

# HELLO OTHER

## Book One – DISCOVERY

By S C Dinsdale

*“Fear outs when the Truth is out of alignment, and opinions prevail.”*

### Chapter 5: Consent 102

Finding a theatre dress with sufficient length to cover my thighs that doesn't expose my chest isn't easy. Traditional scrubs are not an option in the female changing room. Appropriately attired, I hurry into theatre with ten minutes to spare. But the first patient has already been anaesthetised. Two theatre staff members are attaching stirrups to the bed.

“Are you the medical student?” asks a gentleman with freshly scrubbed hands as he steps backwards through a large swing door, taking care to avoid contamination.

“Yes sir, my name is Jane.”

“Good, put some gloves on and when the patient is ready, I want you to do a pelvic examination and tell me your findings.”

The lower section of the bed has been removed and the patient's relaxed legs are being lifted into stirrups for support. Another staff member assists the consultant into his gown.

“I'm sorry Sir, but I don't have her permission. She was already under anaesthetic when I arrived.”

“That doesn't matter, you have my permission,” he replies. “Come on, you are holding us up!”

Stunned by this unexpected turn of events, I attempt to negotiate, “I'm very sorry, but I can't. If the next patient gives me permission, I will examine her.”

The consultant is the same height as me, and his angry eyes stare directly into mine. My body has frozen with my feet glued firmly to the floor, when he delivers an ultimatum.

“There won't be a next time, if you don't examine the patient now!” He commands, pointing a sterile gloved finger at me. “And if you don't co-operate, you can leave my theatre right now, and don't come back.”

It's an impossible situation that leaves me with only one option...