

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for this poignant story, in which we get to know this older woman and the loneliness of her retirement. It is so affecting how she feels like she is still sitting alone even when her husband comes to sit next to her, and you show that beautifully with the woman's wandering thoughts and that painfully indifferent glance from her husband at the end. If I was fortunate to have grandparents living today, this story would definitely inspire me to give them a call and some love. I am thrilled to be working on this piece with you, and I cannot wait for others to read it as well.

You will see in my edits/comments that my main questions have to do with clarity. Though some questions of clarity arise from just minor pronoun confusion, for right now, I want to call your attention to the transitions between paragraphs and ideas. For example, on the second page, we go from "She too suffered from painful knees" (ending the paragraph about how the woman and her husband no longer ride their motorcycle like they used to) and then jump to "She instead thought of what life would be like on her own" (beginning the paragraph of a possible future with her husband dead). To a reader—and I could have just read this wrong but—this seems like a weird jump since I was not sure what "instead" was referring to. I believe clear and fluid transitions are really beneficial for an immersive readerly experience of this story, and I think it is especially important as we move between the character's thoughts of the past, her thoughts on the future, and her sitting on the porch.

There is one other point I want to touch on. I think you use characterization very well as we slowly learn just how dissatisfied this woman is at this point in her life. I just wonder if we could come back to the "overwhelming feelings" that you made reference to in the very first paragraph. It is only once we read the rest of the story that we understand what those feelings were, which is great. However, would it be possible to also see how those feelings about her life and her husband are affecting her more towards the end of the narrative?

Again, [REDACTED], thank you for this deep story. Please let me know if you have any questions for me or just want to discuss. I am enthusiastic to continue working with you and to see where you go from here.

All the best,
Sarah