

HARROGATE

Al Smith

HER:

I saw a man today at the start of my shift. He was a mechanic. He was complaining about his eyes. I recognised him but he didn't recognise me. I took a look; asked about any flashing lights, floaters, the usual. Nothing. A colleague took a look, we couldn't see anything wrong so I discharged him. And as he stood to leave he burst into tears. *(Beat)*. He said he'd just got married and now he was terrified things were about to break down. He said the only thing that would save their marriage was if someone helped him with his eyes. But his eyes were perfect. *(Beat)*. His wife's a heavy smoker. Was. They had both driven into hospital this morning, and whilst he was sitting in front of me, she was in having her lower jaw fully removed. The whole mandible. *(Beat)*. I told him I was sorry to hear about his wife but as far as his health went there was nothing wrong. 'I know I'm a well man,' he said, 'but I want you to blind me'. *(Beat)*. 'I want you to blind me. I want you to blind me. *(Beat)*. He said he loved her but he knew he wouldn't be able to after. 'Just put me under. Cut the nerves. I can't look at that. *(Beat)*. 'I know I love her but I can't look at that.' *(Beat)*. There's nothing you can't say to me. You can tell me what you like.