

**FreeView**  
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**ELDERSPEAK**

By

Jeanette Mathewes Stevens

The Cast

*JOAN* - A woman in her late 50's, professional, intelligent, caring

**MOM** - A woman over 75, smart, funny and very frustrated

**NURSE DUNBAR** - A woman in her late 40's-mid 50's, very sweet

**SYLVIA** - A woman in her early 60's, funny ball of fire

**MEDFORD** - Late 50's – early 60's professional salesman

**STEDMAN** - 70+ gentleman, opinionated, and funny

**LOTTIE** - A hot-to-trot senior lady, Shadyview Meadows resident

**SAM** - Lottie's cohort, simple, single-minded Shadyview Meadows resident

**CLARA** - A colorful character, Shadyview Meadows resident

**NURSE HARRINGTON** - Bumbling nurse

*(Music plays, then fades...JOAN crosses DC and addresses the audience).*

**JOAN:** Hi there. Got a minute? I've got to talk to someone. Can I talk to you? This has been a week and a half; let me tell you! Oh by the way, my name's Joan. The week started out normal...but here lately, normal has been a bit abnormal. The alarm went off and I crawled out of bed and woke up my husband and Timothy, our youngest, the only one still living at home. My friends are always talking about how lonely it is to be empty nesters...I'd just like to have the chance to find out. I'd arranged to go in to the office a little late. I needed to stop by Shadyview Meadows to check on my mother. Mom broke her leg a couple of weeks ago. There was just no way, what with work and everything else going on, to keep her at home. The doctor suggested a rehab facility. Shadyview Meadows seemed like the perfect place...close by work, approved by our insurance company and the staff there is so sweet. That morning when I got to Shadyview Meadows, Mom wasn't herself...her usual self. She just wasn't 'with it'.

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*(JOAN crosses DR as NURSE DUNBAR enters UL pushing MOM in a wheelchair. As she enters NURSE DUNBAR fusses around MOM talking to her in a syrupy sweet high-pitched voice as if she were talking to a child...a stupid child).*

**NURSE DUNBAR:** Now, don't we feel much more comfy? Isn't it soooo much better to be all shiny and clean to start a new day? We never know when we might have company and we wouldn't want anyone to see us in our all-wrinkly, slept-in nighty...now would we?

**JOAN:** Hi, Mom.

**DUNBAR:** See, I told you. Our daughter has come to see us. Isn't that wonderful. Aren't we glad we're not in our nightclothes, but dressed looking fresh and pretty for our little girl?

**JOAN:** Oh, hello, Nurse Dunbar. Mom, how're you feeling? Did you sleep well? Is the cast on your leg giving you trouble?

**DUNBAR:** *(talking to JOAN)* Oh, we slept just fine. She was a good girl...had to ring for help to use the bedpan only once last night. That big old cast is a bit of a bother, but the doctor said our bones are healing right on schedule. *(talking to MOM)* Tell your daughter how well we're doing this morning.

**End of FreeView—Now buy the entire play!**  
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