

## I Was Only Seventeen

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### Abstract

*This creative piece was written by Kelsey Good as a form of bearing witness to what she experienced working in a retirement community. As a healthcare worker during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kelsey decided to write about her experience working during this stressful time at a very young age.*

### “I Was Only Seventeen”

I Was Only Seventeen  
But I was in charge of keeping hundreds of  
people safe  
People’s grandparents  
People’s parents  
People’s family  
We were in lockdown  
It was 2020

Me and my coworkers were the only ones  
they were allowed to see  
I witnessed the elderly mourn the loss of their  
family  
Because who knew when the pandemic  
would end  
Many did not get to see their families before  
they passed away  
That’s what happened in the retirement  
homes  
When sickness ran rampant

I was their family,  
I was all they had to talk to

I smiled with my eyes, as the mask covered  
the rest of my face  
They needed some hope  
To see a bright face greeting them

I witnessed lovers losing each other  
I witnessed life and death  
I tried to keep them safe

I Was Only Seventeen