

What They Had Movie

Summary¹

Bridget's brother Nick urges her to come home to visit her parents. Their mother, Ruth, suffers from dementia and Nick is helping their parents the best he can. Lately Ruth's dementia has progressed and it causes tension in the family. The situation escalates after an occasion where Ruth leaves the house in the middle of the night during a snowstorm. Nick is trying to convince Bridget and their father that it would be better to move Ruth to a memory care home, but Bridget's father is reluctant to let go of their life together.

Duration: 1 hour 41 mins.

Director and Producer: Elizabeth Chomko

Released: 2018

Starring: Hilary Swank, Michael Shannon, Robert Forster, and Blythe Danner

Available on Netflix

Questions for discussion:

- Did you learn anything from this movie? What was it?
- What did you like best about the movie? Why?
- Nick found a memory care home in Chicago that has an assisted living facility close by, where his father could live and be close to his mother. However, the father has no interest in this arrangement. Do you think it is wrong of Nick and Bridget's father to insist on looking after Ruth at home?
- Do you think it is in Ruth's best interest to remain at home or to move into a care facility? Why?
 - How do values play a role in determining what counts as being in someone's best interest?
 - What can make it difficult to determine best interests?
- Do you think Ruth's husband is in denial about Ruth's condition?
- How well do you think the movie does in terms of picturing what it is like to live with dementia?
- Discuss Nick's reasons for pushing so hard to have his mother moving to a home. What do you think you might do in a similar situation?
- What do you think of the way Nick, Bridget and their father handle situations when Ruth can't remember who she is or who they are?
- What did you think about the ending? What do you think caused Bridget to make the decision she did regarding Ruth's care?

¹ This summary is adapted from <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6662736/>