

The Great Escape

Penny Bloodhart





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THE GREAT ESCAPE

By Penny Bloodhart

CAST

NURSE 1: Any sex, age 40-55 or so.

NURSE 2: Any sex, age 40-55 or so.

SENIOR 1: Elderly, any sex, appears frail but do NOT underestimate them.

SENIOR 2: Elderly, any sex, appears frail but do NOT underestimate them.

SENIOR 3: Elderly, any sex, appears frail but do NOT underestimate them.

Place

Anywhere

Time

Any time

THE GREAT ESCAPE

At Rise: A care setting. Three elderly people dressed in bathrobes sit at a table, looking at computers with confused faces. Senior 1 has a laptop with mouse. The other two seniors have tablet computers of some sort. They are slumped over and look out of touch. Two nurses stand nearby, watching them with disdain and amusement.

NURSE 1: Wow, these old geezers are totally befuddled by these new computers. What a waste.

NURSE 2: Yeah, and after the 3th graders came through today to show them how they should be used!

NURSE 1: That's the second time the kids have tried. You can't teach these old geezers anything. I don't know why Dr. Legree even tries to help them. They've been staring stupidly at those computers for the last six months!

NURSE 2: Doc and the corporation make a ton of dough from the government. They bill the insurance companies for the care of these old fossils. Big profits, very little care, though. *(approaches one of the old people)* Can I help you with your new computer, dear?

SENIOR 1: *(very sweetly)* Oh, thank you. I seem to be having trouble with this control thing. *(holds up a computer mouse.)*

NURSE 2: That's a mouse.

SENIOR 2: *(screeches)* A Mouse?? Where? Rodents in here?

NURSE 1: Now calm down, you old fool! It's a mechanical mouse. Goes with the computer.

SENIOR 1: Well, why didn't you just tell us that! All I know is that I wiggle this little thingy...and that arrow on the screen moves.

NURSE 2: Yes, dearie. Just drag it over those cards to play solitaire.

SENIOR 3: *(peers at her tablet)* I don't see any cards on this thing.

SENIOR 1: I don't either! NO cards anywhere.

NURSE 1: No—because you turned off the monitor again.

SENIOR 3: *(looks about, confused)* Who's the monitor? What are they checking on? I haven't done anything wrong!

NURSE 1: (*points to screen*) No, that's what they call this screen thing here.

SENIOR 2: I want a real deck of cards!

NURSE 2: (*impatient*) Well, we don't have those anymore. You people have to learn to live in the new age---or maybe you don't. (*She gives up*) Just fiddle around as best you can, and we'll come get you for supper in a while.

(The old folks sit, doing nothing, looking out of it. The two nurses walk away, speaking to each other)

NURSE 1: These old fogeys are hopeless. We'd better go get the soup and crackers for their dinner, and make sure that the bedpans are in place.

NURSE 2: (sighs) Yeah, I guess so. Can't teach them anything. They can be such a waste of time and space!

(They exit. Senior 1 sits up suddenly, looking around.)

SENIOR 1: OK...they're gone. Boot up and initiate internet connection.

(The other two sit up straight, look alert, and suddenly become very active on their keyboards. Senior 1, 2 and 3 now are very alert, and speak crisply and quickly.)

SENIOR 2: Keep a lookout. I'm accessing the wireless from Dr. Greedy's office. His server is usually working.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!