

My Favorite Shoes by Jenue Brosinski

I had two weeks to mentally prepare myself for my eye surgery which took place Thursday afternoon. I made it to my 1:45 appointment on time and took my seat in the waiting room. By 2:30 the faces in the room had changed, all except mine. I figure, Okay... it has to be my turn soon because everyone else in here came in after me.

3:00 and patients continue to get called. The room is almost empty but I'm still sitting here. I finally decide to ask the secretary if she forgot me and she assured me that she had not. 3:30 there's only two patients left; me and a cute little old lady. She gets called in and a few minutes later comes back to get her coat. She smiles at me and tells me that there is a circle of doctors standing just outside the door chit chatting and encourages me to tell them how long I've been waiting.

So, I'm thinking... why not? I'm pretty pissed at this point but I casually walk up to them and say hello. They all looked at me weird, as if I was a crazy bat that had no business addressing their holiness. The chief of eye surgery answered me. I told him how long I was waiting but didn't get even so much as an apology. He pretty much told me that's the way it is.

Here I am again. Well, at least I have the waiting room all to myself now. The next doctor that comes has to call my name because I'm the only one left. And sure enough, an immensely tall doctor calls my name.

The doctor is nice, looks at my eye and explains to me how he's going to fix it. He seemed really disappointed when I told him that today he will be doing the *other* eye. He calls the chief of surgery to confirm. He begins to prepare me for the operating table. I'm surprised that I don't have to remove my shoes. The boss strolls in. He stands over the table and looks down at me with a slight smile and on his way out he says, "Whoa, really big shoes!"

My face is covered and my exposed eye is now being doused with disinfectant. I can hear both doctors laugh as I hold onto the operating table to brace myself for the upcoming needle.

As painful as it was, the whole surgery lasted only about 12 minutes. When it was over my eye ached underneath the eye patch that was placed over it, but it was bearable. As I sat up the first thing I saw, with my one eye, were my wonderfully comfortable shoes.