of worry and the look of hope. "I am really sorry Johnny" Johnathon's mom looked down trying to look sorry. "I wasn't able to do anything. You should go now and spend the last hours with the tree". Johnathon ran to the tree and started hugging it and crying while his mom took a trip to the mall. Later that day, Johnathon's mom returned with a master plan. "Hey Johnny I brought Chinese" she said finding her son still laying down the tree with his frown upside down. "Hey Johnny, can you go in and set the table please?" Johnny went inside slowly, depressed about the fact that he is losing his best friend tomorrow. When Johnathon went in, his mom looked around to make sure no one is

watching and proceeded to whip out duct tape, a speaker and a mic. She taped the speaker and the mic to the tree and connected them to the garage. When Johnathon was back he was surprised about the wires. "Well the workers told me to connect them to the tree until tomorrow so it won't feel any pain while it is being cut" Johnathon's mom explained. "Awww" Johnny said with satisfaction "Thank you mom" Johnny said while hugging his mom. This tree is so weird. At the beginning this tree made John angry and confused and made his mom lie. Now that the tree is leaving, Johnny is angry and confused again and his mom is still lying. After Johnathon's mom went in she went to her room, locked the door, and proceeded to hear. She heard Johnathon clearly and she let out a small "Yes!" which the second mic in her hand picked up. "What was that?" Johnny asked. "Hi Johnny" Johnny's mom said with a different voice and a different accent to try to sound like the tree. "How are you doing today?" She continued to say. Johnny couldn't believe himself. He had a lot of mixed emotions. One is surprised cause he thought it wasn't possible, the other is happy because all his hard work didn't turn to waste, and the last one is amazed about how likely the tree's voice looks like his mom's. "I KNEW IT!" He shouted. "Sorry for not speaking a lot Johnny" she said. "I can be a bit shy sometimes" she said while letting a small laugh. "But, I really love the name you have given me. Addilyn; what a beautiful name". "Thank you so much, I named you after a character in the book I am reading". "I heard I am getting removed tomorrow, is it true?" she said. "I saw the paper hanged on me but I haven't gone to a school so I can't read." They both laughed. "Don't be so silly, nobody is cutting you down." He explained. Johnathon's mom had a surprised look on her face. "Are you sure honey? I heard you and your mom talking..." "No we were talking about the other tree..... um Sally the tree" Johnny interrupted. Johnathon's mom felt surprised! How would his son tell such an awful lie! He might be trying to protect the tree's feelings. Or he might be too scared to tell. Either way this resembled a similar scenario that occurred to his mom. I mean, this conversation is happening because Johnathon's mom is pretending to be a tree (lying) and Johnathon is not telling the tree about what will happen tomorrow (also lying). Maybe lying is the best that this family can do to escape from any sort of commitment. Maybe this family represents all of us when we face any sort of challenge that can be easily solved with one lie or two. I guess we really are humans after all. After a long conversation between Johnathon and the tree Johnathon decided to go to bed. "Goodnight Addilyn, we'll speak tomorrow".

"Goodnight Johnny" she responded. Johnathon slept like a baby ignoring the fact that he lied to someone about something so big that nobody could bear hiding about it. Humans would bear lying about it though. We lie about everything possible to lie about. Johnathon's mom woke up early and went over the tree to remove the contraption she made. While going over she saw a lady fighting with the lumberjacks. "This neighborhood won't have any oxygen left after what you are doing is done. Do you know how much you are hurting the environment right now?" She shouted at the two men. "I am sorry lady but orders from the mayor" One of the workers responded. "I don't care if it is the mayor or the president who told you that, you can't rob us from our oxygen or our fresh air". The two workers continued to ignore the lady. "Excuse me ma'am is this house 57?" One of the workers asked Johnathon's mom "Yes, it is" she responded. "I can't believe how arrogant you are" the shouting lady said to Johnathon's mom. "I am an environmentalist and every day Mother nature is experiencing forest fire after forest fire after forest fire and instead of replanting saplings in lands that are suitable for planting trees, you are letting them cut the trees down like the rest of the neighborhood. I mean you have a son, don't you care about whether he gets fresh air or not?" The lady kept on shouting. "I am sorry lady orders of the mayor" the worker repeated "now can you please let me do my job?". "Wait a second" Johnathon's mom said. "I think she is right." "Well congratulations both of you can have yourselves a little tea party or something and let me do my job because I am not entitled to help you breathe better." The lumberjack said mocking the two ladies. Johnathon's mom couldn't do anything neither could the environmentalist. The higher power claims to always know better but I think the amazon rainforests think otherwise. I mean, the worker is partially right, he is not entitled about how they breathe he is just doing his job. The real mistake falls on the mayor is what anyone might say when presented with a story like this. But, I hate to break it down for you but the real mistake falls on you. You let this all happen, from the forest fires that are deemed "natural cause" to the resources running out. You are not just watching without intervening, you are actually helping the higher power change the future of this earth with your own hands. At the end of the day, it wouldn't have been called higher power unless people let it be higher than them. This story can lead to many endings. Maybe the neighborhood's people actually woke their conscience up and started replanting the trees, maybe they gave up on fresh air and suffocated in 30 years, and maybe they all moved out claiming

the neighborhood to be too closed. But, our story will always lead to the same ending. You ending you with the help of you.