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WAITING FOR DR. HAMLETT

By

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The Cast

NURSE - Dr. Hamlett's office nurse
CHARLIE MACBETH - Retired real estate salesman
FRED BANKQUO - Retired financial advisor
TONY ROMEO - Used car salesman
BILL CASSIUS and **PETE BRUTUS** - Two gentlemen from Verona [NY],
professional French-fries tasters
DESDEMONA LEER - Local nightclub entertainer
LADYBIRD MACBETH - Charlie's wife
JULIE OBERON – Tony's live-in girlfriend
DR. DANE HAMLETT – Respected family doctor

Setting: Dr. Hamlett's office waiting room in Padua City, a small town somewhere in the American Midwest.

Set: Several chairs; table and chair for Nurse; several file folders, pencil /pens, clock, and small water bottle on the table.

At rise: The small waiting room is jammed with patients; DR. HAMLETT and NURSE are not to be seen. LADYBIRD is sitting in a corner, dejectedly wringing her hands. JULIE is curled up in a fetal position on the floor, apparently in abdominal pain, occasionally moaning or groaning. She is ignored by everyone except TONY, who appears worried and is very attentive. CHARLIE and DESDEMONA are conversing loudly about the dry weather, while FRED, BILL and PETE are even more loudly discussing baseball.

(NURSE enters and attempts to get their attention.)

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NURSE: *(to audience:)* Once more into the breach, dear friends, once more. *(to patients, with false cheerfulness)* Good morning, everyone. *(no one pays her any attention)* *(louder)* Good morning, patients! *(still no one pays attention)* *(shouts)* Good morning, you sickies! Listen up! *(startled, PATIENTS are immediately silent, giving her their full attention)* Now that I have your attention, who is our first patient this morning?

PATIENTS: *(all shouting at once)* I /we have an appointment!

NURSE: That's history. This is the long and short of it – the computer is down, so it's first come, first served. Who was here first?

PATIENTS: *(all shouting at once)* I was /we were!

NURSE: *(to audience)* Angels and ministers of grace defend us!

BANKQUO: What? Will the line stretch out to the crack of doom? Oh, that a man might know the end of this day's business!

PATIENTS: *(standing up; in unison to audience)* Though it be honest, it is never good to bring bad news. *(they sit.)*

(NURSE quickly sits down at table, picks up a pencil and opens charts.)

NURSE: Just give me your name and your complaint. You, there *(pointing at MACBETH)*, you're first. Your name?

MACBETH: What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell the same.

NURSE: *(annoyed)* Please, sir, your name.

MACBETH: MacBeth, Charles MacBeth. C-h-a-r...

BANKQUO: MacBeth? You're Charlie Macbeth? Why you roadside murdering scum! Remember Scotland? I'll...

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