

LOS CASAGRANDES (working title)

# TOPLINE SERIES OVERVIEW & OUR MAIN CHARACTERS

## LOGLINE:

Ronnie Anne Santiago, an independent 11-year-old girl, moves to the big city with her mom and older brother and has to adapt to living with the chaos of her loving but overwhelming extended family.

## THE BIG IDEA:

Did you ever wonder what it would be like to suddenly inherit a huge family? Meet Ronnie Anne Santiago. She can tell you. Her life was turned upside down the day her mother decided it was best to move her and her older brother, Bobby, out of the suburbs and into the big city to live with their large extended family,

## **SERIES OVERVIEW:**

Los Casagrandes explores what it's like for 11 year-old Ronnie Anne to suddenly be thrown into a large multi-generational family. Fiercely independent and quite used to taking care of herself, Ronnie Anne is now part of a close-knit, co-dependent family. They are always getting involved in each other's business, which tends to get them all caught up in chaotic situations. While her mother and brother easily adapt to this new life, for Ronnie Anne it's a bigger challenge. But not to worry – she's up for it!

She, her mother and brother now live with Ronnie Anne's grandparents in an apartment above the family mercado (corner market). Her grandparents, who moved from Mexico, have an "old-school" way of thinking. Her aunt and uncle, who live right across the hall, have a more modern way of thinking but are still torn between the old ways and the new. Their four kids – Ronnie Anne's cousins – have totally assimilated into today's modern culture. The entire extended family has an open door policy – knocking is totally unnecessary.

Ronnie Anne takes us along for the thrill-ride that is her new life as she tries to adapt to the facts that her family has quadrupled in size, her backyard is now a fire escape, and she will never be able to go to the bathroom in peace again. But in the end, Ronnie Anne knows that no matter their differences (of which there are many), her family seems to always pull together and solve any problem that comes their way. Ronnie Anne realizes that all of this "relative chaos" comes out of total love and respect for one another. Maybe.



## Ronnie Anne Santiago

(11) Ronnie Anne's an independent spirit who's into skating, gaming and pranking. Strong-willed and a little gruff, she isn't into excessive displays of emotion. But don't be fooled – she has a sweet side, too, fostered by years of taking care of her mother and brother. And though her new extended family can be a little overwhelming, she appreciates how loving, caring and fun they can be.

**Urban explorer** – she likes venturing off the beaten path to check out hidden, historical, or abandoned spots around the city

**Fearless** – she loves the adrenaline rush of skating, horror movies, and her mom's gross-out stories about injuries in the ER

**Advocate for others** – she doesn't hesitate to speak her mind, and always stands up for her family and friends

**Independent** – she's used to doing things her own way and hates to ask for help – but as a newcomer to the city, she'll have to accept a little guidance now and then **Quick thinker** / **great in a crisis** – she's a quick thinker who can come up with creative and practical solutions in a bind; she's not afraid to get her hands dirty if the situation calls for it



## **Bobby Santiago**

(17) Ronnie Anne's older brother, Bobby is a sweet, responsible, loyal high-school senior who works in the family's mercado. Bobby is very devoted to his family. He's Abuelo's right hand man and can't wait to one day take over the mercado for him. Bobby's a big kid and a bit of a klutz, which sometimes gets him into pickles, like locking himself in the freezer case. But he makes up for any work mishaps with his great customer skills – everyone in the neighborhood loves him.



# Casagrande Santiago new design coming she won't be in this Nurse Outfit-going with scrubs instead

(43) She's the mother of Bobby and Ronnie Anne. A hardworking nurse, she doesn't get to spend a lot of time with her kids, but when she does, she treasures it. Maria is calm and rational. She, Bobby, and Ronnie Anne are a close-knit trio who were used to having only each other – until they moved in with their extended family.

**Hard to faze** – years of working in the ER have given her a "walk it off" attitude about minor scrapes and injuries

**Motivated** – currently a registered nurse, she plans to attend night classes to become a nurse practitioner

**Gross-out junkie** – she delights in sharing work stories with her family; Ronnie Anne loves hearing them, while Bobby always asks to be excused

**Stubborn** – she and Abuela get into constant disagreements over how to raise kids and treat injuries (medical science versus Abuela's home remedies)

**Go-go-go** – with her job, family, and studies, her energy stores are truly remarkable – but put her through a double shift and a night class, and don't be surprised if she passes out at the kitchen table



## **Hector Casagrande**

(66) He's the father of Carlos and Maria and the grandfather of six. He is the owner of the mercado on the ground floor of their apartment building and takes great pride in his work, his family, and being the unofficial "mayor" of the block. He's charismatic, friendly, and also a huge gossip (although he tries to deny it).

**Storyteller** – he loves recounting tales about his youth in Mexico, as well as the family's glorious Casagrande ancestry and the (factually dubious) roles they've played in history ("Did I ever tell you about your great-great-grandfather who rode with Pancho Villa?")

**Gregarious** – while Bobby and Carl run the business side of the mercado, Hector is the social center; he's always out front, playing chess and trading gossip with friends and neighbors

**Musical** – he's an avid guitar player and has formed a neighborhood band, including his son Carlos on trumpet

**Full of ideas** – he always has new plans for the mercado, most of which backfire **Shrewd** – he tries to keep an eye on the competition, whether it's a street cart selling paletas at half the price of his, or a mega-market down the block that's bringing in customers with a fancy juice bar

**Telenovela fan** – the only thing he loves more than local gossip is the fictionalized drama on his favorite novelas. He and his daughter-in-law Frida have bonded over their favorite characters and story arcs



## Rosa Casagrande

(68) She's the mother of Carlos and Maria and wife to Hector. Rosa is a gifted cook and has a sixth sense about knowing when anyone in her house is hungry. The wisest of the bunch, Rosa is really the head of the household but lets Hector think he is. She's spiritual and often tries to fix problems or illnesses with home remedies or potions. She's protective of all her family, and at times can be a bit smothering.

**The matriarch** – she's the authority on everything: childrearing, cooking, building maintenance, you name it. Dare to disagree with her, and you just might find your dinner extra spicy

**Building super** – while Hector runs the mercado, Rosa oversees the apartment building the family owns: collecting rent, repairing leaky faucets, and handling tenant complaints. While Hector can be swayed by emotional appeals, Rosa is the tough cookie who lays down the law

**Doting abuela** – she loves spoiling her grandchildren (much to her adult children's dismay) and treats all of the boys like little princes

**Astrologically inclined** – she's obsessed with a flamboyant Walter Mercado-type TV astrologer and makes decisions based on his predictions



## **Carlos Casagrande**

(45) He's the father of four kids (Carlota, CJ, Carl, and Carlitos), husband of Frida and brother of Maria. He's a professor of cultural studies at a local college and always has his head in the clouds – or a textbook. He's a pretty easygoing guy compared to his sometimes overly emotional relatives. Carlos is pragmatic, a caring father who tries to get his kids interested in their Mexican heritage (though his book-driven approach can be a little dry).

Forgetful – he's got amazing retention for historical facts and figures – but ask him where his keys are, and he hasn't the foggiest

Enthusiastic teacher – he loves sharing interesting facts and bits of trivia – whether or not they're relevant to the situation at hand

Musical – a trumpet player, he and his dad bond over music and playing together in the neighborhood band



## Frida Puga Casagrande

(42) She's the mother to Carlota, CJ, Carl and Carlitos and wife to Carlos. She's an art professor and performance artist who's always looking for new ways to express herself. She tends to cry when she's overcome with sadness, anger, happiness... basically, she cries a lot. She's excitable, game for fun, passionate and loves her family more than anything.

**Artist** – while she can do it all – painting, sculpture, photography – Frida's real passion is for performance art – the more public, the better. She always tries to get her family involved, much to their chagrin

**Big heart** – she's dedicated to rescuing abandoned or mistreated animals (as well as those who've just been left outside a store for a minute by their owners)

**Drama fan** – like her father-in-law, she loves her gossip and telenovelas **Loving mom** – her children are her pride and joy. She feels certain that Carlitos the toddler is a budding artistic genius and encourages his nonverbal creative expression



## Carlota Casagrande

(17) The oldest child of Carlos and Frida. She's social, fun-loving, and desperately wants to be the big sister to Ronnie Anne. Carlota has a very distinctive vintage style, which she tries to share with Ronnie Anne, who couldn't be less interested.

**Confident queen** – she's an authority on being herself and owning her style; not conceited, just self-assured

**Generous** – she wants to empower others to feel just as good about themselves and takes on endless projects and "transformations"

**Influencer** – she has a prominent social media presence with zillions of loyal followers, and is always posting new encouraging mantras, i.e., "live your truth," "be your best self," "you've got it, so flaunt it," etc.

**Force of nature** – her certainty that she knows what's best for everyone can lead to occasional steamrolling and boundary issues

**Disorganized** – she tends to neglect the trivialities of daily life – that history paper will have to wait while she helps a friend find their inner beauty

**Plays the field** – she has tons of suitors, but doesn't have the time or interest for a serious relationship right now



## CJ (Carlos Jr.) Casagrande

(13) CJ was born with Down syndrome. He's the sunshine in everyone's life and always wants to play. He will often lighten the mood of a tense situation with his honest remarks. He adores Bobby and always wants to be around him (which is A-OK with Bobby, who sees CJ as a little brother). CJ asks to wear a bowtie every day no matter the occasion and is hardly ever without a smile on his face. He's definitely a glass-half-full kind of guy.

**Truth teller** – he frequently calls the rest of the family out on their half-truths and gossip

**Abuela's helper** – he assists Abuela with her building super duties. He's hard working, responsible, and wears an awesome, fully-equipped toolbelt.

**Pirate-obsessed** – he loves watching movies about pirates, dressing up like one, collecting authentic pirate relics, and even making misbehaving family members "walk the plank"

**Bobby's BFF** – he and Bobby share a special bond; CJ is Bobby's right-hand man in the mercado



## Carl Casagrande

(8) Carl is 8 going on 30. He thinks of himself as a suave businessman. Confident and outgoing, he cares about his appearance even more than Carlota and often uses her hair products (much to her chagrin). He hates to be reminded that he's only six and is emasculated whenever someone notices him playing with his action figures or wearing his footie pajamas. Carl is convinced that Bobby is his biggest rival and is always trying to beat Bobby (who is nothing but kind and encouraging to Carl – which only enrages him further).

**Shrewd** – he's always looking out for the family business, working the angles to maximize profits

**Tough on customers** – while Bobby is lenient, Carl enforces store policies and keeps an eye out for shoplifters

Competitive – he wants to secure his rightful role as head of the mercado when Abuelo retires, which means proving he's better than Bobby in every way Easily rattled – for all his tough-guy posturing, he's terrified by city wildlife: pigeons, squirrels, rats, etc.



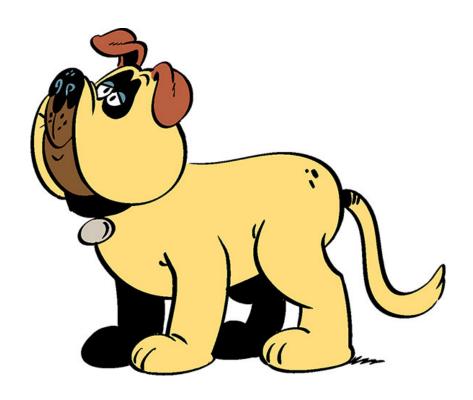
**Carlitos Casagrande** 

(1) The red-headed nonverbal toddler who is always mimicking everyone's behavior, even the dog's. He's playful, rambunctious and loves to play with the family pets.



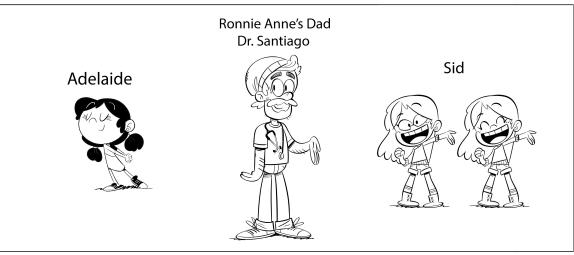
Sergio Casagrande

(Age unknown) Sergio is the Casagrandes' parrot. He's the resident sasser and always has a snarky comment ready to fire at ya. He's also the family's alarm clock, TV guide, security system, and part-time worker at the mercado. Bobby is convinced Sergio is out to get him and secretly hopes that someday he'll fly out the window and not come back.



Lalo Casagrande

A droolly bull mastiff who thinks he's a lapdog. He's not the sharpest tool in the shed and is afraid of things less than half his size, including the local cats.



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## DR. SANTIAGO Ronnie Anne's Dad

Ronnie Anne's father (40's) is amicably divorced from her mother Maria, and he is a physician living and working in Latin America. He works with *Physicians on Missions*, an organization that cares for children and provides vaccines and health care in clinics throughout the world. Like his daughter, Dr. Santiago is adventurous, funny, kindhearted and charismatic. He and Ronnie Anne share a special bond despite the distance. They regularly catch up via video chat, and she's always excited to receive care packages from his world travels. (Note: At some point in Season 1, Dr. Santiago will return home to see his daughter and Maria's family. He will be part of numerous episodes and how long he remains in the city before departing again due to his work is still in development.)

## Sid Chang Ronnie Anne's New BFF

Though new to the city, Ronnie Anne has already made some great friends. Chief among these is Sid, the 12-year-old girl who lives right above her. She's outgoing, enthusiastic and super high energy – a bit of a Kimmy Schmidt type who dives head-first into everything that piques her interest. Her mom is a zoologist, her dad is a subway conductor, and she has a little sister who's the same age as Carl. Sid and Ronnie Anne love exploring the city together. (Chinese-American)

## Adelaide Chang Sid's Little Sister

Sid's sister (6) has a flair for the dramatic, and like any little sibling, always tries to nose her way into adventures with the cool older girls. She and Carlota hit it off immediately. (Chinese-American.)

## Ronnie Anne's Skater Friends from the Neighborhood

Ronnie Anne's other friends include Nikki, Sameer and Casey.

Nikki (Caucasian) is a tall and lanky girl, kind, sincere and genuine.

**Sameer** is snarky and funny. (Middle Eastern).

Casey (African American) is a happy-go-lucky food cart aficionado and his family has their own food truck business.

They all share a love of skateboarding, video games and hanging in the neighborhood park.



Left to right: Sameer, Casey and Nikki

## Sid's Parents - The Changs

## Sid's Mom (Becca Chang)

Caucasian, late 30s/early 40s. Sid's Mom is a zoologist who takes care of animals at the Great Lakes City Zoo. This means she sometimes brings her work home with her—so at any given moment, an unusual animal could be roaming the Kang apartment. Like her daughter, Mrs. Kang is quirky, smart and funny. CJ is eager to have her move in to the apartment building so she can take him on a behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo.

## **Sid's Dad (Stanley Chang)**

Chinese, late 30s/early 40s. Sid's Dad is a conductor on the L-train, which passes by the Casagrandes building. Carl, a train fanatic, is his biggest fan.

## <u>CASAGRANDE-DRIVEN STORIES FROM "THE LOUD HOUSE" – these have already been produced:</u>

#077/078 – "Relative Chaos" (Season 2)

Ronnie Anne and Bobby visit their crazy, chaotic extended family. Bobby fits in great but Ronnie Anne struggles with the smothering nature of their relatives. Little do Bobby and Ronnie Anne know, their mother has a secret motive for bringing them to the city.

#136 – "The Spies Who Love Me" (Season 3)

Ronnie Anne bristles under the over-protectiveness of her grandparents and tries to prove that she can take care of herself in the city. But when Ronnie Anne finds out they're spying on her, she decides to teach them a lesson.

#145/#146 – "Fowl Play" (Season 3)

The Louds and Casagrandes fight over who's going to get Lori and Bobby for Thanksgiving. Lori and Bobby decide the best solution is to bring the families together—but can they find a way to get along?

## STORIES FROM "THE LOUD HOUSE" THAT FEATURE THE CASAGRANDES – these too have already been produced:

#114 – "City Slickers" (Season 3)

Lori and Lincoln visit the Casagrandes in the city. Lori struggles to try and be a city girl in hopes that one day she'll move there but finds the city less welcoming than she thought. Lincoln meets up with Ronnie Anne, but when she starts acting weird around her new friends, he wonders why she's changed.

#122 – "Missed Connection" (Season 3)

After an awkward phone call, Lori and Bobby worry that dating long-distance is causing them to lose their connection. Their families advise them to step up their game so Lori and Bobby go to great lengths trying to reignite the flame.

## <u>CURRENT LOGLINES FROM OUR NEWEST CASAGRANDES</u> <u>EPISODES IN SEASON 4 OF THE LOUD HOUSE – Currently in</u> production:

"New Kids on the Block" (Half-Hour Special): Ronnie Anne makes friends with Sid, a girl whose family wants to rent the apartment upstairs. When it looks like another couple might get it first, the girls, along with Ronnie's cousins, resort to sabotage to try and dissuade them.

"Power Play": When a ridiculously high utility bill threatens Hector and Rosa's annual anniversary trip, Ronnie Anne spearheads a family effort to cut back on usage to save the grandparents vacation.

"No Show": Ronnie Anne refuses to watch her family's favorite telenovela because she thinks it's silly until she becomes obsessed with it too. Now she has to watch it without them knowing and hide her secret.

"Room for Improvement": Desperate to find a place of their own in the building, Ronnie Anne and Sid find a hidden room in the laundry area and try to keep it a secret from the rest of the tenants.

"Roll Model": When Carl witnesses Ronnie Anne save Vito Filliponio's dog, he becomes obsessed with becoming just like his newfound hero – and Ronnie Anne has to find a way to shake her newfound shadow.

"Face the Music": Grandpa Hector is thrilled when Ronnie Anne and Bobby express interest in his beloved trio music, but he quickly becomes an overbearing bandleader until the kids learn the real reason for his enthusiasm.

### **FAMILY TREE**

