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An Optimistic Diagnosis



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AN OPTIMISTIC DIAGNOSIS

written by

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Synopsis

A faith-based comedic short script about living life optimistically rather than pessimistically.

Cast of Characters

DOCTOR

PATIENT

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: A medical examining room.

At Rise: DOCTOR is listening to PATIENT's chest.

DOCTOR

Inhale.

(moves stethoscope to PATIENT's back)

Again.

(DOCTOR pulls out tongue depressor or light.)

DOCTOR

Say ah!

PATIENT

Ahhhh…

DOCTOR

Aha!

PATIENT

Ahaaa…

DOCTOR

No, I was just saying Aha to your Ahhh.

PATIENT

Ah!

(DOCTOR sighs and goes to write something on clipboard.)

PATIENT

What is it?

DOCTOR

How have you been feeling, Susan?

PATIENT

Terrific.

DOCTOR

That’s what I was afraid of.

PATIENT

Whaddya mean?

DOCTOR

I’m afraid I have some bad news for you. After our preliminary tests, I’ve been able to make a clear diagnosis of your condition.

PATIENT

What do you mean “my condition?”

DOCTOR

I’m afraid you have a severe case of… optimism.

PATIENT

Optimism? Is that bad?

DOCTOR

It’s pretty serious. Fortunately, we’re seeing it less and less, but there are still occasional outbreaks

PATIENT

Is there a cure?

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(The DOCTOR holds up a happy face and a sad face. PATIENT reluctantly points to the sad face.)

DOCTOR

Excellent. Keep this up and you'll be well on your way to a full recovery. Let's have you check back in a week to see how you're progressing. Oh, one final question– do you have any idea where you may have picked up this disease– I mean, is there a chance you could be re-infected once you're cured?

PATIENT

Well… I may have gotten it at my women's Bible study group. You see, we've been studying the book of James who tells us to view life and the trials that come our way with a spirit of joy.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry, but you will never be cured of optimism if you keep exposing yourself to propaganda of this nature. You'll need to be more careful.

(There is a moment of silence as DOCTOR writes something on the PATIENT's chart. The PATIENT slowly gets up and crosses to the counter where the glass of water is sitting.)

PATIENT

You know, Doctor, I don't think I want to be cured. Not if it means I have to ignore what God has taught me. I feel better looking at life in terms of the blessings I have, rather than focusing on the negative. I'd rather go through life thinking the glass is half-full rather than half-empty. I guess that's what happens when you drink from the Living Water.

DOCTOR

Living water?

PATIENT

Why don’t you make an appointment with me next week, and we can discuss it. Have great day, Doc!

(PATIENT exits.)

(DOCTOR stands confused – picks up glass)

DOCTOR

Living water???

(takes a drink and shrugs it off)

(END)



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