

TSUNAMI

A monologue

By:
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Place: Pier off the Atlantic Ocean, Brooklyn

Time: Now, during the Pandemic

Characters: Mother, middle-aged

MOTHER

Please, Officer, don't take another step unless you can answer me: Would you do CPR if you needed to today? Would it depend who it was? Would it have to be a prince, like Charles? Or Tom Hanks?... I'd love to meet Tom but I'd have to cut my hair first. ..It's two, three weeks since we're stuck inside.. That's why Bobby went down to the beach with his school friends: social distancing all the way.. Like those Polar bears moping along in the Arctic ... At least the bears don't have the virus... Just climate change... Did you see the government is making us more polluted again?... Step back...I promise I won't jump. - It affects the elders, y'know. In Spain, they're taking them off the ventilators. That poor man, crying on the tape... 65 and you're done. Bobby's grandmother, 80, says 'It's bad...' Everything's 'bad' with that woman. Which 'bad', Mom? The prices in the supermarket or the deaths from the virus? I wish her 'bads' came with a color code. Reds, blues, yellows... The red states still think this is a hoax. When they line up to get in the hospital I want someone there asking: Are you Republican or Democrat? You can only get a ventilator if you believe in science, if you've been made to beg. – I'm okay, I'm okay... You mind if I take off my mask? They don't tell you your glasses fog up. That would be a good virus tip: . How to wear masks so we can see. ..Find people ... They went down to the ocean – it's been warm – and one went in and when his head didn't pop up, Bobby went in after. To save him... My hero son...This would be a red 'bad'. . Get back! – You probably have the virus all over you - - And did any of you show up so you could jump in and find them? ...It affects the young, too, you know. The virus. It affects us all so that doesn't make my 911 call any less important. I am not coming off this pier so get over it!! ..Remember that tsunami back in Thailand, was it? I remember hearing there was an old man who saw the water go out and rush back in. It took his son. And every day after, he stood at the beach. Waiting for another wave to bring his son back. - Would you have jumped in last night? Would you have given him CPR? – because I don't think I'd be here tonight if you'd been here last night. – You gotta take care of your heroes – because you never know who they're going to be. Like you don't know who the virus will hit. You still think I'm going to jump in? I'm not going to be responsible for making another hero. You're nice. Even though you probably think I'm nuts, but no. I jump in again, who's going to wait for him?