

Cleveland Clinic

by Eric Coble

Dasia	A doctor trying to make it better
Sore throat woman	A patient with too many symptoms
Frank	A nurse trying to juggle
Cholesterol man	A patient with too little time
Coughing man	A patient with too much phlegm
Ms. Roberts	A woman with solution
Orderly	Who pushes a gurney
Petey	A mob boss, just passing through

DRAFT

SFX:

BED - GENERAL LIGHT COMMOTION

DASIA: How long have you had the sore throat, Miss Jackson?

SORE THROAT: I don't know, man. On and off for a while. I been seen like three times already.

DASIA: And you tested negative for Strep?

SORE THROAT: I think so.

DASIA: Okay. This could just be post-nasal drip irritating the throat.

SORE THROAT Right ! That's what one of the doctors said !

DASIA Do you remember the doctor's name?

SORE THROAT no.

DASIA Do you remember if it was here at the Clinic?

SORE THROAT no.

DASIA Did this other doctor at this possibly other place give you any kind of prescription ?

SORE THROAT Yeah !

DASIA And did you get that filled?

SORE THROAT No.

DASIA Any idea what they prescribed?

SORE THROAT I lost the paper.

DASIA Okay. We're going to start over. We're going to do another throat culture.

SORE THROAT Is that where you put the stick in my mouth ?

DASIA The swab. Yes.

SORE THROAT The other doctor did that.

DASIA And I can't find the culture. Hold on. (TO INTERCOM)
Frank, I need a throat culture in here.

FRANK (ON INTERCOM) I think there's too much culture in there
already. If you get a minute . . .

SORE THROAT And I've got this pounding headache on and off for like six
months.

DASIA (FLIPPING THROUGH A CHART) That wasn't in your
report.

SORE THROAT Maybe it's because I haven't taken my blood pressure pills.

DASIA Oh, well, see – that could be a problem. When did you last
take them?

SORE THROAT Maybe last Christmas ...?

DASIA Okay.

FRANK (ON INTERCOM) Blood pressure was high, but not
frightening ...

DASIA We're going to take a throat culture and talk about your blood
pressure when I come back, okay? (TO INTERCOM)
Frank, you'll do the culture?

FRANK (ON INTERCOM) I'll see if Maya can. # 453 - 29 - 96 in
twelve is getting testy.

DASIA Okay.

SFX **PULLS CURTAIN CLOSED, TAKES A FEW STEPS,**
PULLS CURTAIN BACK

CHOLESTEROL MAN (INTO PHONE) I'm not going to some office party in the Flats
– if they want the Strongsville property they can meet me at
the Tremont barbeque thing at four. Hang on, it looks like a

nurse has deigned to see me.

DASIA I'm Doctor Holloway. Sorry to keep you waiting.

CHOLESTEROL MAN I don't know about you, but I work for a living.

DASIA I'm sorry ?

CHOLESTEROL MAN I make 45 dollars an hour outside this building. You have kept me waiting for 65 minutes and I have yet to be seen. Who's going to reimburse me for my time ?

DASIA (FLIPPING THROUGH A CHART) Well, I'm seeing you now.

CHOLESTEROL MAN I made an appointment. I honor my appointments. You're a multi-million dollar institution. I don't see why you can't honor your appointments.

DASIA Actually, we were full before we fit you in, Mister LeCroiox –

CHOLESTEROL MAN And now you stand here making excuses instead of letting me see Doctor Satyarthi –

DASIA Doctor Satyarthi isn't in today. You wanted to be seen today –

CHOLESTEROL MAN Apparently my cholesterol is worrisome.

DASIA I don't know if I'd say worrisome, but it's clearly something we need to –

CHOLESTEROL MAN Just write me a prescription –

DASIA Well, actually, you know, I need to check some facts first.

CHOLESTEROL MAN It should all be in the file.

DASIA But before we jump into medication, we need to talk about diet and exercise.

CHOLESTEROL MAN Oh, good lord.

DASIA I know. But your insurance might not cover prescriptions until we've tried lifestyle changes for six months.

CHOLESTEROL MAN Six months? I could be dead in six months !

DASIA Yes, you could be.

CHOLESTEROL MAN What ?

DASIA – but so could I and everyone else. The point is –

CHOLESTEROL MAN “Lifestyle changes” – you make it sound like I should stop hanging around gay bars —

DASIA If that's your connotation –

CHOLESTEROL MAN I'm not gay ! I'm using that as an absurd example !

DASIA Sir, would you please lower your voice? Your cholesterol has nothing to do with your sexual preference.

FRANK (ON INTERCOM) Dasia ?? Urgent patient call.

DASIA Okay. I'm so sorry, sir. I'll be right back.

SFX FOOTSTEPS, CURTAIN CLOSES

FRANK Why are we yelling about being gay ?

DASIA He's upset about his cholesterol.

SFX CURTAIN OPENS

DASIA Has anyone given you a throat culture yet?

SORE THROAT Does the guy in the cubicle next to me have a problem with being gay ?

DASIA I'll be right back.

FRANK Phone call. Mrs. Habiscus. She says she's called three times. Her fever's 108, she appears to be bleeding, and her

heart may have stopped.

DASIA.

Okay. (INTO PHONE) Mrs. Habiscus ! This is Doctor Holloway. It sounds like maybe you need an ambulance, Mrs. Habiscus. ... oh. You're already in the Clinic? Where are you? You don't know either? Is there a sign near you? Yes, there are a lot of building. No, I'd be happy to write another prescription, but you need to find me first. Especially if your heart has stopped. Frank will give you directions, okay?

(To Frank) Your turn. . .

FRANK

(In phone) Can you hold, please? Thank you.

(FRANK PUSHES BUTTON TO HANG UP PHONE.)

SFX

GURNEY WHEELS PAST, WHEEL SQUEEKING

COUGHING MAN

(Horrrifying cough)

DASIA

Whoa ...

FRANK

Beauriful, eh? Here's his chart. #38 - 86- 223. Can you take a look at him?

DASIA

Can someone else?

FRANK

They're all with other patients or filling out reports.

DASIA

I'm with other patients. I should be filling out reports.

FRANK

You've got four more to do this hour to meet the quota. (HANDS REPORTS) Plus reports on #6700-972, #446-1179, and #5199-833.

DASIA

Did any of these people have names?

FRANK

Not that I know of.

SFX

CURTAIN PULLS OPEN, PULLS CLOSED

DASIA How are you doing today, sir?

COUGHING MAN (TRIES TO SPEAK, LETS OUT A HUGE HACKING COUGH, TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE)

DASIA That sounds pretty nasty.

COUGHING MAN I think I need an anitbiotic ...

DASIA It says here you were already on some. This could be viral.

COUGHING MAN Exactly. I need more antibiotics.

DASIA If it's viral, the antibiotics won't help. It just takes time to go away.

SFX **(ANOTHER COUGH)**

DASIA Okay. Obviously staying calm is good. It could be any number of things. It could be post-nasal drip —

COUGHING MAN From what? I don't have a cold.

DASIA P-N-D can come from a variety of sources. Chronic sinusitis – if it's that, we can surgically drain it.

COUGHING MAN Surgically drain it ? Oh god oh god oh god ... (STARTS COUGHING)

DASIA Please, sir. Stay calm. We don't know yet —

COUGHING MAN You're going to have to go in with a knife or a scalpel or something, aren't you ? It's in my nose – right next to my brain ,....

DASIA We can treat you with a steroid spray instead

COUGHING MAN Steroids? Oh god oh god oh god ... (STARTS COUGHING)

DASIA I need where's a tongue depressor?

COUGHING MAN I don't want to bloat up like some Barry Bonds —

DASIA Can you hang on for just one minute, sir? I need a tongue depressor. I'll be right back.

COUGHING MAN I had some pizza from Saul Herskowitz's Kosher this morning. Could that have something to do with it ??

DASIA (SHE STEPS AWAY AS HE TRIES TO CONTROL HIS COUGH)

(TO FRANK) Frank, I need a tongue depressor.

FRANK You need a T-B ward. And you have a call from Danny Gerhard about his test results.

DASIA Okay.

SFX **FEMALE FOOTSTEPS APPROACH**

MS. ROBERTS Excuse me, Dr. Holloway, can I just grab you for a minute ?

DASIA Okay. Ten seconds.

MS. ROBERTS My name is Dierdra Roberts. I'm with PharmaCure.

DASIA You're a drug rep?

MS. ROBERTS I'm a pharmaceutical liaison. I can't help noticing you have your hands full ----

SFX **COUGHING MAN HAS A HUGE COUGHING FIT**

Obviously I don't know the details of that patient's case, but from the tenor of his cough, it so happens that our new medication Placebacet (pluh - SEE - buh - set) could do wonders ----

DASIA I'm sorry, I really don't have time. If you want to leave some studies ----

SFX **SNAP OPENS A BRIEFCASE AND PORTFOLIO**

MS. ROBERTS It so happens we have conducted seventeen independent

studies that show ----

CHOLESTEROL MAN (APPROACHES MIKE) How much longer do you plan on detaining me in this plague house ?

DASIA Please, sir. If you'll step back in your room ----

CHOLESTEROL MAN I'm due in Willoughby in 39 minutes. I'm not catching Whooping Cough.

Ms. Roberts It so happens that Placebacet has amazing effects on Whooping Cough.

FRANK Dasia – Mrs. Habiscus is on the phone again. She thinks she's in the Cole Eye Institute and wants directions.

DASIA Tell her to try to find a window. Locate the sun. That should be east.

Ms. Roberts: (TO CHOLESTEROL MAN) How are you doing today, sir?

CHOLESTEROI MAN I came in here with bad cholesterol, and I'm going to leave with dyphtheria.

MS. ROBERTS Our new medication placebecet can actually nullify high cholesterol and dyphtheria....

DASIA Let's go into your room. Can you give me one more minute, sir?

CHOLESTEROL MAN I —

DASIA I know, that's like 75 cents in the outside world

SFX **CURTAIN OPENS**

Has anyone done that throat culture yet, Ms. Roberts?

SORE THROAT I don't think I'm Ms. Roberts.

DASIA Miss ??

SORE THROAT Jackson.

DASIA Jackson. I'm so sorry.

SORE THROAT I forgot to tell you I've been vomiting for six months.

DASIA You've been vomiting for six months ??

SORE THROAT Not every day. Someone at MetroHealth gave me some pills.

DASIA do you have any idea what those pills might have been ??

SORE THROAT They were white. They were shaped like this.

DASIA Okay. The stomach ache and sore throat could mean you have Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease. If it is, then your symptoms would be worsened by eating greasy fried foods, chocolate, caffeine. Do you take a lot of caffeine?

SORE THROAT Just a few pops a day. And it's only Mountain Dew.

DASIA Jesus.

SFX **COUGHING MAN LETS OUT A HUGE HACK**

SFX **SQUEEKING GURNEY, ERRATIC HEART MONITOR BEEPING (OUT AT X)**

ORDERLY Comin' through. Excuse us, comin' through. Just relax, Mr. Pepperoni.

SFX **HORRIBLE GROAN**

Cardiac is just around the corner and down two flights.

(X)

SORE THROAT Is the gay guy dying over there?

DASIA I'll be right back to you.

SFX

CURTAIN CLOSING

DASIA

Oh, excuse me, Ms. Roberts.

MS. ROBERTS

If I could just get a minute. I couldn't help overhearing you mention reflux, which it so happens ----

FRANK

Dasia, it's Mrs. Habiscus on the phone. Somehow she ended up out on East 97th. She's looking for a door to get back in.

DASIA

Okay !

SFX

CURTAIN YANKS OPEN

DASIA

Now, sir, do you know what else could be causing your cough? Reflux.

COUGHING MAN

How can we find out?

DASIA

I'm thinking a rectal exam.

SFX

A HUGE COUGH FIT

DASIA

.... to look for blood in the stool, sir.

COUGHING MAN

It's not reflux. It's not reflux.

DASIA

Then it may be tuberculosis or a tumor. . .

SFX

WILD COUGHING FIT

DASIA

.... or maybe it's viral.

COUGHING MAN

Maybe it's just viral. It's probably just viral.

SFX

CURTAIN PULLS CLOSED

MS ROBERTS

I brought Placebecet notepads, pens and letter openers for the staff.

DASIA

Okay.

SFX

CURTAIN NOISE as Cholesterol Man steps out

CHOLESTEROL MAN Why am I still here? I thought this was the #1 hospital in the state.

DASIA Number one in Cardiac, sir. We're #13 in cholesterol and #99 on patience with impatient patients.

(To Ms. Roberts) Give me one of those notepads.

SFX

CURTAIN YANKS

MS. ROBERTS I also brought lunch for the entire staff !!

SFX

RUSTLE OF PAPER BAG

SORE THROAT Is there any pop in there?

DASIA No pop.

SORE THROAT Hershey bars?

DASIA No chocolate.

SORE THROAT Is there a McDonalds around here?

DASIA Not anymore. Here, have an apple. Keeps the doctor away.

FRANK Pharmacy on line two, Dasia. Insurance question.

DASIA (Scribbling) Okay.

MS ROBERTS I've got trips to Florida for the whole family !!

SFX

CURTAIN (COUGHING MAN STAGGERS OUT)

COUGHING MAN Would that help my cough?

MS. ROBERTS And gift certificates to Ruths Chris Steakhouse, Lola's ----

CHOLESTEROL MAN Give me those —

FRANK

Mrs. Habiscus on line five, Dasia !

DASIA

Okay. (To Ms. Roberts) You need to back off with your payola pills.

You, you need to see a nutritionist, a fitness expert, and calm the hell down.

You, Mister Coughiing Man, need to see an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist ... and CHILL OUT !!

(To Sore Throat) And **you** need to see me – and only me – and get this to a pharmacy and take your blood pressure medicine !! OKAY ??!!!

ALL

Okay

DASIA

And someone find Mrs. Habiscus because I'm going to lunch !!!

SFX

CURTAIN YANKS

MUSIC

THEME UP AND OUT

END

