

“We All Bleed”
By Jack Bloomfield

Characters

Mr. Gearhart, Doctor, Nurse 1,

Nurse 2, 1st Blood donor (afro-American female),

2nd Blood donor (male), 3rd Blood donor (female),

Mrs. Gearhart

*****Synopsis*****

A man that has lived a life of hatred, indifference and prejudice toward most people in his life is in dire need of a blood transfusion if he is to stay alive. He has been severely injured in a car accident and has been rushed to the ER of a local hospital. He ends up sacrificing his own life to stay true to the prejudice and hatred that is in his heart.

MESSAGE FOCUS: *Sometimes we will go to extreme lengths to be true to the many forms of prejudice, hatred and intolerance in our lives.*

Opening Scene:

Scene opens in the emergency room of a hospital. There has been a bad accident and the victim (Mr. Gearhart) is badly injured and in need of a blood transfusion to save his life. The doctor and nurses find out that in order to save this man’s life, they need blood right away and are waiting on donors in the next room. Time is running short. Mr. Gearhart is being wheeled into the ER on a stretcher writhing in pain.

MR. GEARHART:

“Help me! Help me! I don’t want to die!”

DOCTOR:

“We’re going to all we can do to help you sir. You have been badly injured and you have lost a lot of blood.”

MR. GEARHART:

“Please help me. Please. Am I going to die?”

DOCTOR:

(speaking to 1st nurse) “Nurse , where is the blood for this man. We can’t wait much longer.”

NURSE 1:

“We are screening blood donors at this time. We just need a few more minutes to match blood types with the patient.”

NURSE 2:

(anxious) “His pressure is dropping. We’re going to need that blood now!”

DOCTOR:

“Nurse, do something! Tell the screening nurse to send in the people who have this mans blood type *now!* This man will die very soon if he does not receive a transfusion from all the blood he has lost.”

NURSE 2:

“His pressure is continuing to drop. Mr. Gearhart, can you hear me?”

MR. GEARHART:

“I hear you. Please help me! I’m not ready to die.”

DOCTOR:

“Mr. Gearhart, the people who are going to donate blood to you will be here any minute. They are on the way down from the 2nd floor blood bank.”

MR. GEARHART:

“Please Please hurry!”

DOCTOR:

“Nurse. We can’t wait any longer. This man needs a transfusion now!”

NURSE 1:

“His blood type is A negative. Where are the donors?”

NURSE 2:

“Doctor, they’re here. I will set up the first person and begin the procedure.” (Blood donor # 1 is wheeled in on a stretcher and put side by side with Mr. Gearhart so that the transfusion can begin. The donor is an African American woman.)

MR. GEARHART:

(speaking softly to nurse 1) “This is the person that is going to give me blood? It won’t work. She’s not like me.”

NURSE 2:

“Mr. Gearhart, you are badly hurt and in need of blood. We checked her blood type. It is a perfect match for you.”

MR. GEARHART:

“I don’t care. She’s black. Get me someone else.”

NURSE 2:

“Doctor, Mr. Gearhart refuses to take a transfusion from this woman. He says that she is different than him.”

DOCTOR:

“Does he care if her blood can save his life?”

NURSE 2:

“I told him that but he doesn’t want to listen.”

DOCTOR:

“Well who else is available?”

NURSE 2:

“We have others who are in the waiting room with matching blood types. I’ll bring someone else in. (says to nurse 1) Please hurry, he is fading fast and we must hurry. Bring in another donor.”

(a young man is wheeled in on a stretcher and brought up along side Mr. Gearhart)

NURSE 1:

“Mr. Gearhart, can you hear me?”

DOCTOR:

(says to the nurses) “He might be losing consciousness. Increase insulin and bacterial biotics to 100 cc’s.”

NURSE 1:

“Mr. Gearhart, we have a new donor here. He wants to help you before it’s too late.”

MR. GEARHART:

(He motions to nurse 1.) “I don’t like the way this kid looks. He looks gay to me and I have a hard time with people like that.”

NURSE 1:

“Mr. Gearhart, the boy just wants to help you. Besides he also is a perfect match for your blood type and at this stage, you don’t have much of a choice.”

MR. GEARHART:

“I don’t want blood from someone who looks like that!”

NURSE 1:

“But Mr. Gearhart, you are going to die without a transfusion.”

MR. GEARHART:

“I’ll take my chances. People like that scare me and I don’t like em’. Get me another donor. Get me someone like me.”

DOCTOR:

(confused) “This man is about to die and he is refusing to take blood from these donors. What is the problem nurse?”

NURSE 2:

“Doctor, he says he only wants blood from some one who is like him.”

DOCTOR:

“What the hell is the matter with this guy? He’s crazy!”

NURSE 1:

“We only have one more match for this patient.”

(nurse 2 wheel’s young man out)

DOCTOR:

“Bring them in. Every minute counts at this stage.”

(Women is wheeled in on a stretcher.)

NURSE 2:

“Mr. Gearhart, can you hear me? We have one donor left. Your life is at stake now and we must proceed right away.”

MR. GEARHART:

(says to Nurse 2.) “What religion is this woman? She looks Jewish to me and I do not like Jewish people. She is not like me. (loudly) Get her out of here!”

NURSE 2:

“Mr. Gearhart, we have no donors left.”

(At this time, Mr. Gearhart’s heart monitor begins to beep loudly. The doctors and nurses begin to move swiftly.)

DOCTOR:

(begins to pump Mr. Gearhart’s chest) “This man is dying!”

NURSE 1:

(frantically, as monitor beeps faster and faster) “We’re losing him... We’re losing him!”

DOCTOR:

“We’ll need to administer a caledronic heart treatment. Oh no, we’re losing him!”

DOCTOR and BOTH NURSES:

(all together) Mr. Gearhart... Mr. Gearhart... Mr. Gearhart...”

DOCTOR:

(checks his pulse as the monitor makes a steady consistent noise). “It’s too late. He’s gone.”

NURSE 2:

“I can’t believe he would let himself die rather than take a blood transfusion from another human being. What was his problem?”

(At this moment, Mr. Gearhart’s wife enters the ER and walks up to the stretcher. She overhears the nurses comments. She new that her husband wouldn’t take blood from the donors that were available.)

MRS. GEARHART:

“Sadly this is the way my husband always lived his life. He was prejudice toward many types of people and had a lot of hatred in his heart. He often looked down on people of other races, religions and many other groups. It is sad to see it end like this but this is the way he lived. He even sacrificed his own life because of his prejudice toward others. If he only would have realized that another human beings blood could have saved his life. That at the core of our insides, all people have hearts that beat and blood that keeps us alive.”

NURSE 1:

“He must have lived a sad life. Why didn’t you try to help him?”

MRS. GEARHART:

“Often prejudice and hatred are so deep, that a person sometimes can’t even see it in their own lives. All I can ask you is that you use my husband’s death as an example. That you learn from him. Not only did he die by refusing another’s blood, when he was alive it wasn’t any different. Because of all of the prejudice and indifference my husband had toward other people in his life, he was never really alive any way. (faces the audience) I beg of you to please learn from him this day.....”

Fade to black...

THE END

Dialogue& Questions:

Do we only feel comfortable around people who are mostly like ourselves?

Is it possible to have bad feelings, hatred or intolerance toward someone who has:

*a different skin color than us?

*is of a different religious belief?

*lives in a different neighborhood. Either rich or poor?

*has a different sexual orientation than us?

If so, why?

How does harboring hatred and prejudice hurt:

*ourselves?

*our communities?

*our world?

Mr. Gearhart went to the extreme to be true to his prejudice. Is “extremism” in our world born of hatred and prejudice?