

VIAGRA: THE EARLY YEARS

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SYNOPSIS

A professor has reached a critical point in his experimentation with a new drug. He and his favorite student try it out.

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Cast of Characters

STUDENT: A male, age 18+
DR; pronounced "Doctor": Doctor Fishman; male, age 45+

Scene

The interior of a collage chemical laboratory.

Time

The semi-recent past.

SETTING: The lab is fitted out with test tubes, beakers, Bunson burners, etc. Or, if the budget dictates, some books and two test tubes.

AT RISE: It is mid-day. DR is in his lab coat, concentrating on pouring a liquid from one container to another.

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STUDENT

(Enters lab.)

I just got your message, Doctor Fishman. So---you really think you're getting close?

DR

(He holds up a beaker or test tube.)

Stu, my boy, I'm certain of it. This isn't very scientific, I grant you, but I have a feeling that this little invention of mine is going to play a major role in human development.

STUDENT

I'm amazed to hear you say that. Usually, you're so cautious; so reluctant to make any predictions about your inventions.

DR

I know; I'm a bit astonished myself.

STUDENT

Well, you have devoted the last two years of your life to this one. I'm just thrilled that you think you're close to a break-thru. And, frankly, I'm honored that you've asked me to be here---at the very moment your predictions come to life.

DR

You've taken all my classes and gotten straight A's. And that's without any of this damn inflation that cheapens almost any grades, these days. And your work as lab assistant has been brilliant. Brilliant! But---my reason for asking you to drop in wasn't entirely disinterested.

STUDENT

Oh?

DR

No. You see, it's time to test this on human beings. I, naturally, will be one and I know that you would be flattered to be another.

STUDENT

Uh-h-h-h

DR

There; there. No need to get choked up about it. Yes; it's an honor but, believe me, you've earned it. When this concoction is being used throughout the world, you can tell your children "Yes, your daddy was there at the very beginning."

STUDENT

Well-1-1---what, exactly, does this---concoction---do?

DR

That's what's so fascinating. On mice, it does one thing; on guinea pigs, something entirely different. Fascinating. I just have this feeling that it will be one of my greatest inventions yet.

STUDENT

Well, you're the doctor, Doctor. If you'll take it, so will I.

DR

Certainly, my boy. I wouldn't ask you to do anything I wouldn't do myself.

STUDENT

Well, we're sort of jumping off the roof, here. Have you at least named this---concoction?

DR

Yes; the name came to me in a dream last night. I'm going to call it Viagra.

STUDENT

Hum-m-m; interesting name. Kind of implies vigor, doesn't it?

DR

Yes! Now that you mention it. Well, we're ready. Here's a spoon for you. And one for me. Hold steady, now.

(DR pours some liquid into each spoon. The men drink. There is a brief pause.)

STUDENT

Doesn't taste bad. Can't feel any effect, though. At least, not yet.

DR

Got to give it a bit of time, my boy. Wait. I'm starting to feel---something.

STUDENT

So do I; so do I. A kind of stiffening....

DR

Yes; a sort of rigidity setting in....

STUDENT

Now I'm really feeling it. Yes! There's a kind of warm feeling; a kind of rush. I feel---I feel... Yes!

(One of his arms shoots straight up in the air; it is stiff from the shoulder to the fingers.)

DR

Me too!

(One of his legs becomes rod-like. He walks stiffly around the lab.)

STUDENT

Doctor. I can't move my arm. It's as stiff as a board. It used to be limber, flexible. Now, it's up and I can't get it down.

DR

Well, at least you can walk. Look at me; this thing is so rigid it almost hurts.

STUDENT

This is awful. I only want it to be erect when I want it to be erect. Now it's up---and I don't want it to be up!

DR

Just be glad this isn't 1940; people would think you're about to say "Heil, Hitler."

STUDENT

That's not funny! How long do you think this will last?

DR

Not more than a few hours, I'm sure. And I had such high hopes for this---Viagra. Well, back to the old drawing board. You know, if I tweak this formula just a bit, I might be able to make Viagra affect specific muscles.

STUDENT

What good would that do?

DR

I'm not sure; maybe I'll think of something.

BLACKOUT