

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

(FX: Hospital beeps, doors crash, trolley rumble)

Mr Snips Mr Jeffries? Mr Jeffries? Can you hear me?

Jeffries Mmmmm... What happened?

Mr Snips You're in the hospital, Mr Jeffries. You've had a car accident – we're going to help you.

Jeffries How bad is it?

Mr Snips Couldn't say, Mr Jeffries. I'm not a doctor.

Jeffries What? Then who...

Mr Snips Michael Gove's "Parents in Schools" initiative was so successful they're rolling it out in the NHS.

Jeffries So you're...

Mr Snips Last week I was selling soft furnishings, this week I'm a volunteer surgeon.

Jeffries *(regaining consciousness quite quickly)* I wish to see a specialist!

Mr Snips I wish I hadn't been made redundant at Habitat, but here we are.

Jeffries Oh God!

Mr Snips Don't worry. There's hot sweet tea on the way.

Jeffries Is that for the shock?

Mr Snips I'll say – I've never seen so much blood. Do you want a cup too?

Jeffries You maniac! Let me go! The ambulance staff were better trained than you!

Mr Snips You mean Jeff? This time last week he was bagging up the Pic'n'Mix in Thorntons. I wouldn't listen to anything he says.

Jeffries What are you going to do?

Mr Snips Not sure. Might try a hot bread poultice. Your heart seems a bit fast - my mum always said half an aspirin would help.

Jeffries *(Hurriedly trying to get out of his bed)* I actually think I'm feeling quite a bit better. I might go home...

Mr Snips You just lie there. That tea will be here soon. I'll just switch some of these lights off - no wonder the NHS is running out of money! Can't need ALL these machines on either - I'll switch this one off..

(FX: Click)

Jeffries *(Sighs, breathes out. Then silence)*

(FX: Machine tone as heart flatlines. Click. Pause.)

Mr Snips Oh dear. Perhaps I'll go and see if Jeff needs a hand...