

Physiotherapy?

by

Simon Wiedemann

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INT: HOSPITAL - DAY

Here is a small cubicle, closed off by a blue curtain. In the centre is a white bed. Sitting on a chair is a white-suited PHYSIOTHERAPIST (30) with a notepad on his lap. He holds a pen. Facing him on another chair is SIMON (31), excellently dressed.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

So, Simon. Why are you here, today?

SIMON

I just get a bit of knee pain if I do too much exercise...

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

On the form you filled out for me, you say you've had it for a few years?

SIMON

Yes...

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Ok. Can you pull your trousers up, so I can have a look at you?

SIMON stands up and reveals his excellent knees. The THERAPIST leaves his notepad, squats down and feels them.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Ok, good. Does it hurt when I do this?

The PHYSIOTHERAPIST presses into the joint hard.

SIMON

Maybe a little.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Ok. How about when I do this?

The PHYSIOTHERAPIST presses a slightly different area.

SIMON

That's not so bad.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Ok, good. And can you jog on the spot for a bit?

SIMON does some first rate jogging.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Any discomfort?

SIMON

Not really.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
 Excellent. If you don't mind, I need  
 to get some of my specialist  
 equipment. I'll be back in a few  
 seconds...

SIMON  
 Ok...

SIMON sits back down and the THERAPIST leaves. SIMON twiddles  
 his thumbs, nervously. After a few moments, the HEALTHCARE  
 WORKER is back. He is carrying a metal, robotic glove-claw in  
 his hand, which he puts on. SIMON scratches his head.

SIMON  
 (nervously)  
 What's that?

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
 (jokingly)  
 Oh, never mind this. It's just a  
 robotic device that allows me to get a  
 far deeper analysis of your knees.  
 It's perfectly harmless.

SIMON  
 What are the claws for?

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
 Oh, please forgive me. They're for  
 gardening. I'll switch to  
 physiotherapist mode...

After some button pressing, the claws retract to electronic  
 sounds.

SIMON  
 It still looks scary.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
 Hahaha... Nooo.

SIMON  
 Phew!

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
 Ok, if you can stand up again, please?

SIMON stands. The THERAPIST bends down and puts his glove on  
 his PATIENT'S knee.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
 Any pain this time?

SIMON  
 That's fine.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
Great. There's just one more test I  
have to do...

The robotic hand makes mechanical noises as it grips the joint  
hard. Bones crack.

SIMON  
AAAAARGHH!!!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING???

The PHYSIOTHERAPIST takes his hand away and stands up.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
You mean that was painful?

SIMON  
Yes, very painful!!

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
Oh, dear. Can you jog on the spot  
again for me?

SIMON  
NO!

SIMON sits back down and rubs his joint.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
Hmm... It seems your road to recovery  
is going to be a long one, I'm afraid.  
And let's face it, very expensive.

SIMON  
But I'm on the NHS!

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
Not even the NHS can help you, now.  
You need specialised treatment.

SIMON  
How expensive will it be??

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
Never mind that. See you in a couple  
of weeks, good day.

The THERAPIST turns away from his PATIENT, opens a curtain and  
talks loudly through the gap.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
It's ok! We won't be needing the  
hammers, today!

A FEMALE voice is heard from outside.

WOMAN

What about the medical shotgun?

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Again, no need!