

Draft Chapter for use in novel 'Seeing 2020'

by Tom Peters

Lloyd thought it was one thing to talk to Blake about the year 2020 and the years after, but quite another to discuss the Vietnam war and the sexual and intimate side of his life. Blake deserved a first-hand account of his personal side of his life leading up to the 2020s and what eventually led to a changed America. A dramatically changed America. Lloyd just wasn't sure how 'complete' the story should be, and he agonized over it.

Regulars strolling along the beach said, "Hi Lloyd". If he heard them, Lloyd almost always responded with a friendly nod, smile, wave or "Good morning", not today. Lloyd was someplace else.

Mia was just returning from a morning run to wake Blake, fix breakfast and prepare for the drive to see grandpa.

Mia chose to set up her practice in the "Riviera of the West", Santa Barbara. The drive took almost two hours to Santa Monica. She always took the coast highway route 1 to Santa Monica to avoid the crowded freeways. Lloyd drove that same route for years when Taylor's father and stepmother lived in Santa Barbara.

Lloyd returned from his walk, showered and was just finishing his light breakfast of quick fried eggs on crisp baby bok choy, a few figs and cherry tomatoes when he heard the door open for his favorite guests.

"Hi Papa!", Blake announced from the front of the apartment.

“Hi Dad”, Mia said as they entered the kitchen.

“How are my girls?”

“Blake saw a large pod of dolphins on the way down,”

“Yes, Papa...I remember seeing a video you once took of dolphins surfing in Ventura I think.”

“Correct my dear, quite the sight I must admit. I’ve been lucky to see surfing dolphins another time since then while visiting Shamel Park near Cambria.”

“Some Tea Mia?”,

“Yes, thanks Dad.”

Lloyd was smiling. “Anything exciting happen on the operating table since you stitched up that coyote?”

“The usual, C-Sections on pampered pets, pet cheetah’s eye injury from chasing down a drone, broken legs and my favorite...bowel problems with an old parrot,” sighed Mia.

“Aren’t you glad you asked Dad?”

“Always! Fascinating work you do love, I’m so proud of you.”

“What’s your plans for today?”

“I’ve got two tickets to a matinee at Disney Hall, Loren is meeting me there. LA Phil is playing your beloved Samuel Barber,” Mia replied.

“Your mom and I were there Tuesday evening and we both cried and still rave about it,”

"I know, Mom told me."

"Let's plan an evening together there soon, I'll check their schedule for next month."

"OK, we'll do that", Mia smiled as Lloyd handed her a cup of tea.

"Hey, what about me?" Blake asked.

"Please join us sweetie", Mia quickly replied forgetting momentarily that Blake actually loved classical music.

"Please play us something on the piano sweetie," Mia asked Blake. Blake turned and walked over to Lloyd's Yamaha and started playing 'Take Five'.

"I know you love Brubeck Papa", Blake beamed.

"Easing me into a nostalgic mood for any special reason," Lloyd quizzed Blake.

"You know what we talked about on the hub last Wednesday Papa, just setting an advantageous ambiance," Blake said, not looking up from the keys.

"I think that's my cue," Mia suddenly said as she finished her tea.

"It's Saturday dear, no rush,"

"We'll go out for dinner when I return Dad and spend some more time together, you pick a spot."

"Perfect," Lloyd replied.

Blake and Lloyd both hugged Mia and waved goodbye from the doorway. They both went out to the patio and sat in the lawn chairs near Sue to chat.

Lloyd sighed to himself.