

That Scare Won't Heal If You Keep Picking It: Treatment

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Treatment v2

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Treatment - That scar won't heal if you keep picking it

DR. PARK is a mid-thirties, down on her luck, general medical practitioner, her mid grey suit is tidy and smart but she still looks out of place as she sits, fidgeting, in a grand wood paneled hallway. This is a place of antiquity and gravitas, a place of tradition where history is written and great deeds are done.

The door opposite Park opens and an older male face appears, he smiles, but it looks uncanny on a face unaccustomed to the expression. Dr. Park seems frozen to the spot, time slows, when she finally rises she floats, dazed.

PARK enters into a room with even more authority, around a leather topped table, polish by generations of hands, are SEVEN EMINENT MALE FACES. Park acknowledges her name and then drifts away, she is only physically present as the boardroom explain at length that they wish they could do something but their hands are tied.

Whilst the words wash over her visions of the journey that has landed her here flicker over the faces around the table. Late nights at medical school, missed holidays and parties, part-time jobs to pay the bills, unsociable hours as a new doctor.

The oppressive boardroom fades and Park is seated behind a nondescript desk in a plain but cheerful consulting room. A series of grateful faces smile at her. A very pale little girl struggles to smile, her mother cries and takes Park's hand.

The girl and her mother fade and are replaced by a concerned looking white male.

Park sits on an isolated park bench listening to music, she eats a squashed sandwich and washes it down with tea from a battered thermos. Park thumbs through job listings on her phone. She throws the crust of her sandwich to an expectant pigeon and screws the top back onto her thermos. She returns her phone to her bag then pulls her hood down over her eyes, shutting out the world.

Park is walking in the rain holding a soggy box, the bottom drops out of the box spilling the contents. As she bends down to pick up the broken pieces of a 'The Worlds Best GP' mug, a car drives through a puddle soaking Park and washing her novelty cactus towards a drain, a hand stops it just in time. It is the mother of the little girl. Park throws down the remaining scraps of box and walks off leaving the mother holding the cactus.

Park is still has her face turned to the sky, eyes covered. A figure approaches silhouetted against the greyness, their approach is slow but purposeful.

Park, hair dripping, finishes preparing a noodle sandwich on white bread, she stands to eat it over the sink. There is a loud crash, and a brick knocks the vase off the centre of her small table. Park runs outside to find 'scumluvva' sprayed onto the front of her building.

Park is completely oblivious to the threatening stranger with shambling gait approaching her. Park is vulnerable her head back, eyes closed and covered. Now closer the approaching figure seems to have the unhealthy grey pallor, sunken eyes, and slack jaw of countless movie zombies, is that blood on his shirt.

Park vainly scrubs at the paint on her door, a letter drops into the bucket of water. Park looks over her shoulder to to see the postman walking off. She quickly dries the envelope on her sleeve.

Park is reading the letter whilst drying it with a hair dryer, the words 'Hearing' and 'Malpractice' are clearly visible.

Park is startled as the zombie-like figure looms over her blocking the sun. KEN, a zombie (35), in what was probably an expensive suit sits down next to Park. Ken asks for help with a skin irritation, he lifts his shirt to reveal a sore where his belt has been rubbing his dead flesh, a few maggots fall out. Park says she can't help and has to push away the pigeon who is trying to get to the maggots in Ken's side. Ken presses, he is desperate, he knows another zombie who's arm fell off because the maggots got too bad. Ken has heard that Park help people who are incompletely deceased with their medical ailments. Again Park tries to avoid helping claiming that it was just a one off but it is inevitable that she will help.

Park is in a generic supermarket aisle, she is looking counting the coins in her hand, she reluctantly puts back the peanut butter she is holding. By the checkout Park hesitates before putting her items on the belt and instead joins the queue for the automated checkout. She counts her coins in hopper at the self-checkout and has to try several of them multiple times to get them to register. A store assistant is watching her so closely he does not notice a groups of youths walk out with two crates of beer.

Park walks around the side of the supermarket and is confronted by someone with a hoodie pulled over their head. Park sprays them with something.

The figure reacts and falls backwards, their hood falls off to reveal SALLY (22) a werewolf. Sally has an embarrassing bald patches, she doesn't want her boyfriend to find out.

Park is in a chemist using the last of her money to buy medicated shampoo. The PHARMACIST is reluctant but gives in when Park gives her her necklace.

Park is sat on the sofa at home, watching TV, eating plain noodles, there is a gentle tap at the door, Park ignores it. There is another slightly more persistent knock, and then a third. Park opens to the front door, WALTER (44) a ghoul as a vicious looking mousetrap biting into his face.

Park is tending WALTER'S wound, the mousetrap it on the table. In between winces Walter explains the living people have been putting nasty surprises into their rubbish to stop ghouls and zombies eating it. He explains that normally he gets paid to take it away by more forward looking takeaway restaurants but he has been hungry whilst he waited for them to reopen after a visit from the health inspector. Walter insists on paying Park then leaves. Park is about to close the door when LILY (16), the girl from the flashback, and JOAN, her mother arrive.

In PARK is making tea in the kitchen, LILY is on the sofa watching TV. JOAN wants to help Park, she owns a cleaning business her office has a large space out the back that she doesn't use that they could turn into a surgery. Lily already employs as many people who are differently living as she can, nobody looks at cleaners after all. Lily gives Park her plant back, a ring of stitches runs around her arm where it has been sown back on.

It is only just getting light, PARK wearing her good grey suit, slips out of the back door. She squeezes through a gap in the hedge ripping the seam of her jacket.

Down a nondescript alley behind some industrial bins PARK taps out an unusual knock, LILY'S face appears when the door opens and she lets Park enter. Lily wasn't expecting Park to show-up she fakes being disappointed that she owes her Mum £5. Park starts to move old boxes, chairs, and cleaning supplies around the big space, there are no windows, skylights provide the only illumination.

PARK is arranging chairs, SALLY comes over, she can arrange the chairs Park has her first patient. They hastily drape some dustsheets to create a private corner. Park sits down on her chair, Ken enters with box and shows Park a hand with missing digits.

The chairs fill and empty as the light through the skylights changes and the tip jar that SALLY has put together fills up.

PARK leafs through a cleaning supplies catalog. JOAN calls the supplier. Boxes are delivered and opened. Walls are painted. Spaces rearranged. A surgery created.

PARK sits in her chair, her cactus is on the desk in front of her, there is a knock at the door, SALLY enters, she asks about home visits. Park is unsure. Sally explains the patient is a vampire and can't come out in daylight. Park agrees.

It is raining like the night Park lost her job as a GP. SALLY pulls up outside an expensive looking residential address. PARK gets out of the small car and puts up an umbrella, she tells Sally to go home, Sally turns off the engine and folds her arms.

PARK opens a black gate, walks up a short path and hesitates before pressing the brass doorbell button. Park waits under her umbrella. The front door opens slightly, a head appears, Park can't see the face. The unidentified head wasn't thought that the rumors weren't true. The door is opened wider inviting Park in, she hesitates.

Inside a large richly furnished hallway TREVOR, (62) the first man from the medical board, is dressed in a burgundy evening jacket and silk slippers. PARK doesn't react to seeing him other than to ask what he needs help with. Trevor explains that he is human, but his wife is not.

AGATHA, (appears 50) wearing black silk blouse, is propped up in a luxury four poster bed, he has a gold sick to her. She goes to speak but instead is sick. TREVOR explains that she has always bought her blackpudding from the same butcher but this time it seems to have been loaded with garlic. They thought the sickness would pass but she has been vomiting for three days. PARK asks what would be worse than garlic, Agatha suggests only Holy-water, Park wonders if it has been boiled in Holy-water. Trevor suggests burning a piece in a black candle.

In the black kitchen TREVOR and PARK inspect a small piece of blackpudding held on the end of a skewer. As it enters the flame it glows and intense flame that Park and Trevor have to shield their eyes from. Park suggests Trevor boils three large cloves of garlic in red wine and gets Agatha to drink that, she thinks that it should make her vomit so much the rest of the Holy-water will be flushed out of her system.

PARK and TREVOR are at the front door, as she is leaving he stops her. He tells her not to go back to the cleaners tomorrow, he doesn't want her to get caught there.

SALLY and PARK are driving quickly, not so fast as to draw attention towards the glow of flames in the sky. Sally slams on the breaks, from out of the shadow of a bush JOAN and LILY dash towards the car and get in. SALLY explains that she smelt them.

The car is parked by an graveyard on top of a small hill overlooking the city, SALLY, PARK, LILY and JOAN sit on the bonnet. Lily hugs her mother and Park, who hugs back and pulls Sally into the embrace. Lily asks Park to train her up, there can't be only one GP for people like her. Park suggests she might have a good location for a new surgery.

Matt Prentice Friday, 21 February 2020