

NANA_{and} PAIGE

by Debra Vassallo

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Cast of Characters

NANA: Grandmother of Paige, in her late 60's, nervous and desperate

PAIGE: Granddaughter of Nana, 17, high school senior, depressed, anxious

OFFICER JOHNSON: Community police department officer, Black, middle aged, calm, stifling anger, controlled at all times

MELISSA: Daughter of Nana, mother of Paige, middle aged, stressed, responsible, trying to do the right thing to do.

Nana and Paige:

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CHARACTERS

Nana, 69, grandmother of Paige, nervous and desperate

Paige, 17, granddaughter of Nana, depressed, anxious

Officer Johnson, 42, police department community relations officer, calm but angry internally

Melissa, 44, daughter of Nana and mother of Paige, responsible, hyper-vigilant, stressed

TIME

Early May to late August, 2020

PLACE

An American City

(NANA sits stage left facing the audience at a table at her computer trying to get on a Zoom call. A box of tissues sit by the computer. PAIGE sits stage right facing the audience on her computer. A dividing wall sits on the table to separate Nana and Paige. It appears the actors are in different locations in their respective homes on a Zoom screen.)

NANA

(NANA holds a cell phone to her ear while looking at the “screen.”)

Paige! I’m trying to get into the meeting, but it says you’re in ANOTHER meeting.

PAIGE

(PAIGE holds a cell phone to her ear looking at her “screen.”)

Just wait, Nana. You’re in the waiting room.

NANA

Waiting room! No, I’m not. I’m, I’m at home!

PAIGE

It’s for privacy..... I’ll let you in.

NANA

If you say so.

PAIGE

See? You’re in! I can hear you. Can you see me?

NANA

Yeah! I can see you!

PAIGE

I can't see you yet. You need to turn your camera around...click the circling arrows....

NANA

Where?

PAIGE

At the top of your screen, on the left.

NANA

Oh, NOW I get it.

PAIGE

Yay, Nana! You did it!

NANA

(NANA puts her cell phone down.)

It takes a Ph.D. in computer science to figure this stuff out.... I just wish I could send messages from my brain to the computer...maybe telepathic messages...to get it to do what I want.

PAIGE

(PAIGE puts her cell phone down.)

Oh, Nana....at least you made it to OUR meeting...how're you doing?

NANA

Oh, sweetie...not so great.

PAIGE

What's going on?

NANA

Your mother won't let me leave the house...'cause of Covid-19.

PAIGE

Not even for groceries?

NANA

No! I have to make a DETAILED list and your uncle gets my groceries (NANA shakes her head back and forth.)

PAIGE

That sounds like a GREAT idea.

NANA

It's not! When I put asparagus on the list, he bought the most expensive, organic asparagus that cost \$20.00 for TWO pounds! I couldn't believe it.

PAIGE

Oh....

NANA

And when I asked for spaghetti noodles, he bought GLUTEN FREE pasta. I have never HEARD of gluten-free pasta....and I'm not even gluten intolerant....I bet it tastes TERRIBLE.

PAIGE

She wants you to be okay...doesn't want anything to happen to you....

NANA

She calls me EVERY DAY asking. "Did you take your temperature? Do you have a cough? Can you taste your food?" EVERY DAY she calls.

PAIGE

She's worried about you...your safety.

NANA

Humph. I'm safe alright, but not SANE. I think I'm losing it.... You know how I tell you not to swear? I NEVER swear. But...I was ordering a baby gift, a Pat the Bunny stuffed animal, like the one I gave you when you were born?

PAIGE

I LOVE that Pat the Bunny...still have it. It's so soft and squishy.

NANA

The internet wanted me to buy it through Facebook. I didn't WANT to buy it through Facebook. Then, it wanted me to use Google to buy it. I NEVER buy through Google. I said to myself, "All I want to do is buy a... a...an f-ing...I almost used the "F" word.. "Pat the Bunny." This Covid thing makes me crazy!

PAIGE

Oh, Nana.

NANA

And, your grandpa makes me want to hit my forehead with a cookie sheet! His slippers are shush, shush, shushing on the floor at breakfast. That NEVER used to bother me, but it's annoying me now, REALLY annoying me...so weird.