

The characters' fates

Lee

Lee went to nursing school, and he became a nurse practitioner. He went to work in a small town in northwest New Mexico in order to get part of his student loans forgiven. He likes it there, and he's married to a Navajo woman. They have two small girls.

Tom and Suzy and Puff

Tom graduated with a B.A. in business. After 9/11 he volunteered to fight in Afghanistan. Only four months later he returned with both his legs blown off above the knees. He gets around with artificial legs and crutches, though he's most comfortable in a wheelchair. He has a service dog, a small German Shepherd. The pain he's got makes it hard for him to keep a job. He's active in Veterans for Peace.

Suzy was still taking courses when Tom left, and when he returned she was waiting for him, and they got married. She quit school and got a job as a manicurist. They haven't been able to have children, so they decided to adopt. They have an African-American daughter and a son from Guatemala. Tom loves to toss baseballs to them and tell them of his days playing football.

Puff lived almost 15 years. They haven't got another cat.

Dick and Zoe and Spot

Dick finished his degree and got a job with an insurance company as an adjuster. Zoe got a job with the National Organization of Women after graduating. They still live together but aren't married. They have no children.

Spot died a couple years after they graduated. Zoe took it even harder than Dick did. She's now volunteering at the animal shelter in their town. They've adopted a Great Pyrenees-fox terrier cross she found there.

They're very close with Tom and Suzy, whose children call them "Uncle Dick" and "Aunt Zoe."

Harry

Harry went to law school and got a job with a medium-sized law firm in New York. He does a lot of pro-bono work. He's been dating a young lady he met at a law conference. He's started to suffer from depression; it seems to be genetic. He's getting it treated with medications and psychological counseling.

Flo

Flo is now a biochemist, working on gene splicing. Her mother still works as an administrative assistant at a local car dealership.

Maria

After graduating, Maria started a small business selling organic produce. She expanded that to include a restaurant, and she regularly supplies the local homeless shelter with free food. Right before she was to expand the restaurant, her 8-year-old niece was killed by a drunk hit-and-run driver. She started drinking heavily. Dick, and Zoe, and Manuel, and Tom, and Suzy who live nearby are trying to help her.

Manuel

Manuel got his degree in history and started teaching at high school. He married a man who teaches at the same school, but it didn't last. He's now divorced and living near Dick and Zoe. His students say he's inspiring. After many years of hard work with physical therapy, he can now walk with crutches.

Wanda

Wanda kept worrying about her weight, dieting and gaining, again and again. She became very depressed, never finished her degree, and finally, after her chihuahua Pepe died, tried to kill herself. After that she got psychological counseling and started going to Overeaters Anonymous. There she met a man who's as heavy as she is. They've been dating for a year. She's regained her original cheery self, no

longer worrying about her weight. She's developed Type 2 diabetes, but it's under control.

Professor Zzzzzzx

Professor Zzzzzzx retired and went back to Germany, where he lives with a younger sister. He is still working on his novel.

Dr. E

Dr. E wrote a textbook on critical thinking and made a lot of money from it. Then he married a much younger woman who had been his student and worked with him on the textbook. It didn't last. They divorced after three years, and Dr. E lost most of his money to her. His textbook stopped bringing in royalties because pirated copies of it showed up on the Internet. Now he's read *The BARK of DOG* and is trying to follow its way of peace and love. He's much more generous and kind, and he tries to rehabilitate cats.

Zeke

Zeke was convicted of armed robbery and distribution of drugs. He went to the state prison, where he studied critical thinking and read *The BARK of DOG* with Dr. E. He has now been released and is on probation. He has a job at Walmart, with some hope that he'll get moved up to a manager position, since he can reason so well.

They're all going to get together for a reunion this coming year. They hope you'll join them.