

Tales from the ARVInn—Jay and Lewis, Family Ties



Jay (4/2013) and Lewis (b2043) Burgley, 2073 ¹

Jeffrey “Jay” Burgley had strongly conflicting feelings about saying goodbye to his son, Lewis, as he was moving into ARVInn. Jay had been a hard-charging businessman, operating his furniture stores in southern Illinois for over thirty years, when the AR Virus reduced him to a barely four-year-old in 2067.

After his ‘bounce,’ it only took him a few weeks to realize some big changes would have to be made. So much of his business was based on his personality that it hadn’t taken long for problems to surface. Suppliers didn’t want to extend the terms he’d talked them into and customers definitely couldn’t respond to his enthusiastic sales pitches. He called in his managers and told them he was placing the business into the hands of his wife and son, officially. Unofficially, he was remaining involved, but each store was going to have to go its own way and keep itself in business.

Marianne and their twenty-four-year-old son, Lewis, were not strangers to the business, but it was a big challenge for them. They spent the next four years learning the hard way how to run the business. Then a new challenge presented itself. Marianne passed away suddenly from an undetected heart condition. Jay missed her terribly and was inconsolable for months afterward. Lewis spent many hours, day and night, holding and consoling his tiny father.

Jay, as attached to Lewis as he had become, realized it was hurting both Lewis and the business for him to occupy so much of Lewis' time and energy. With considerable reluctance, he made the decision to move to ARVInn, in search of surroundings that could ease his sense of loss and fill his time with purposeful activity.

This led to a somber, somewhat tearful 'good-bye' on a crisp October day in 2073, as Lewis dropped Jay off at his new home. Jay had planned carefully for his part and was soon involved deeply in recreation, counseling and other activities. Lewis was left to manage the business, which occupied much of his time. He also found himself with time to explore his friendship with Annelle, who worked in one of the stores. Annelle was the divorced mother of a young daughter, Mara, age 7, who took to Lewis as if she had known him all her life. They soon were considering marriage.

Lewis kept his dad in the loop on business and his growing relationship. Jay gave his wholehearted approval. On a sunny September day, the two were married, with Jay and Mara in attendance. Lewis teased his dad that he would have to be the ring bearer as well as best man. Thereafter, Jay spent quite a bit of time visiting the young family, but having become deeply involved in at ARVInn, continued that as his principal residence.

As also happens, within the next year, Lewis and Annelle welcomed their son, Jeffrey, who even shared Jay's birthday along with his name. Another daughter, Leah, followed two years later.

Jay spent the years since as occasional babysitter and playmate for the kids as they grew up and now is doing the same for their kids, even though they've all outgrown him these days. He loves doing it so



Jay getting the marriage news from Lewis and Annelle, 2075 ²



Burgley family Christmas card, 2084: Mara (17), Leah (6), Jeffrey II (8) ³



"Mommie, I'm bigger than Grapop." Edward Tallent (b2105), 2110 ⁴

Reflecting on the twists and turns of the past forty-plus years, Jay says he's as happy as he could imagine, given the situation. He is part of a loving family, has great friends who share interests with him, and has companionship from both.

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much that Leah once told her grandfather that "sometimes it's hard to tell who's the babysitter...or if there is one." Her youngest recently became taller than his great-grandfather, to the amusement of all, including Jay. He is once again officially the shortest member of the family, at least until the next generation arrives.

Mara's oldest son, Carl, visited with his grandpa frequently as he grew up and came to like the area well enough to enroll as a student at Ohio University in nearby Athens. He and grandpa get together periodically to explore the area together, hiking or going out to eat. Jay especially likes the occasional campus visit for a weekend or football game. It's sometimes hard to tell there's an adult in the house when the two of them get to cutting up.



Carl Evans (b2091) and Jay, 2109 ⁵

Images:

1 Family photo created by freepik - www.freepik.com

2 Family photo created by freepik - www.freepik.com (edited)

3 Christmas photo created by gpointstudio - www.freepik.com (edited) (text added)

4 Montage: (a) Photo created by alexkich – www.freepik.com; (b) photo created by freepik – freepik.com (edited)

5 Family photo created by freepik - www.freepik.com (edited)