

Calling Dr. Phil

C. A. Dougherty





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CALLING DR. PHIL

By C. A. Dougherty

CAST

DR. NAISH: Professional. Attire is business casual: sport coat, white shirt, no tie. Hair is barbered but not short. Wears horn-rimmed glasses, sports a beard, and speaks in a cultured voice.

DIXIE DEXTER: Attractive, can be sassy and unfiltered at times. Speaks with a deep country accent.

AMANDA: Intercom voice that is soft, soothing.

Place

Dr. Naish's office.

Time

The present. Late afternoon on a weekday.

CALLING DR. PHIL

Setting: Dr. Naish's office. There is a comfortable chair and a medium sized sofa placed at an oblique angle to one other facing stage front. Each has a small end table next to it. On end table next to the chair stage right sits an intercom box. The other table contains a box of tissues. An oriental area rug in front of the seating area gives the room a certain elegance, a coat stand is off to the side.

At Rise: Dr. Naish is sitting in his chair jotting notes in his notebook. He pauses to think about something then continues writing for a moment before reaching over and pressing a button on the intercom.

DR. NAISH: Amanda, please send in my next client. *(looks at notebook.)* Ah, Mrs. Dexter, it's very nice to meet you. *(gestures toward the other chair)* Please, make yourself comfortable. You can hang your jacket on the stand over there if you like.

DIXIE: No, I'm fine.

DR. NAISH: Very well, *(they each sit, make themselves comfortable and smile politely at each other.)* May I call you Dixie?

DIXIE: *(nervous giggle)* Oh sure. I mean, after all it's my name.

DR. NAISH: Thank you. *(he picks up his notebook, flips over a few pages and reads briefly.)* Ahh, I thought your husband was joining us for this session?

DIXIE: Oh, you mean Walter. No, he didn't want to come. Said I'm barkin' up the wrong tree.

DR. NAISH: Wrong tree?

DIXIE: Well, you know, talking about our marriage and what I see is a problem. I was upset he wasn't coming, but this morning I was taking my shower and it hit me right between the eyes. Kind of works like that for me. I get a lot of ideas when I'm in the shower.

DR. NAISH: Yes, I've heard that showers do work that way for a great many people.

DIXIE: Anyway, I saw the light, and then I wasn't sure there was any reason to keep the appointment, but Gertie thought I should. Keep the appointment, that is. She said if I

could ask Dr. Phil about it, he'd for sure say, "Go for it, Dixie." You don't argue with Dr. Phil, right?

DR. NAISH: Dr. Phil?

DIXIE: Oh, you know, the shrink on television. He's the best. He has an answer for any problem. There are a lot of freaks out there, you know? But he always knows what to say to make things right.

DR. NAISH: Yes, I'm aware of who Dr. Phil is, but who is Gertie?

DIXIE: (*giggles*) Oh, Gertie's my neighbor. We both love Dr. Phil. Umm, Doctor?

DR. NAISH: Yes?

DIXIE: Just so you know, I tried to get on Dr. Phil's show, but they said it could take years to get on his schedule so Gertie said that even though you aren't Dr. Phil, you might have something to say that might be worth listening to.

DR. NAISH: (*pregnant pause*) I'm humbled.

DIXIE: Oh, no big deal. Figured I could always write a letter telling Dr. Phil what you told me and see if he agrees with you.

DR. NAISH: Very well. Now that we've established all that, let's move on, shall we? You mentioned that you felt there was problem in your marriage?

DIXIE: (*nodding*) Uh-huh.

DR. NAISH: (*pauses waiting for more, but Dixie doesn't say anything*) Would you care to elaborate?

DIXIE: Oh. Well, our marriage isn't exactly the problem. It's my husband. How he acts, some of the weird stuff he does. And it's getting worse. So I decided, if you could give me some 'techniques' you know, like Dr. Phil would do? I could use those techniques to get my husband to change and voila! Problem solved.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!