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Through the Eyes of an Old Lady

Melissa Gianos

I annoy you, don't I? I smell of moth balls and talk too much. When driving, I tend to be cautious at times. This causes me to drive more slowly than all the young speed demons these days. As a result of my driving, you miss your green light and are often late for school. As you get older remembering names and faces becomes difficult. My diet is strange compared to hamburgers and fries and often ends up on my chin. I try to cover up my age with make-up, but I sometimes get told I look like Bozo the clown. At times I look for discounts and take my time to shop, which upsets you young folks who are always in a rush. I often repeat myself and babble a lot. I ask many questions because usually I don't understand your slang. By taking me out to the mall or for some lunch, you think you've done your good deed for the day. I'm sorry I interrupt your social life, but spending time with me is important.

I used to be young and attractive; those were the good old days. Driving really fast, having a million boyfriends, and wearing stylish clothing all the time were just as important to me as they are to you. Wearing adult diapers called Depends or wearing a bib to keep my clothes clean never crossed my mind. I always thought diapers and bibs were for babies, not for grown adults. Being old definitely has its disadvantages and not being able to take care of myself upsets me.

Finally, I have made peace with the fact that I have no alternative but to grow old and try to do it gracefully. Yes, people may laugh at my hairstyle or my unflattering clothing, but I really don't mind. Putting a smile on someone else's face is all that matters. Nowadays, I'm spending more time with my family. I find pleasure and happiness when visiting them. Growing old is not fun, but it's a part of life.

As my daughter often says, "Ma, suck it up. All you need is me to be happy." I took her statement into consideration and realized she'll feel the same way as I do in 20 years. Then she'll be able to visualize the way I feel today. Every day I try to live life to its fullest. Now that I've come to an understanding of the way the elderly live, all I need are my Depends, my bib, and my family to make me happy.