

"Rose Mary Woods came into the solarium a few minutes ahead of Nixon. 'Your father has decided to resign,' she said, looking at the President's two daughters.

David had been telling Julie for days it would all be over soon. Now she heard it, stunned, relieved, and consumed with sadness and a sense of unfairness.

The President stepped into the room. 'We're going back to California,' he said, and indicated that there would be no discussion.

His daughters broke down. Mrs. Nixon did not cry.

There was a knock on the door, and photographer Ollie Atkins came in. Ziegler had instructed him that morning to photograph absolutely everything.

'Ollie,' Mrs. Nixon said, 'we're always glad to see you, but I don't think we need any pictures now.'

'Oh, come on, Ollie,' the President said. 'Take a few shots.'

The President directed everyone to stand between a bookcase and the yellow print drapes. The daughters were weeping and Atkins had to take shot after shot to get a picture with everyone smiling.

The family stood in a line, their arms about each other or holding hands. Atkins finally thought he had some shots with no one crying. But as he backed out the doorway, still snapping, Julie and the President fell weeping into each other's arms."

--from "The Final Days" by Woodward and Bernstein.



Illustration by Burt Silverma







**The Final Days.**  
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