

Prejudice Meets Its Waterloo

Olga Sanderson





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PREJUDICE MEETS ITS WATERLOO

by Olga Sanderson

CAST

ADOLPH SCHLEPENHEIMER: An elderly retired mortician.

ANNA: His wife.

TOMACITA: His daughter.

NURSE MISS BRIGGS

DR. BOOMER

At Rise: ADOLPH, ANNA and TOMACITA enter DR. BOOMER's office.

ADOLPH: I don't know why I have to see your doctor, Tomacita. There's nothing wrong with me.

TOMACITA: Papa, at your age you shouldn't be doing fancy twirls on the ice. It's a wonder you didn't break some bones when you fell down.

ADOLPH: I've been skating since I was 5 years old. Now I should quit at ninety-five?

ANNA: Now Adolph, you had a bad fall so we must make sure you did not injure yourself.

ADOLPH: Well, then I can go and see my doctor, Dr. Himmel.

TOMACITA: That old saw bones? He is way up in his nineties. Besides, he retired 25 years ago.

ADOLPH: Not for me, he hasn't retired. He got lots of experience. Not like these young doctors, that aren't dry behind their ears yet. All they know is what they read in the books.

ANNA: Oh, be a good sport, Adolph. It will take only a few minutes to get a physical and then we can leave.

TOMACITA: Now don't put up a fuss, Papa. We are here at the doctor's office.
(Enter MISS BRIGGS)

TOMACITA: Hello, Miss Briggs. Here's your patient, my father, Adolph Schlepenheimer and his wife, Anna.

MISS BRIGGS: Pleased to meet you, Mr. & Mrs. Schlepenheimer. Now for your history.

ADOLPH: If I need a history lesson first, then I go home. Where's the doctor? Get him in here.

TOMACITA: Papa, she means taking a medical history on you. Just to have some information on your former physical condition.

ADOLPH: I've been good in the past. Never cheated anyone. Now where's the doctor?

ANNA: Adolph, just be patient.

MISS BRIGGS: Well, it looks like I will have to skip the history. I had better call the doctor in. (*she leaves*)

(*DR. BOOMER enters*)

DR. BOOMER: Hello. I am Dr. Boomer. I see Tomacita, you have brought your father. I assume he is to be my patient.

ADOLPH: What? You are a woman! Tomacita...you didn't tell me!

DR. BOOMER: You don't like women doctors? What do you have against them?

ADOLPH: Well, what do they know about men and his problems?

DR. BOOMER: Now I am going to give you a chance to find out. Now, Miss Briggs will take you to the dressing room and give you a gown to put on after you take all your clothes off. Then you will come to the examining room.

ADOLPH: Oh no you don't! I be taking my clothes off for nobody. Not even my wife...and she peeked only once.

TOMACITA: Papa, when you were a funeral director, what did you do when you got a lady client? Did you call in a woman to take care of her?

ADOLPH: Well this is a different situation. My lady clients never complained to me and I took real good care of them. Besides, where they were going, it didn't matter.

DR. BOOMER: Mr. Schlepenheimer, I appreciate your honesty and your modesty but if you come with me, I think we can make some arrangements that will be suitable for you.

ADOLPH: But...I...I... *(he follows her out, reluctantly)*

ANNA: Oh boy, I think we are going to be in for it now, Tomacita. We should have informed him that Dr. Boomer was a woman doctor.

TOMACITA: I don't know, Anna. You know he would not have come. We had better think of something to calm him down...he is so old fashioned and pig-headed!

ANNA: Tomacita, do you think we could pacify him by allowing him to get that Cadillac? It's terribly expensive.

TOMACITA: Well, you just bought that new house. Do you think you could handle another payment?

ANNA: Not really!

TOMACITA: You know, Anna, it really was my idea getting him in to see my doctor. Let me take all the blame and if he won't talk to me the next six months, I will understand. I surely don't want to create a problem for you.

ANNA: Gosh! I wonder what is taking them so long. He must be giving her a horrible time.

TOMACITA: We had better say a prayer. Oh, here comes the doctor now.

(DR. BOOMER enters)

DR. BOOMER: Well, I am happy to state that all his tests turned out fine. No broken bones. Only a few bad bruises on his fanny. The discoloration should be gone in a few weeks, so if he wants to wear shorts, it shouldn't be noticeable. As soon as he gets his clothes on, he will be out. As he is up in age, I would like to see him in six months. I explained this all to him and he has agreed. I must say that he has been a model patient.

TOMACITA: What?! He agreed to come back again! How did you do that?

DR. BOOMER: I told him how honored I was that a man of his stature would allow me, a woman, to serve as his personal physician. *(they all smile)*

(ADOLPH enters, buttoning shirt and tucking it in his pants)

ADOLPH: Dr. Boomer, it sure was a pleasure doing business with you. I have my daughter to thank for bringing me here. She was right when she said Dr. Himmel was too old. They're not up on the new stuff like the young doctors are.

DR. BOOMER: It will be a pleasure having you for a patient, Mr. Schlepenheimer. So, goodbye for now and we'll see you in six months.

ADOLPH: Come on, girls. We are going to have a special lunch today.

ANNA: Are we dreaming, Tomacita?

TOMACITA: If we are, let's not wake up! Come on let's go!

THE END