

Enough Is Enough

by Joseph Arnone

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In this short dramatic scene, ADRIAN confronts the NURSE that has been wrongfully caring for his/her mother.

Adrian: Hi, I was hoping to have a word with you.

Nurse: In a minute. *(Nurse fumbles around with papers in a file)*

Adrian: Miss? This is in regards to my mother.

Nurse: I heard you.

(pause.)

Adrian: How long?

Nurse: Who's your mother?

Adrian: She's a patient here -- in Room 405.

(pause.)

Nurse: What can I help you with?

Adrian: I would like to speak with you with regards to my mother.

Nurse: Yes, I think you've said that...Go on...

Adrian: My mother has a bruise on her arm.

Nurse: That's from the injection. Sometimes there's a bruise reaction.

Adrian: My mother said you were rough with her.

Nurse: Your mother doesn't make it very easy for me to do my job. When I gave her this morning's injection, she wouldn't allow me to do so. She resisted.

Adrian: And why do you think?

Nurse: Why do I think what?

Adrian: Why do you think my mother *resisted*?

Nurse: I'm not sure.

Adrian: Oh no? She resisted because you grabbed her arm like a savage.

Nurse: Now I don't know what you—

Adrian:

Listen, listen to me right now because I'm trying to stay very calm. My mother was in a deep sleep and you startled her by grabbing her arm like a savage, so much so that you yanked her awake and she was frightened and then you forced her to take her injection. She has bruises on her arm from your fingers, not just the injection.

Nurse: She needs to take her injection. It's life or death if she doesn't.

Adrian:

Hey! Let me be real clear about this...don't you ever lay one finger on my mother ever again, You're a disgrace! The way you handle your patients! An absolute disgrace! You should be ashamed of yourself. She's a little tiny thing. You're three times her size and handled her in such a manner, you should be fired. She's not the only one. There are other patients here that complain, but they don't have family to defend them. I'm going to report you and make sure you stay far away from my mother. You are not to care for her or go near her. Understood?

Nurse:

Excuse me, but you cannot just come barging in here making accusations about things you know nothing about. You have no idea how hard our nursing staff works and the things we have to deal with. Patients yell at us, hit us, spit at us -- and it's our job to keep them in control and restrained -- for their own safety and for the safety of others.

Adrian:

Like you actually care. It's abusive behavior and intolerable. Someone like you shouldn't be caring for the elderly. I'm always nice to you and you always have an attitude. You've taken my kindness for a weakness. Now you've seen my other side. You've been warned and you will be

reported. Someone else will take care of my mother, give her the injections she needs, the *right way*! We clear?

Nurse: Yeah but I did nothing but my job.

Adrian: You think I would allow someone like you to hurt my mother? I am definitely filing a report.

Nurse: Go ahead and file your report. I have patients that love me and my staff respects me for the work I do.

Adrian: I see. I'm going to get you fired.

Nurse: You can't fire me.

Adrian: Cause you've been here for twenty years? You think you have seniority? You've been abusing patients for years and it's come to an end. Enough is enough.

Nurse: Do what you have to do.

Adrian: Oh, I will -- I most certainly will. If I have to take my mother out of this facility to a safer place, so be it -- but you are not to touch her or go near her ever again.