

Pain
by
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INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

A DOCTOR (30) in a brown suit and with a wacky tie, sits at his desk with drawers, behind a computer. His ASSISTANT in a white shirt (25) sits on his left. Also on their left is a window and a bed is on their right. In front of them is a closed door and the PATIENT, CHARLES (50) in a cardigan.

DOCTOR

Good afternoon, Charles. How's the new medication I've given to you been working?

CHARLES smiles warmly.

CHARLES

You know what? For the first time in my life I feel what normal people feel. I know when I'm injuring myself or when something's not quite right with me.

DOCTOR

Fascinating. Fascinating. That really is impressive considering how rare your condition is. Let's face it, many biologists simply wouldn't see the point of researching what you have when there are so many other disorders out there that are FAR more common. I hate to be blunt, but they would think to themselves 'ah screw people like you.'

The DOCTOR winks.

CHARLES

Indeed.

DOCTOR

So you can really feel physical pain, now?

CHARLES

Yes. And I'm loving it.

DOCTOR

Mind if I... Do some tests?

CHARLES

Sure. Go ahead.

DOCTOR

Excellent. Now close your eyes. It will make you less nervous.

CHARLES does what he's told. The DOCTOR leaves his chair, stands over his PATIENT, and moves his whole arm backwards as if getting ready to punch him.

DOCTOR
Here, we go...

The DOCTOR swings his fist at his PATIENT with full force, knocking him out of his chair and causing a bloody nose. The DOCTOR sits back down and observes him with analytical eyes.

CHARLES
Arrrrgh!!!

CHARLES tries to pull himself up, but he falls to the floor again. He gives up trying, and simply lies down.

CHARLES
What the hell is wrong with you???

The DOCTOR steeples his hands.

DOCTOR
So that really, REALLY hurt then?

CHARLES
Yes!

DOCTOR
Sorry, I really wasn't expecting the medication to be so successful. I should have started with a simple pinch. Fascinating. Fascinating.

CHARLES rubs his face.

CHARLES
So I'm cured?

DOCTOR
Weeeell, I'm not certain yet. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much did that hurt?

CHARLES
I wouldn't know. Obviously I'm quite new to pain...

DOCTOR
Excellent point. Some more tests will answer that question. Mind if I give you a pinch?

CHARLES
Go ahead.

The DOCTOR stands over CHARLES again, and pinches his arm.

DOCTOR
That's what I would call a 1 out of
10, Charles.

CHARLES
I understand.

DOCTOR
Now Charles, I know this will be very
scary for you, but it will all be over
soon.

CHARLES
Sorry?

DOCTOR
Close you eyes, Charles.

CHARLES
Errr... You know what, I think I'm
going to go...

DOCTOR
Close your eyes, Charles.

The DOCTOR nods to his ASSISTANT, who shakes his head.

ASSISTANT
I don't feel comfortable with this...

DOCTOR
Come on...

ASSISTANT
This is wrong.

DOCTOR
I'll get it then.

CHARLES starts crawling towards the door as the DOCTOR pushes his ASSISTANT out the way, to open the drawer and pick up a baseball bat with barbed wire wrapped around it.

ASSISTANT
You're going to kill him!

DOCTOR
This is all in the name of medicine!

ASSISTANT
STOP!!!

DOCTOR
We need to know if we can help other
people, too!!

ASSISTANT
Run, Charles, run! Get up and run!

CHARLES jumps up and opens the door. He dives through the
exit. The DOCTOR sits back down and types on his keyboard.

DOCTOR
Fear levels: Normal.

The ASSISTANT wipes a tear.

DOCTOR
That's one side effect we don't have
to worry about. We don't want our
medication turning people into cold-
hearted psychopaths. He seemed a
little shaky though. A common side-
effect of many meds...

The ASSISTANT nods.

DOCTOR
Say... Would you mind taking some
yourself? Just to see if it effects
you in any way?