

DR. PENICILLIN
By Maggie Smith
06/04/2023 (Version #4)

CAST
ELLIE - a teenager in the apocalypse, 14
DOCTOR - a doctor, 50s

INT. A BASEMENT, DAYTIME

The basement is abandoned, and filled with junk. There is a mattress on the floor, with an unconscious man lying on it. ELLIE enters through the door, and throws her bag onto the floor. She pulls a wrapped syringe and bottles of penicillin out of her coat.

ELLIE
What do I do? What do I do with this?

ELLIE sits down next to the mattress.

ELLIE
Joel, what do I do with this?

DR. PENICILLIN (O.S.)
Perhaps I can be of some assistance.

The camera pans slightly, and we see the DOCTOR. He is extremely well put-together, especially considering the apocalypse environment we're in.

ELLIE
Oh my God!

DR. PENICILLIN
Calm down, calm down. Do you want help or not?

ELLIE
Who are you?

DR. PENICILLIN
I'm Dr. Penicillin. I show up whenever someone needs help with penicillin.

ELLIE

What did you study?

DR. PENICILLIN

Penicillin. Now, how about we help this young man get back on his feet.

ELLIE

Okay, I have the needles right here, let's just get this over with-

DR. PENICILLIN

No, no, no. The first thing a physician must do is wash their hands. The human hand can carry 3,200 germs at least. Without washing our hands, Ellie, we risk spreading this bacteria to your friend through his circulatory system.

ELLIE

But... He's dying! This is an emergency! And we don't have anywhere near us to wash our hands!

DR. PENICILLIN

Nothing is more of an emergency than a physician's good hygiene. But, I suppose hand sanitizer will have to do.

DR. PENICILLIN pulls an absurdly large bottle of hand sanitizer from seemingly out of nowhere, and gives it to ELLIE.

DR. PENICILLIN

Now rub your hands for twenty seconds.

ELLIE

We don't have twenty seconds!

DR. PENICILLIN

Which one of us in this room went to medical school, Ellie? The doctor, or the child who wasn't even alive to watch the first season of *Survivor* live on TV. Twenty seconds, let's go.

DR. PENICILLIN and ELLIE rub the hand sanitizer onto their hands, making eye contact the entire time. The camera cuts between the two of them, and the body on the ground, groaning. They finish washing their hands.

ELLIE

I really feel like we need to hurry this up, he's getting sicker every second.

DR. PENICILLIN

We have to put the medicine inside the syringe. Do you know how to do that?

ELLIE

Flip the medicine upside down and put the needle inside?

DR. PENICILLIN

It's much more complex than that, Ellie. Yes, you flip the bottle upside down, but it's much more important that you know why. Keeping the bottle upside down traps all of the air so we don't shoot it into your friend's system, here. If we were to shoot air into him, that would mean less medicine! Carefully, now, let's pull the medicine into the syringe.

ELLIE

There's no time to be careful!

DR. PENICILLIN

Which one of us in this room went to medical school, Ellie? The doctor, or the child who wasn't even alive to see the OJ Simpson Trial? Now, fill the syringe!

ELLIE pulls the medicine into the syringe. As she does so, DR. PENICILLIN makes excited and happy noises.

DR. PENICILLIN

The wonders of science!

ELLIE

Can we give him the shot now?

DR. PENICILLIN

Very soon, yes. First, we need to discuss how we're going to give him the penicillin.

ELLIE

Oh my Godddddd.

DR. PENICILLIN

We need to agree on where exactly we're going to place the needle. Where do you suggest?

ELLIE

Stab it straight into the gun wound.

DR. PENICILLIN

Absolutely not. Severely wrong. Laughably incorrect.

ELLIE

But then it'll heal him faster!

DR. PENICILLIN

Which one of us in this room went to medical school, Ellie? The doctor, or the child who wasn't even alive to watch Ellen DeGeneres come out? Penicillin is an intramuscular injection. We need to place the needle in his thigh.

ELLIE

Alright, then do it already!

DOCTOR

Just a few more seconds while I get the needle ready to go into his skin... It's important to sterilize any and all needles being used. It prevents any unwanted materials from entering your friend's bloodstream- Imagine how disastrous that could be! Now, just a few more seconds... Almost done... Annnnd- He's dead.

The body on the ground groans.

ELLIE

He's clearly not.

DR. PENICILLIN

Which one of us in this room went to medical
school, Ellie-

Blackout.