

The New Patient

A One-Act Play

By Jeff Zimmer

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DEDICATION

Thanks be to God, through whom all things are possible.

STORY OF THE SHOW

Dr. Sanda is a sought-after psychiatrist and media personality, known for bringing her mental health expertise to TV, podcasts, and social media. She is helping plan the wedding of Maddie, her receptionist, when Azrael, her new patient, arrives. His problem is that he's depressed. He says he's depressed because everyone he meets reacts to him in a fearful or negative way. He thinks it's because of his job. What's his job? He says he's the Angel of Death.

So, is Azrael just a disturbed person in need of help, or is he who he claims to be? And if he is who he claims he is, can she help him?

The show is funny and has an ending that will surprise audiences from the first read-through to the final performance.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

"The New Patient" had its world premiere at the Lincoln Stegman Theatre in North Hollywood, CA and included the following cast and crew:

Dr. Sanda	Kappa V
Maddie	Anastasia Lincoln
Azrael	Vsevolod Yuri Krawczeniuk
Director.....	Jeff Zimmer
Producer.....	Debbie Sadlouskos
Lighting Designer	Jamie Hitchcock
Graphic Designer	Stuart Rose

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 m, 2 w)

DR. SANDA: 30-50s. Female. Attractive, confident and well-spoken. The perfect TV expert guest. She really likes figuring out problems and helping people, whether it's Maddie with her wedding plans or the new patient.

MADDIE: 20s. Female. Friendly, sweet and capable (though a little ditzy) assistant to Dr. Sanda.

AZRAEL: 30-70s. Male. A seemingly casual guy who wears a loud Hawaiian shirt, shorts and hi-tops. He's depressed and desperate for help.

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SET/LIGHTS

Simple office set with a desk, two chairs for the doctor and patient, and a couch. One entrance. Diplomas may be put on the set wall or imagined on the fourth wall.

Lighting remains the same until the very end when the stage goes dark except for a light on Azrael and Dr. Sanda.

PROPS

Couch
Desk with two chairs
Paperwork
Yellow notepad
Pen
Book filled with examples of wedding invites
Yellow Post-its
Business card with skull and crossbones
Framed diplomas
Note pad and pen
Pen knife
Cup of coffee
Aspirin

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(AT RISE: A modern psychiatrist's office, simply furnished with a desk, desk chair, guest chair and a patient couch. DR. SANDA is at her desk, examining some paperwork. A frequent TV guest, she is attractive, thoughtful and well-spoken. MADDIE, her younger assistant, enters carrying a large book of sample invitation cards.)

MADDIE: *(Singsong.)* I got the book!

DR. SANDA: Let me see! Let me see! Let me see!

(MADDIE puts the book on the desk and opens it. THEY examine the sample cards inside.)

MADDIE: I put yellow stickies by the ones I liked.

(DR. SANDA turns to a page with a yellow Post-it, sees the invite and frowns.)

DR. SANDA: Maddie, you're ordering invites for a wedding, not a rave.

MADDIE: Not that one. The one next to it.

DR. SANDA: *(Examining other card.)* That's better, but—

MADDIE: I have others. *(Turns to another page.)* Take a look at this one.

DR. SANDA: *(Makes sound of disapproval.)* I don't know. It's... not really *you*. More like Lindsay Lohan.

(DR. SANDA tears the Post-it in half. Then sees an invite she likes.)

DR. SANDA: *(Cont'd.)* Hey! What about—

(MADDIE makes a sound of disapproval and shakes her head. She turns the page. Maddie points to another invite and makes a questioning sound.)

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(DR. SANDA makes a noise in the negative. MADDIE turns the page. They examine the card, then look at each other. They both blow raspberries and laugh.)

MADDIE: Turn to the end. There's a couple more possibilities.
(DR. SANDA turns to the end of the book.) This one... and this one.

DR. SANDA: *Oh...* this I like.

MADDIE: Me too. But I like this one as well. *(Points to the one across from it.)*

DR. SANDA: Hmmmm... also good.

MADDIE: You really like them?

DR. SANDA: They're both very classy. And very "inviting."

MADDIE: *(Laughs.)* Oh, that's good since they're *invitations!*

DR. SANDA: I'm sure whichever one you pick will be fine.

MADDIE: But I can't decide! Which one would *you* pick?

DR. SANDA: I don't know! It's *your* wedding. *You* decide.

MADDIE: All right... this one! *(MADDIE points to one but then immediately gets second thoughts.)* No, *this one!* Oh, I don't know.

DR. SANDA: I know. Use *this* one for *this* wedding. Then use the *other* one for your *next* one!

MADDIE: Very funny. Come on, tell me which one *you* think I should pick.

DR. SANDA: All right, let me think about it a little.

MADDIE: Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you. You always have good advice.

DR. SANDA: That's why I get paid the big bucks.

MADDIE: Oh, that reminds me. Your two o'clock is here.

(It takes a moment for this to sink in for DR. SANDA.)

DR. SANDA: *You left him sitting in the waiting room all this time?*

MADDIE: Well, it is a *waiting* room. Should I send him in now?

DR. SANDA: *Yes! (To herself.)* Maybe *he'll* know which invite to pick.

(MADDIE opens the door and calls out.)

End of Freeview

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