

FOOLSCAP GLOBAL STORY GRID – © Shawn Coyne

***A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman**

Analysis by Kim Kessler

GLOBAL STORY	GLOBAL GENRE: Morality-Testing-Triumph		
	External Genre: Love-Marriage		
	External Value at Stake: Love/Hate		
	Internal Genre: Morality-Testing-Triumph		
	Internal Value at Stake: Selfishness/Altruism		
	<p>Conventions:</p> <p>Despicable protagonist begins at his/her worst.</p> <p>Spiritual mentor/sidekick</p> <p>Seemingly impossible external conflict.</p> <p>Ghosts from protagonist's past torment him/her</p> <p>Aid from unexpected sources</p>		
	<p>Obligatory Scenes:</p> <p>A shock upsets the hibernating authentic self.</p> <p>The Protagonist expresses inner darkness with an overt refusal of the Hero's Journey call to change.</p> <p>Protagonist faces an All Is Lost Moment and either discovers their inner moral code or chooses the immoral path.</p> <p>Protagonist actively sacrifices self in service of an individual, a group, or humanity (positive) or consciously chooses to remain selfish (negative)</p> <p>Protagonist faces literal or metaphorical death and either loses the battle but gains self-respect, meaning and peace; or wins the battle but loses those things.</p>		
	<p>Point of View:</p> <p>Omniscient narrator who, while centering on Ove, shifts at perspective at will, from the present to the past, inserting thoughts and commentary for various characters, including the epilogue which gives us insight into the world after Ove's death.</p>		
	<p>Objects of Desire [SEE INCITING INCIDENT, Want = MacGuffin]:</p> <p>Ove wants to live life on his own terms, and if he can't, well then, he doesn't want to live anymore.</p> <p>Ove needs to live and give of himself in all circumstances, even when (especially when) the world is unfair.</p>		
	<p>Controlling Idea/Theme:</p> <p>Love prevails, even in death, when we continue to give our best to others despite life's hardships.</p>		
BEGINNING HOOK		External Charge	Internal Charge
	Inciting Incident (causal/coincidental): Causal – Ove's wife Sonja has died of cancer.	–	–
	Turning Point Progressive Complication (Act/Rev): Active – Ove is let go from his job.	n/a	–
	Crisis (BBC/IG): Best Bad Choice – Kill himself but get to be with Sonja or continue living in a world that doesn't make sense without her.	?	?
	Climax: Ove installs a hook and hangs himself with rope.	–	–

	Resolution: The rope he's trying to hang himself with breaks. Ove lives another day, and begrudgingly bleeds the radiators for his neighbors Anita and Rune.	+	+
MIDDLE BUILD		External Charge	Internal Charge
	Inciting Incident (causal/coincidental): Causal - Parvaneh interrupts Ove trying to kill himself because her husband has fallen off the ladder and needs someone to drive them to the hospital.	n/a	+
	Turning Point Progressive Complication (Act/Rev): Revelatory – After Ove has used the trailer to block the white coats' car, he realizes that in the end it won't really make any difference. "Men in white shirts always win. And men like Ove always lose people like Sonja. And nothing can bring her back to him."	-	-
	Crisis (BBC/IG): While attempting to shoot himself, there is a knock at the door—a young man has been kicked out by his father for being gay and needs a place to stay. Irreconcilable Goods – Allow Mirsad to stay (but Ove has to stay alive) or Turn Mirsad away (so Ove can get back to killing himself)	?	?
	Climax: Ove lets Mirsad stay.	+	+
	Resolution: He knows Sonja would be happy with his choice.	+	+
ENDING PAYOFF	EP: Ove turns a corner and begins putting his gift into action for all of those in his neighborhood. He makes up with his old friend Rune, helps keep him from going into a home. Even when Ove's heart wants to give out, he decides to stick around, living three more years and contributing to the lives around him, until his natural death.	External Charge	Internal Charge
	Inciting Incident (causal/coincidental): Causal – Jimmy tells Ove that Anita has been battling the white shirts for three years and never told him. They really are coming for Rune in a week.	n/a	+
	Turning Point Progressive Complication (Act/Rev): Active – While chasing down some burglars, Ove has a heart attack. Revelatory – The doctors tell him "his heart is too big" but with medication he may have months or years left.	n/a	-
	Crisis (BBC/IG): (Implied) Irreconcilable Goods – Ove could kill himself now and go home to Sonja or continue living with his neighbors until his natural death.	?	?
	Climax: Ove lives three more years until his natural death, where he's left Parvaneh a heart-felt letter assuring her he's not killed himself.	+	+
	Resolution: Ove's funeral has over three hundred people attend.	+	+