

# Contranym

DJ Kane

\*A story inspired by an incident, recalled by Dr. Elnaz.

It was in the very beginning, when cell phones had first come to bare, and most people used the not so reliable, corner street phones, when not at home. Such phones required a quarter for a local call, much more for long distance which always seemed to be likely, or using their house phone which unfortunately required them to be at home. It was somewhere in the eighties when Elnaz was given free concert tickets to her first Iranian concert, which she was happy to receive, and hadn't been expecting, and best of all they were free.

After being driven to the concert by her dad, who instructed her to make sure she had money to call him when the concert was over.

Elnaz enjoyed the long concert, and as she exited the concert hall when it was over, said goodbye to her friends, thanking them for the tickets. She then began searching her jean pockets, and then her pocketbook for a quarter to call her father to pick her up and take her home. As she made her way towards the exits, after separating from her friends, she exited. she ran to the nearest phonebooth and then realized she didn't have a quarter for the phone call, she started to panic. Being in a strange town alone, with no money is not where anyone should be, especially a young girl by herself. As she was paced from side to side in front of the phonebooth thinking of what she should do, a young disheveled panhandler, about her age stopped in front of her, asking for some change. Wrong girl and wrong time he was soon to find out. The almost five foot, hundred pounds when soaked and wet,

unleashed all her fury in word and deed on this unsuspecting six foot, two-hundred-pound panhandler, that he surrendered immediately giving her two quarters for her call. After Elnaz called her dad, she thanked and apologize to the panhandler for her actions which was not appropriate, and thanking him for the quarters.

“Thank you for the quarters, they were a life saver. I’m really sorry for acting that way, but I was so mad at myself and scared. My name is Elnaz, what’s yours?”

“My name is John.”

“What brings you here John, you have no family?”

“No, I was just a rebellious kid, who thought he knew it all, but this is where it took me, I’ve been away for about a year.”

“John you’re not alone, I feel that way at times but I know better. “I’ll receive my education

first, and then make my move if I decide to do so. You always need that education in your pocket John. My dad and mom gave up so much to come to this country, and I feel it was all for me.”

Elnaz, what do you want to be?”

A doctor John, and I’ll be one, I promise you, and what do aspire to be?”

“Never seriously thought much about it, never thought that far ahead. I never met someone like you Elnaz, who actually wanted to become a doctor. It gives me such hope for my future, for the very first time.”

Just then a black car drove up, lowered the front passenger side window, and a strong male voice from within called, “Elnaz, lets go, get in the car!”

“That’s my dad John, and why don’t you do us both a favor when we leave, take one of those

remaining quarters you have in your pocket and call your mom and dad and you'll soon be on your way becoming a doctor.”

As Elnaz and her father drove off John struggled feverishly to grapple with a quarter from in his pocket to call home. “Hello dad, this is your son John, I'm ready to come home.” Little did John imagine where his amazing venture would take him, and what life had in stored for him.

John was welcomed back to his family and enrolled in NYU College of Dentistry, Brooklyn New York, and made his mom and dad super proud graduating Suma cum laude, accompanied with a host of many honors.

At his graduation speech, John thanked the under-five foot Iranian girl, who he didn't know, taught a six-foot boy what life was all about and saved his life. I didn't know her the day I met her, but will never forget her. I know

you accomplished all your goals in your young life. Thank you Dr. Elnaz. The applause seemed to reach the heavens, John was a popular student who always was generous with his time and knowledge with all the students he mentored.

After the graduation ceremony John's dad informed him that the family had planned to relocate to Palm Beach Florida the following month, and he was welcomed to relocate with them if he so chooses, and maybe be presented with the opportunity to start his own practice, it may be less competitive than Brooklyn. John asked his dad, "Why Palm Beach Florida, any special reason?"

"No son", his dad replied, "Something that I can't explain was always drawing me in that direction, and since your mom and I are retired, it seemed like the perfect place."

“Sounds like a perfect solution to me dad, I’ll text some friends and see if someone is in need for a dentist in Palm Beach.”

John contacted a few dentists about a partnership for a relative time, as he would be new to the south and wanted to get his bearings and feel for a practice. John was given three names on his computer, of three Florida dentists looking for a limited partnership, one being a woman. By the crazy of all crazy’s the woman dentist’s name was Dr. Elnaz Javagkhant D.D.S.. John only knew her by her first name, but that first name has got to be more than a coincidence.

John made arrangements to fly to Palm Beach International Airport from J.F.K. and took an uber to Dr. Elnaz’s office, which was located in Boynton Beach West Palm. As John was making his way from Palm Beach International to Boynton, he called Dr. Elnaz on his cell to

schedule an afternoon appointment for business. The appointment was made, and as far as John knew Dr. Elnaz, was not aware who he was. When John arrived at her office, he exited the uber and slowly walked to her office and looked in wanting to make sure it was her out if he could, but everyone was wearing covered 19 masks. If not masked. It had been many years since they had that encounter which had changed his life, and they both probably looked much different. John put on his mask and walked in asking the girl at the desk because was she was so small in stature weighing no more than a hundred pounds soaked and wet. "If the doctor was in?" She stood up looking John straight in the eyes, a look he experienced once before, and it wasn't pleasurable, and asked him if he was the doctor, she had been waiting for. John answered not exactly, "I'm here to collect a fifty



cents debt, actually I'll take two quarters, nothing more, nothing less." She took off her mask ran round the desk and hugged him with excitement saying, "John, you made it, you really made it."

John answered as he also held her tight fostering such mutual excitement, "We made it Elnaz, we really made it together."

The rest of the story continues, as of late, there is no end.