

Flesh Wounds

By

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#OnlyinNewYork

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Cast of Characters

Janelle: a phlebotomist at The Plasma
Center, NYC

George: an unusual entrepreneur

Scene

1pm

Time

Plasma Center, NYC

Janelle is in a white lab coat organizing her equipment. Suddenly she freaks and hops up on the medical table.

JANELLE

Ohmygod, RAT! RAT!

She clutches her chest and breathes.

It's ok... It's ok...

We hear someone entering. She immediately hops down, pulls herself together and tries to look official, staring at her clip board. George enters wearing street clothes. From the moment he arrives he tries to get her eye contact.

GEORGE

Hey you!!

JANELLE

(not looking up from her clipboard)

I have a name. It lives right here on my tag.

GEORGE

Totally. I know your name's Janelle. This is only my tenth time donating here and I'm not always lucky enough to get you, so I didn't know if we were on a first name basis yet.

JANELLE

(still not looking)

Well, we're certainly not on a "hey you" basis yet.

GEORGE

Gotcha. Hey Janelle!

JANELLE

(still not looking)

And for the last time, it's not "donating" if you're being paid.

GEORGE

Understood. WHOA WHAT THE HELL IS IN MY EYE!??

She rushes to him and looks in his eyes. Beat. Forgive me. Just wanted to see those gorgeous green globes gazing into mine.

Beat. She almost smiles.

JANELLE

Have a seat and roll up your sleeve.

GEORGE

With pleasure.

Janelle puts on rubber gloves and readies her equipment, while George sings to the audience.

(singing)

TWO TIMES A WEEK, I RIDE THE J TRAIN.

SO THAT GREEN-EYED GODDESS THERE CAN PUNCTURE MY VEIN.

MY HEART TAKES WING WHEN I FEEL HER SWEET STING.

AT THE PLASMA CENTER NYC.....

GOSH! THERE'S NOTHING HOTTER THAN PHLEBOTOMY.

Song ends. Janelle is ready to insert the needle.

JANELLE

Ok, just a pinch now...

She stabs the needle in. Roughly.

GEORGE

Mmm, hurts so good. Oh! I almost forgot. Breaks my heart to say this Janelle, but I have to be brief with my banter on the way out today. Gotta hit the bank right after this.

JANELLE

Most banks are open til 5, so I'm sure you'll be fine.

GEORGE

Oh no, not the money bank, the sperm bank. I have an emission at two, and I'm sure we can both agree that the children of this great city need fathers, no?

Beat.

JANELLE

Sure. Um. About how many children have you... fathered?

GEORGE

Impossible to say. Hundreds?

JANELLE

Whoa.

GEORGE

Yeah, I do what I can.

JANELLE

I take it you sell all your bodily fluids then?

GEORGE

Most of them! Not breast milk though because I unfortunately don't produce enough, and not blood - it's illegal in the states to exchange money for blood, though you can accept gift cards, which believe me, I do.

JANELLE

May I ask why you do this?

GEORGE

New York is fucking expensive, girl!

JANELLE

Sure, I get that, but - have you ever thought about getting a job?

GEORGE

Nope. No way. I need to be free to pursue my passion.

JANELLE

And what's that?

GEORGE

What's what.

JANELLE

Your passion?

Beat.

GEORGE

No fuckin clue.

Beat.

God, what a great question, no one's ever asked me that before! You're amazing Janelle. Do you know that? You're beautiful and you're amazing.

Beat. They lock eyes. It's a gorgeous moment between humans. George can't help himself, he reaches out and tenderly cups her cheek. As soon as he makes contact...

JANELLE

< blood curdling scream!>

GEORGE

SHIT-STICK! SHIT-STICK! What just happened?

JANELLE

YOU TOUCHED ME! I DON'T LIKE TO BE TOUCHED!

Janelle breaks out in song to the audience.

(singing)

I DON'T LIKE TO BE TOUCHED

I REALLY HATE TO BE TOUCHED

I STAB PEOPLE ALL DAMN DAY

TO KEEP THEIR TOUCH AWAY

(sweet musical tone shift)

SO WHYYYYYYYYYY? Oh whyyyyyyyyy?

DO I FEEL SO PULLED TO THIS WEIRD FUCKIN GUY?

Song ends.

GEORGE

My bad. So sorry. Won't happen again. I'll just mind my business while you phlebotomize me of my fluids.

He stares at the wall.

JANELLE

No, I'm sorry. I overreacted. See, something happened to me when I was younger, so - after that I was really, you know - I just never wanted anyone to... yeah - so basically after that, my body and I haven't been getting along, and - Oh MAN! Blah, blah, blah, look at my life story coming out of my FACE! Geez Janelle, stop already!

GEORGE

No Janelle, continue! And feel free to finish your sentences from time to time, because I actually didn't understand a word of that!

Beat. She looks like she might cry.

Hey. Hey... are you ok?

He leans forward and reaches for her. She slaps him on the back.

JANELLE

STAY AWAY!

Beat.

Ohmygod. I just slapped you in the kidney, I'm so sorry!

GEORGE

That's ok, I don't have one on that side!

JANELLE

A kidney?

GEORGE

Yeah no, I sold it!

JANELLE

But - it's illegal to sell your organs.

GEORGE

(lowering his voice, sexy)
Not on the ol'... black market.

JANELLE

Shut up!

GEORGE

You're aroused by this revelation.

JANELLE

Aroused? Do I look aroused? I'm shocked! And, well
yeah, maybe a little aroused. That's insane!

GEORGE

Well strap your seatbelt, girl 'cause there's more
where that came from. See this eye here?

JANELLE

Yeah?

GEORGE

Well it can't see you.

Beat. Janelle is confused.
Fake. Made \$800 on that.

JANELLE

That's not that much actually.

GEORGE

Hey, it covered the rent that month. And my left
testicle?

JANELLE

Yeah?

GEORGE

This one right here?

JANELLE

Sure, I'm familiar with the concept of right and left.

GEORGE

Implant.

JANELLE

No!

GEORGE

Balls go for upwards of \$35,000. I'll be living off that one through the New Year.

JANELLE

But the sperm bank gig...?

GEORGE

A non-issue. My remaining ball really packs a punch. I assure you, no one is complaining.

JANELLE

(laughing)

Oh my god.

GEORGE

(laughing)

Yeah? You think that's funny?

JANELLE

(laughing)

I don't believe you.

GEORGE

No? Flick it.

JANELLE

Really?!

GEORGE

Yeah, flick the shit out of it!

She flicks the shit out of his ball implant with great glee, then looks to him for a reaction.
Didn't feel a thing.

JANELLE

WOW!

GEORGE

I know! Now try cupping it!

She freezes.

JANELLE
Um.

GEORGE
You're right, cupping was too much.
(singing)
FUCK! CUPPING WAS TOO MUCH!

FOR A GIRL WHO HATES TO TOUCH!

JANELLE
(singing)
DAMN-IT! PISS-SHIT! FUUUUUUUUCK!

I FEEL SO FRUSTRATED AND STUCK!

WHY I'M SO SCARED, I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WHEN ALLLLLLLLLLL I WANNA DO IS HOLD HIS HAND.

TOGETHER
(singing)
I REALLY THINK THIS GIRL/GUY COULD BE IT!

IF I COULD ONLY GET OVER MY PERSONAL BAGGAGE AND SHIT!

The song ends.

GEORGE
Alright. Truth time over here. Janelle? I shouldn't have asked you to cup my balls. That was inappropriate and I apologize. You're just the most beautiful, fascinating creature I've ever come in contact with and the thought of being close to you made me act like an asshole of epic proportions.

Beat.
And listen, whatever happened to you - I don't need to know what happened to you, it's not my business. But, whatever it was, I hope you find a way to let someone touch you again someday. You deserve to feel good in your body. Your body is your home, ya know? And if you can't go home... where can you go?

Beat. Janelle explodes.

JANELLE
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!

GEORGE
Whaddaya mean by that?

JANELLE

YOU'RE GOUGING OUT YOUR BODY PARTS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING
TO BREAK A RECORD!

GEORGE

WELL A GUY NEEDS TO EAT, JANELLE!

JANELLE

UM! THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF GOING ABOUT THAT, GEORGE!

Beat.

GEORGE

We're fighting. Oh man, this is amazing, you're
fighting with me.

JANELLE

Why is that amazing.

GEORGE

Because it means you care.

Beat.

JANELLE

Well. Yeah. I'm. Worried about you.

GEORGE

Aw!

JANELLE

And... I'm pretty sure I'm reporting you.

GEORGE

What? Why?

JANELLE

George, we can't responsibly accept your plasma with
only half your internal organs intact. You gotta take
better care of yourself.

GEORGE

Sure. That makes sense I guess, but.

Beat.

How am I ever gonna see you then? I mean, if you ever
wanna see me again.

JANELLE

Well...

*Janelle gently slides off her glove and slowly
reaches for George's hand. He reaches back.*

JANELLE

...maybe we can work something-

Just as they're abouuuut to touch....

RAT! RAT! OHMYGOD RAT!!!

Janelle hurls herself onto the medical table and into George's arms. They hold each other tightly.

Sorry. If you hadn't noticed, this place is unhygienic as fuck.

GEORGE

S'all good.

Beat.

We're um...we're touching ya know.

JANELLE

Huh?

GEORGE

Our bodies. They're touching.

JANELLE

Yeah. They are. Suddenly... I don't mind so much.

Beat. They continue to hold each other.

So rats don't gross you out?

GEORGE

Nah. Kinda feel bad for them actually. We dug up their home and built all this shit on top of it.

Beat.

And if they can't go home...

TOGETHER

Where can they go?

Beat. Their bodies soften into each other. After a few moments... the plasma machine beeps.

JANELLE

Time's up.

They pull slightly away and look at each other.

Blackout.

End of play.