HELLO STRANGER

I know I don't know you and you don't know me. It's a strange relationship for sure but if you're willing I'm here to pour out my soul if you'll be there.

Are we still on for drinks, grubbing about work, eating in the kitchen, making a fire, going on a drive, smoking it up, lighting it up, keeping in touch, growing old, living like the Golden Girls, talking about the good old days, are we still on?

FRIEND
Hey Neighbor

Be good to your neighbors; you never know when you might need them for a cup of sugar or an eye witness to your car getting side swiped.
O Kasan means mom in Japanese. Me and my brothers grew up hearing our dad, aunt and uncles call her "Kasan", we just naturally picked it up. My grandmother was born in Japan. She met my grandpa while he was in the army there, got married and then came to the United States.

Growing up I didn't get to see my grandma that often because my parents divorced when I was 5. My mother and I moved back to Ohio while my dad stayed in California. I have wonderful memories of when I was a kid visiting her and grandpa. They lived in a nice doublewide on the coast of California. Everything was still in good shape but still dated from the 70s. Groovy flower wallpaper, beaded curtains and the patio had that green astro turf stuff, but amidst all of this were Japanese pieces.

Decorating the house was a bonsai tree on the dining table, old Japanese dolls in a glass cabinet and Japanese artwork on the walls. Every time we would visit she would make a tray full of sushi waiting for us to eat while we caught up. Some of the best memories were when we would sing karaoke and Kasan would sometimes treat us to a Japanese song.

As I got older, it got tougher finding time for my grandparents who lived across the country. After school came college and jobs. It's been a long time since they lived in that cozy doublewide. My heart broke slightly when I heard they had to demolish it because that was cheaper than moving it to another park.

My grandfather passed away a year ago and my grandmother now lives with my dad in Florida. With me having a steady job and the two of them living together it's much easier to see them more often. All her things I remember from the doublewide are in my dad's house now, most of them in her room. She made sushi for me last time I visited and she snuck off to her room at 6pm to watch "sumo". There are still a lot of things I don't know about my grandma. I'm hoping with the time I can unlock some more secrets.