

HELLO OTHER

Book One – DISCOVERY

By S C Dinsdale

"Fear outs when the Truth is out of alignment, and opinions prevail."

Chapter 5: Consent 102

...Finding a theatre dress with sufficient length to cover my thighs that doesn't expose my chest isn't easy. Traditional scrubs aren't an option in the female changing room. Appropriately attired at last, I hurry into theatre with ten minutes to spare. The first patient has already been anaesthetised. Two theatre staff members are attaching stirrups to the bed.

"Are you the medical student?" asks a gentleman with freshly scrubbed hands, as he steps backwards through a swing door, carefully avoiding contamination.

"Yes Sir, my name is Jane Doe."

"Good, put some gloves on. I want you to do a pelvic examination and report your findings."

The patient's relaxed legs are now being lifted apart and into the stirrups for support. Another staff member assists the consultant into his gown.

"I'm sorry Sir, but I don't have her permission... She was already under anaesthetic when I arrived."

"That doesn't matter, you have my permission. Come on, you are holding us up."

Stunned by this unexpected turn of events, I attempt to negotiate, "I'm very sorry Sir, but I can't. If the next patient gives me permission, I can examine her."

My body has frozen, feet glued firmly to the floor. The surgeon's angry eyes stare directly into mine as he delivers an ultimatum.

"There won't be a next time, if you don't examine this patient right now!" He commands, pointing a sterile gloved finger at me. "And if you don't co-operate, you can leave my theatre, and don't *ever* come back."

It's an impossible situation that leaves me with only one option...

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