

2-2020

Paging: a Collection of Short Stories

Shruthi Deivasigamani

Thomas Jefferson University, shruthi.deivasigamani@jefferson.edu

Katherine Hubbard, MA

Thomas Jefferson University, katherine.hubbard@jefferson.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://jdc.jefferson.edu/si_hum_2022_phase1



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#), and the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

[Let us know how access to this document benefits you](#)

Recommended Citation

Deivasigamani, Shruthi and Hubbard, MA, Katherine, "Paging: a Collection of Short Stories" (2020). *Phase 1*. Paper 10.

https://jdc.jefferson.edu/si_hum_2022_phase1/10

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Jefferson Digital Commons. The Jefferson Digital Commons is a service of Thomas Jefferson University's [Center for Teaching and Learning \(CTL\)](#). The Commons is a showcase for Jefferson books and journals, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, unique historical collections from the University archives, and teaching tools. The Jefferson Digital Commons allows researchers and interested readers anywhere in the world to learn about and keep up to date with Jefferson scholarship. This article has been accepted for inclusion in Phase 1 by an authorized administrator of the Jefferson Digital Commons. For more information, please contact: JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu.

SKMC Class of 2022

Word count: 294

Paging: a Collection of Short Stories

Shruthi Deivasigamani, Katherine Hubbard*

Introduction: *Paging* is a series of thematically interconnected short stories that take place at a single fictional urban hospital center. The guiding questions that the stories explore are twofold: other than doctors and patients, what kinds of people spend their time in a hospital? And, what kind of place is the hospital for these people?

Methods: The background research for *Paging* began by exploring written works of fiction, nonfiction, and memoir set in hospitals. After I had developed a set of guiding research questions, I spent the summer at a major hospital in New York City, where I was able to observe the people and employees that comprised the environment of an urban medical center. These observations were used draft fiction about the kinds of dilemmas various characters in a hospital might grapple with on a daily basis.

Results: *Paging* is a series of three short stories that explore the lives of three different hospital employees at the same hospital center. The first story is about a medical assistant at an outpatient clinic who encounters an ethical dilemma that brings his personal life to work. The second is about a custodian who gets to know the patients of a hospital in a very different, but equally intimate, manner to the doctors and nurses who take care of the patients' medical needs. The third is about a woman who assists in the distribution of organs that have been harvested for transplant.

Discussion: We often think of the hospital as a place where patients go to seek care from doctors. In reality, the hospital is a far richer environment than this. *Paging* explores the other inhabitants of a hospital that allow it to be a bustling ecosystem, and offers stories from perspectives that are often overlooked.