

A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE

by CINDI A. STROBEL

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A patient in the hospital is waiting for her surgical team, all of whom have an excuse as to why it isn't convenient to perform the surgery.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Be sure that Mrs. Ministry isn't overdone, let her lines and facial expressions tell the story without hysterics. Erica and Callie need to enunciate the names of the hospital staff clearly.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3F

THEME: Ministry, Commitment

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Samuel 23:1-13, Genesis 14:1-16, 21-24

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Starter

CHARACTERS:

Mrs. Ministry—the patient, waiting to have her appendix removed
Erica—a housekeeping employee
Callie—a candy striper or LPN

PROPS: Hospital bed (or a table made to look like one), bedding, pillows, mop, several small notes on paper, clipboard, stethoscope

COSTUMES: Scrubs & ID badges for Erica & Callie, pajamas or hospital gown for Mrs. Ministry.

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: The pre-op area of a hospital

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MRS. MINISTRY is lying on a bed in the hospital, waiting very impatiently (checking watch, looking around) for her surgical team to show up. ERICA enters with a mop.

ERICA: *(peeks in)* Excuse me, are you Mrs. Ministry?

MRS. M: Yes, I am; where is everybody? I'm supposed to have my appendix removed, and I've been lying here waiting for 45 minutes!

ERICA: I'm sorry Mrs. Ministry, but I have a note for you from Dr. Approval, he's not going to be able to do your surgery after all.

Hands her note.

MRS. M: WHAT?! He can't do that!

ERICA: Well, Dr. Approval said that last time he did an appendectomy, he didn't really feel appreciated for all his hard work. So, he's not going to do them anymore.

MRS. M: *(aghast)* Appreciated? He's not supposed to be appreciated; he's supposed to follow instructions from the head surgeon. He should be answering a call, not looking for praise!

ERICA: Well, then you might not like the other message I have; it's from the surgical assistant, Dr. Hesitant. *(hands her other note)* He said he just really didn't feel comfortable doing the surgery, you know, it's just out of his comfort zone.

MRS. M: *(sarcastic, dead-pan)* His comfort zone, right. Anything else?

ERICA: Umm, yeah. The anesthesiologist, Dr. Uncertain, said she really wasn't sure she had the qualifications to do this, so she's just going to skip it this time.

MRS. M: You've got to be kidding me! I just assumed she was a board-certified anesthesiologist! How could the hospital hire her?

ERICA: Oh, she is board-certified; I said she didn't think she was qualified.

MRS. M: Doesn't she trust the hospital's judgment? They did assign her to this Operation.

ERICA: I guess not. *(big cheery smile)* Well, have a nice day. *(leaves)*

MRS. M: *(to herself, incredulous)* I can't believe this! What do I do now?

CALLIE: *(peeks in)* Hello, Mrs. Ministry? The floor nurse asked me to come in and check on you. Are you comfortable? *(plumps pillows, smooths sheets etc.)*