

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any

Address  
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INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Patient sits up defiantly in the hospital bed. Doctor stands at foot of the bed with a cane and a bit of a limp.

PATIENT

They said I would never get to meet you.

DOCTOR

You're being an idiot.

(beat)

You have a tape worm in your brain. Its not pleasant, but if we don't do anything you'll be dead by the weekend.

PATIENT

Have you actually seen the worm?

DOCTOR

When you're all better I'll show you my diplomas.

PATIENT

You were sure I had vasculitis, too. Now I can't walk and I'm wearing a diaper. What's this treatment going to do for me?

DOCTOR

I'm not talking about a treatment. I'm talking about a cure. But because I might be wrong, you want to die.

PATIENT

What made you a cripple?

If this is what it takes.

DOCTOR

I had an infarction.

PATIENT

A heart attack?

DOCTOR

It's what happens when blood flow is obstructed. If it's in the heart, it's a heart attack. If it's in the lungs, it's a pulmonary embolism -- brain, it's a stroke. I had it in my thigh muscles.

PATIENT

Wasn't there something they could do?

DOCTOR

There was plenty they could do. If they made the right diagnosis. But the only symptom was pain. Not many people get to experience muscle death.

PATIENT

Did you think you were dying?

DOCTOR

I hoped I was dying.

PATIENT

So you hang out in your office, refuse to see patients, because you don't like the way people look at you. You feel cheated by life, so now you're going to get even with the world. And you want me to fight this. Why? What makes you think I'm so much better than you?

DOCTOR

You're scared you'll turn into me.

PATIENT

I just want to die with a little dignity.

DOCTOR

There's no such thing. Our bodies break down - sometimes when we're 90, sometimes before we're even born. But it always happens and there's never any dignity in it. I don't care if you can walk, see, wipe your own ass, it's always ugly, always! You can live with dignity. You can't die with it.