

**LEISURE TIME WITH LEISURE TIME (EXCERPT):  
“HEALING HOSPITAL” A HEARTFELT SOAP OPERA**

by

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Radio script  
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GUY                    We now take you to the hushed white corridors of County General Hospital for another episode in the continuing drama “Healing Hospital.”

MUSIC                    HEALING HOSPITAL THEME UP AND UNDER

GUY                    As we begin this week’s episode, Dr. Tad Healing, the brilliant and handsome young surgeon who’s incredible skills have made him the Chief of Delicate Surgery at County General Hospital is having coffee with the kind and pretty Nurse Jennie in the County General cafeteria.

MUSIC                    THEME OUT

SFX                        CAFETERIA BACKGROUND

JENNIE                Thanks for walking me home last night, Dr. Healing.

HEALING              That sounds so formal Jennie. After last night, I think you can call me “Tad.”

HEALING              Okay... Tad.

HEALING              But not in front of patients.

JENNIE                Of course.

HEALING              Or the other doctors.

JENNIE                All right.

HEALING              Or the nurses. And orderlies. In fact, let’s just save “Tad” for when we’re alone together.

JENNIE                And will we be?

HEALING              Be what?

JENNIE                Alone together? Again?

HEALING              Jennie, dear Jennie, about last night: I don’t know what came over me. I’m usually not that forward.

JENNIE                We held hands.

HEALING            Yes, Jennie. Sweet, innocent Jennie. And hand-holding is just how it starts. And that leads to (SPELLING) K – I – S – S – I – N – G.

JENNIE            We hope.

HEALING            Then comes love, then comes marriage, then comes baby in a baby carriage.

JENNIE            Sounds good.

HEALING            I can't ask you to make that sacrifice. Your patients need you. County General needs you.

JENNIE            And you, Tad? What do you need?

HEALING            I need to follow my Hippocratic oath, and be a beacon of hope, a stalwart buttress against the illnesses that plague those who pass through these hallowed halls of medicine.

JENNIE            Oh, brother.

MERLE            (FILTERED) Dr. Healing, paging Dr. Healing. Please report to the Delicate Case department. Delicate case in progress.

HEALING            A call to action! Come, Jennie, our coffee will have to wait.

JENNIE            (SIGHS) There has got to be an easier way to marry a doctor.

SFX                    CAFETERIA BACKGROUND OUT

MUSIC                HEALING HOSPITAL BRIDGE

DR. DENTON        Dr. Healing.

HEALING            Dr. Denton.

DR. DENTON        Nurse Jennie.

JENNIE            Doctor Denton.

DR DENTON Thanks for coming, Dr. Healing. I’ve got a new case here, and I don’t mind telling you, it’s a delicate one. Perhaps the most delicate case I’ve seen.

HEALING Well, I’m the Chief of Delicate Surgery. Delicate is what I do.

DR. DENTON Well, I just hope you can help this patient. Her name’s Lynette LeBeau.

JENNIE (GASPS) Lynette LeBeau?

DR. DENTON Yes.

JENNIE The Lynette LeBeau?

DR. DENTON Yes.

JENNIE The famous French ballerina who inexplicably walked away from her career at the height of its brilliance in order to dedicate her life to (BREATH) teaching ballet to underprivileged children in Appalachia?

DR. DENTON Yes. You’ve heard of her?

HEALING Where is the patient?

SFX TRAY CRASHES

LEBEAU (OFF) Get that disgusting glop away from me!

DR. DENTON She’s in there. Quite lively, isn’t she?

HEALING What’s wrong with Miss LeBeau?

LEBEAU (OFF) You call that food? For pigs, maybe!

DR. DENTON Ha! Ain’t she a pistol? Look, we’re baffled, can’t stay, here’s her chart, good luck, bye-bye!

SFX FOOTSTEPS (RAPID, FADING)

HEALING Well, he can certainly move. Well, Nurse Jennie, let’s go see the patient.



LEBEAU           And an attractive cough. (COUGHS)

HEALING           That is an attractive cough.

JENNIE           (WRITING) “Attractive cough...”

LEBEAU           Whatever could be wrong with me, dahlink?

HEALING           I have an idea, Mademoiselle. But to confirm my suspicions, I need to ask you to do something.

LEBEAU           Oui, dahlink?

HEALING           I need to see you dance.

LEBEAU           But I...I don’t know...

JENNIE           Doctor, surely not in her condition?

LEBEAU           Leave me Doctor! There is nothing wrong with me that won’t be fixed by a little rest, fresh air—

JED               And Jell-O!

LEBEAU           Enough with the Jell-O! Leave me! All of you!

HEALING           Mademoiselle, I think I know what is wrong with you. And I think that you know that what I think I know you already know but you just don’t want to think about it, do you?

LEBEAU           What?

HEALING           Then prove me wrong, Mademoiselle LeBeau! Dance!

LEBEAU           Very well, Doctor!

HEALING           Now stand! And...plie!

SFX               DANCING (SLIPPERS ON FLOOR)

HEALING           Eleve! Releve! Crème brulee!

JENNIE           Doctor, surely that’s enough!

HEALING           Dr. Shirley isn’t here! This is my case!

LEBEAU I was born to dance!

HEALING And jeté!

LEBEAU (CRIES OUT)

SFX BODY FALLING

JED She done fell down!

HEALING Orderly, help her back into the bed.

LEBEAU (GROANS)

HEALING Gently now...there we are. Mademoiselle LeBeau, your performance has confirmed my diagnosis.

LEBEAU Oh, doctor, I don't want to hear it!

HEALING You must face the truth, Mademoiselle LeBeau. You have Jeté Spleen.

MUSIC STING

JENNIE Jeté Spleen?

HEALING Yes. The spleen is nature's shock absorber, taking the brunt of impacts from the running leaps, or, jetés, as the French call them. Do you know the number one reason why ballerinas retire?

JENNIE Their spleens?

LEBEAU Oui, and I'm keeping mine!

HEALING Mademoiselle LeBeau, your spleen must be removed. And quickly! If left untreated, Jeté Spleen can be fatal!

LEBEAU No, Doctor! If you remove my spleen, my dancing days are over!

JENNIE But Mademoiselle LeBeau, it's your spleen or your life!

LEBEAU            My spleen is my life! And my life is showing those poor underprivileged youth the beauty of ballet. How can I do that without my spleen?

HEALING            But without a splenectomy, you’ll die. Unless—

JENNIE             Yes, Doctor?

HEALING            There may be a way. Call me a cab, orderly!

JED                  Okay, you’re a cab

HEALING            I have to see the brilliant but unorthodox Dr. Heinrich Hofstader at once!

JENNIE             Say, isn’t he out on a hunting trip?

JED                  Okay. “Isn’t he out on a hunting trip?”

HEALING            Yes. To escapes the pressures of surgery, he communes with nature.

JENNIE             And then he blasts it with a shotgun and mounts it on his wall.

HEALING            If he’s deep in the forest, then that’s where I must go! Orderly, call me a cab!

JED                  Already did.

HEALING            To the woods!

MUSIC             HEALING HOSPITAL BRIDGE

SFX                 FOREST BACKGROUND

SFX                 FOOTSTEPS

HEALING            (CALLING) Hello? Anybody there? Anyone? Anyone at all in these dark, cold, depressing woods? Dr. Hofstader? Doctor Heinrich Hofstader! Hello?

SFX                 GUNSHOT

HEALING            Don’t shoot! Don’t shoot! I’m a doctor!

HOFSTADER (APPROACHING) Oh, dear! You’re not a deer!

HEALING Certainly not. I’m Dr. Healing, and I—

HOFSTADER You’re healing? Well I’m glad to hear it. And a doctor, too! Physician, heal thyself!

SFX FOREST BACKGROUND OUT

HEALING (THIS ISN’T IN THE SCRIPT) No, no, you didn’t shoot me.

HOFSTADER I’m not surprised.

HEALING You aren’t?

HOFSTADER No, and I can’t understand it. They say to regularly clean your gun. Well, I just shampooed this one this morning, and now I can’t do a thing with it.

HEALING I’m sorry to hear that. But I’m Dr. Healing—

HOFSTADER There goes a deer now! I’ll take a shot at it!

SFX GUNSHOT (LATE)

HOFSTADER Still some shampoo on the bullets, too, I see.

HEALING I’m Dr. Healing...

HOFSTADER Oh, that wasn’t a deer after all, it was just a tree. They have those in the forest. You know, I had an uncle who thought he was a tree.

HEALING (WEAK) Really?

HOFSTADER Yes. Every autumn, his pants would fall down.

HEALING I’m Dr. Healing...

HOFSTADER He came from a very strange branch of the family.

HEALING Dr. Healing I am...

HOFSTADER Everyone thought he was a sap.

HEALING            Me Healing...you Hofstader.

HOFSTADER        Ja Wol! Dr. Heinrich Hofstader, at your service.

HEALING            (RELIEVED) Oh, okay. Dr. Hofstader, I'm Doctor—

HOFSTADER        Dr. Healing, yes, I heard that bit.

HEALING            Yes, and I'm here about the brilliant but unorthodox surgical procedure you've developed.

HOFSTADER        You can only be referring to my cure for Jeté Spleen. The procedure that removes the explosive qualities of the tired spleen, while still allowing the dancer to jeté and jeté and jeté like a graceful gazelle on the verdant veldt of Elysium itself.

HEALING            That's the one! And Doctor, I have to ask, how did you manage to accomplish these two seemingly contradictory goals?

HOFSTADER        Through the brilliant but unorthodox procedure of the *pseudo-splenectomy*. It cures Jeté Spleen by fooling the body into thinking the spleen has been removed, while actually leaving it in place.

HEALING            It's just crazy enough to work!

HOFSTADER        Yes, but it's an incredibly delicate operation. One slip, and the body could inadvertently become convinced that some other organ had been removed. Like the liver—or the heart!

HEALING            Then, Doctor, you are just the man I wanted to see. You see, I have a case of Jeté Spleen.

HOFSTADER        Really? You're a dancer?

HEALING            No, I have a patient with a case of it. Back at the hospital.

HOFSTADER        Oh. Has the spleen reached the explosive stage yet?

HEALING            You can practically hear it ticking.

HOFSTADER      Then the operation must take place at once. Who is the patient?

HEALING          A famous French ballerina.

HOFSTADER      Famous? French?

HEALING          Yes. Lynette LeBeau.

HOFSTADER      The Lynette LeBeau? The famous French ballerina who inexplicably walked away from her career at the height of its brilliance in order to dedicate her life to (BREATH) teaching ballet to underprivileged children in Appalachia?

HEALING          Oh, you’ve heard of her?

HOFSTADER      A wild guess.

HEALING          Her case is acute.

HOFSTADER      Yes, she always did have a cute case.

HEALING          Look, I need you to come and operate on her immediately.

HOFSTADER      Me?

HEALING          You!

HOFSTADER      No!

HEALING          Why?

HOFSTADER      I have my reasons. Deeply personal and surprisingly coincidental reasons.

HEALING          Well, blast it, man!

SFX:              GUNSHOT

HOFSTADER      Sorry. That’s not what you meant, is it?

HEALING          If you won’t perform the operation I’ll go ahead and do it myself.

HOFSTADER      You have my blessing. You’ll find my notes and a handy diagram in the June ’37 issue of “Spleen Monthly.”

HEALING        I keep it by my bedside.

HOFSTADER      You need to get out more. Now, go! Go quickly to your patient’s side and remember an old doctor’s advice.

HEALING        What’s that?

HOFSTADER      DUCK!

SFX            GUNSHOT

MUSIC        HEALING HOSPITAL BRIDGE

JENNIE         Are you ready to begin the operation, Doctor?

HEALING        Yes, just let me finish washing my hands.

JENNIE         With Leisure Time Soap?

HEALING        Of course! Four out of five doctors use Leisure Time soap for their pre-op scrubbing needs.

JENNIE         And the fifth?

HEALING        A complete slob.

SFX            WATER SPLASHES

HEALING        There! Now, gloves, nurse.

JENNIE         Here you are, Doctor.

SFX            RUBBER GLOVES SNAPPING

HEALING        Orderly, bring in the patient.

JED:            Yessir.

SFX            WHEEL SQUEAKING

LEBEAU         (SINGING) Three little maids from school are me,  
Scheduled for a splenectomy...

JENNIE                    She’s already had her pre-operative shot.

HEALING                    So I gathered.

LEBEAU                    Hail, hail, the gang’s all here! Let’s get this party rolling!

HEALING                    How are you feeling, Mademoiselle LeBeau?

LEBEAU                    Chipper. Tip. Top. I’d be ready for take off if it wasn’t for these leather straps.

JED                            They’re for your own good.

LEBEAU                    I’ve heard that before.

HEALING                    Well, let’s begin. Nurse, could you hold that diagram up for me? I want to be able to check my work as I go.

LEBEAU                    Wait a mint. You done this before?

JENNIE                    (WHISPERS) Say “yes.”

HEALING                    Mademoiselle LeBeau, I’ll be honest with you.

JENNIE                    D’oh!

HEALING                    This is a highly delicate operation. More delicate than any I’ve done before. And that’s saying something.

LEBEAU                    From that I’m supposed to feel better?

HEALING                    No, Mademoiselle LeBeau, and why should you? For you are staring down the slippery slope of the abyss itself. And only my hands stand in your way.

LEBEAU                    I’m still not feeling better.

HEALING                    (ON A ROLL) These hands, these miracles of creation, these highly trained digits that have wrested many a poor wretch from the very brink, will once again plunge into the fragile flesh of another earthbound soul and grant it the boon of life itself!

LEBEAU                    But how can you be so sure, Doctor! How can you know that you will be successful?

HOFSTADER        Because I will be by his side!

JENNIE            (GASPS)

HEALING          Doctor Hofstader!

HOFSTADER        Yes, young man. You made an impression on me back in those woods. And I realized that it was time for me to stop running and face my past.

LEBEAU            That voice! Can it be—?

HOFSTADER        Yes, Lynette, it is I—your beloved Heinrich!

HEALING          Wait a minute! You know each other?

JENNIE            Oh, this is getting good.

LEBEAU            Oh, Heinrich! My little “Heinie!” How long has it been?

HOFSTADER        Over twenty years. I waited all day for you in that little café. Remember the one?

LEBEAU            Oh, Heinie, my Heinie, I wanted to see you, but I was ashamed.

HOFSTADER        There can be no shame between us, my love. Not after all we shared.

JENNIE            Ooo, better and better.

LEBEAU            But Heinrich, there was something I couldn’t tell you. A secret. A terrible...secret...(SNORES)

JENNIE            The pre-op medication has taken full effect, Doctors.

HEALING          Then we’d better get started. Doctor Hofstader, I would be honored to watch you perform this procedure.

HOFSTADER        No, these old hands might be too shaky. Especially with a patient so...precious. Doctor Healing, you will need to perform the pseudo-splenectomy.

HEALING          Very well! Let’s begin. Nurse—scalpel!

JENNIE Scalpel.

SFX TOOL SLAPS PALM

HEALING What are doing, Jennie?

JENNIE You asked for a scalpel.

HOFSTADER But this is a pseudo-splenectomy, my dear. We will just be simulating the sights and sounds of an operation. Give him that blunt pseudo-scalpel.

JENNIE Oh!

SFX RUMMAGING THROUGH TOOLS

JENNIE This one?

HOFSTADER That’s it! Now, with feeling! Make her body believe!

HEALING (LOUD) Scalpel!

JENNIE (LOUD) Scalpel!

SFX TOOL SLAPS PALM

HEALING There! I have made the incision!

HOFSTADER Yes! You have made the incision, all right!

HEALING Now I will look for the spleen!

SFX RUMMAGING THROUGH ORGANS

JENNIE Is that the spleen?

HOFSTADER No, that is the pancreas. There’s the spleen!

HEALING I see it! I have it! Splenectomizer!

JENNIE Splenectomizer!

SFX TOOL SLAPS PALM

HEALING I am removing the spleen!

SFX                      SAWING

HEALING                The spleen is removed!

ALL                      (CHEER)

HEALING                Now, I am closing the incision!

SFX                      ZIPPER

HEALING                It’s done. I just hope it works.

HOFSTADER            We can only wait, and pray.

JENNIE                 For how long?

HOFSTADER            At least two weeks. It will take that long for the spleen to find a good hiding place in the abdomen.

JENNIE                 Two weeks! That’s such a long time.

HEALING                No, Jennie, I’m sure it will seem like just a few seconds.

MUSIC                      HEALING HOSPITAL BRIDGE

JENNIE                 You were right, two weeks really did seem like just a few seconds. And here we are, outside LeBeau’s hospital room.

HEALING                Well, it’s time to see if her operation was successful. Are you ready, Dr. Hofstader?

HOFSTADER            You know, I haven’t been this nervous since the night before my final exams at medical school. I had a nightmare that I had to eat a giant marshmallow. When I woke up, my pillow was gone.

SFX                      KNOCKING

HEALING                Mademoiselle LeBeau?

LEBEAU                 Come in, come in! You know, this young man is teaching me to appreciate this Jell-O. It’s as if oysters were made into a dessert.

JED                      Now I don't think I like Jell-O anymore.

HEALING                How are we feeling this morning, Mademoiselle LeBeau?

LEBEAU                I am well, Doctor, but how can we be sure the operation was a success?

HOFSTADER            There is a simple way. My dear, I am going to palpate your torso.

LEBEAU                Here? With all these people?

JENNIE                 He's going to thump your chest.

HOFSTADER            Just so. Like this.

SFX                    THUMP

HOFSTADER            Um hm. And...

SFX                    THUMP

HOFSTADER            Very good. Now here, directly over where the spleen “used” to be.

SFX                    TWANG

LEBEAU                What was that?

HEALING                It sounds like a successful operation to me!

HOFSTADER            Exactly! My dear Lynette, your body is thoroughly convinced that your spleen has been removed.

LEBEAU                Oh such joy! I had never dared hope. Just as I had never dared hope for the joy of seeing you again, my little Heinie.

HOFSTADER            And I you, my dear. But why? Why did you leave me, those many years ago?

HEALING                Come, Nurse Jennie, we should leave them alone.

JENNIE                 Not on your life.

LEBEAU I was ashamed, Heinrich. Ashamed, for I was in the family way!

HOFSTADER Really? Whose family were you in the way of?

LEBEAU I was with child!

HOFSTADER With child? But that means that I—

LEBEAU Yes, dearest Heinrich, you were, you are, the father!

JENNIE Oh, I wish I had some popcorn.

HOFSTADER But why didn't you tell me? Why did you leave?

LEBEAU I was an unmarried woman with child! What man would have me?

HOFSTADER I'm still not following...

LEBEAU But remember how I inexplicably walked away from my career at the height of its brilliance in order to dedicate my life to (BREATH) teaching ballet to underprivileged children in Appalachia?

HOFSTADER Heard about it.

LEBEAU Well I have a confession.

JENNIE Another one?

LEBEAU I came to America on a quest. I came here to find our young child whom I gave up for adoption just hours after his clandestine birth!

HOFSTADER We have a son?

LEBEAU Yes!

HOFSTADER And did you find him?

LEBEAU Yes!

HOFSTADER And do you know where he is?

LEBEAU Yes!

HOFSTADER      And could you maybe tell me?

LEBEAU            You know where he is! There! Behind you! With the  
Jell-O!

HOFSTADER      With the cello?

HEALING/JENNIE      With the Jell-O!

JED                I could bring some tapioca if you’d druther.

HOFSTADER      My boy! Come to my arms!

JED                Okay.

LEBEAU            At last, we are together! All of us!

JENNIE            Doctor Healing—Tad—when you see this family  
together, how happy they are, does that make you think  
of anything?

HEALING            It certainly does, Nurse Jennie. It makes me think of the  
power of medicine, and how this hospital is truly, in all  
ways, a place of healing.

JENNIE            Yeah, that too...

GUY                A happy ending—or is it?

MUSIC            STING

GUY                Can Doctor Hofstader accept a woman with a child born  
out of wedlock?

LEBEAU            Well, it is his.

MUSIC            STING

GUY                Can Jed accept going through life with the name Jedediah  
LeBeau-Hofstader?

JED                Accept it? I can’t even spell it!

MUSIC            STING

GUY                And what about Dr. Armstrong and Nurse Jennie?

JENNIE            Beats me.

GUY                Tune in next week for another heartfelt chapter in the  
                         continuing saga of Healing Hospital, brought to you by  
                         that healing soap, Leisure Time!

MUSIC            HEALING HOSPITAL THEME UP AND OUT

END