

# DOCTOR

37.

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**EXT. DESIREE'S GARDEN - DAY**

Eric wakes with a start. Stares up at the shining beads above. Dresses quietly, and makes his way up front...

45

**EXT. DESIREE'S HOUSE ROAD - DAY**

Eric's at the car when he hears from behind...

OTTO

You want a travel companion?

ERIC

You been here the whole time?

OTTO

Around. I'm a good look out.

ERIC

Are you clean?

OTTO

You mean tapeworms? Desiree sees to that.

ERIC

What does that mean?

OTTO

What I said. Relax, I've known Desiree years. I'm a stray she took in - like you. Where you going?

ERIC

Meeting a guy.

OTTO

A man about a dog?

ERIC

That kind of thing yeah.

OTTO

So you want company? A friend?

ERIC

Sure, get in.

He opens the back door and Otto jumps in.

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**INT. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WARD (THE PRESENT) - MORNING**

Eric lies in a paper gown on a gurney in the doorway. He opens his eyes at the squelchy sound of a FEMALE DOCTOR putting surgical gloves on. Stares at her hands. The Doctor shines a small light in his eyes. Eric recoils.

DOCTOR

How you feeling?

START:

ERIC  
Cold.

DOCTOR  
How long have you felt like that?

ERIC  
Since I've been sitting in my  
underwear waiting for you.

DOCTOR  
Well you were out all night. How's  
your memory improving? C7H8?

ERIC  
Toluene. Why did you ask that?

The Doctor indicates her notes.

DOCTOR  
Says you were a relief pharmacist  
in the district. You work here?

ERIC  
Beats me. Facts and memory are two  
different things.

DOCTOR  
OK, let's see.

She looks at her notes and back at the burns.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Rule of nines.

ERIC  
The Ninth?

DOCTOR  
No less than nine percent, second  
degree. They itch?

The Doctor unwraps what's left of the bandages. Eric nods in  
some pain. The burns are dark purple now and grungy. There  
are older burn scars further up and on his hand.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Jeez, Eric! They look terrible.

ERIC  
It's icing sugar. Beignets.

DOCTOR  
You've already had one set of  
grafts and there's infection now.  
Use the Silvadene, not cream. Are  
you getting enough liquids?

ERIC  
What's enough?

DOCTOR  
Eric, lay off the alcohol. Drink  
more water. I'll give you  
antibiotics, painkillers too.  
There's some spray for the bites.

ERIC  
You know about the bugs?

The Doctor looks at the myriad of red welts on his chest.

DOCTOR  
These aren't insect bites.

ERIC  
Are they infected?

DOCTOR  
Speed bumps most likely. The burns  
are causing fever compounded by  
dehydration from the narcotics.

She shines a red light in Eric's eyes, gets a needle and  
syringe and injects Eric before he can protest.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
You're still wired.

ERIC  
What?

DOCTOR  
How's your memory?

ERIC  
You asked me that five minutes ago.

DOCTOR  
So I did Eric, so I did. That's an  
improvement, then.

The Doctor smiles at him, signs Eric's prescription and  
passes it over.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
I treated you when you came in. You  
nearly died Eric. Any more of this  
drug, and you'll do more  
irreparable damage. Do you  
understand?

Eric gathers up his belongings. The Doctor leaves. Turns and  
calls to Eric...

**END:**

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Everybody wants you alive my  
friend.

From behind a curtain Eric hears...