

Script            Nip/Tuck

EMME LOWELL, 24, a fresh-faced belle with a horrible purple port wine birthmark splayed across the left side of her face.

INT. CHRISTIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Christian stares across his desk at his patient.

CHRISTIAN

Miss Lowell, tell me what you don't like about yourself.

EMME

You're sweet. No one's ever pretended not to notice before. But call me Emme.

CHRISTIAN

Emme. If there's one thing I've learned as a doctor in this business, it's never to assume. (Then) So you'd like your nose done?

Emme's taken back until Christian smiles and she realizes he was playing with her; she breaks into a warm grin.

EMME

When I first saw your pictures on-line, I don't think you'd be so funny. I like it. Makes the plane trip out here even more worth while.

CHRISTIAN

Let me guess -- South Carolina?

EMME

Please, I'm a Jersey girl. Born and raised.

Christian raises his eyebrows - she's serious. Then Emme bursts into a big grin and he realizes she was playing, too.

EMME (CONT'D)

Guess we both have the same sense of humor, huh? Actually I'm from Cleveland. Georgia. It's a tiny little town in the Smoky Mountains up north. This is my first time

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EMME (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
traveling away from home if you can  
believe it. (Leans in, whispers) I  
think I'm afraid of flying, too.

CHRISTIAN  
Yet you chose to get on a plane for  
the first time to come all the way  
to our office for a consult? Why?

EMME  
You. You're the doctor who set up  
the Hedda Grubman fund, right? I  
don't have a lot of money. When I  
went on Google and typed in "free  
plastic surgery," your name came up  
and it said you do cases like mine  
for no pay. You know, where birth  
defects are involved.

CHRISTIAN  
Technically what you have on your  
face is a naevus flammeus. And it's  
fairly common. About one in three  
thousand newborns has one.

EMME  
Not like this they don't.

Christian feels for this girl but still...

CHRISTIAN  
I understand you made the trip, but  
I have a very long waiting list  
right now -

EMME  
A waiting list? I've waited  
twenty-four years. I spent all I  
had just to get out here. Then the  
cab ride from the airport was  
almost as much as the plane. And  
they lost my luggage...

Emme stops, chokes back the sentiment and talk tough now.

EMME (CONT'D)  
You ever read the Scarlet Letter,  
Doctor Troy?

CHRISTIAN  
In college, sure.

(CONTINUED)

EMME

That's what my mom used to call this - her scarlet letter. Said it was the shame she had to bear for having me with some one night stand. But it's not just her. I've never been accepted by anyone my whole life because of this face. That's the real reason I never left home until now. And now that I'm here, I can't go back looking like this. I won't.