

# HDYMTWBT

By Michael Druce

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# HDYMTWBT

*A Ten Minute Dramatic Skit*

**By Michael Druce**

**SYNOPSIS:** How Did You Make The World Better Today? In a world that can seem cynical and uncaring, sometimes you need an angel to remind you that kindness and compassion still exists. For Mr. Willis, a cantankerous resident of a care facility, that angel is Maddie, a seventeen-year old volunteer whose infectious spirit and optimism teach Mr. Willis that change often begins in small and personal ways.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(3 either; gender flexible)*

MADDIE/MARTY BEAULIEU (m/f)..... 17 year old volunteer. *(35 lines)*

NURSE CAROL/CARL (m/f)..... Nurse at Blue Horizons.  
*(35 lines)*

RICHARD/ROSE WILLIS (m/f)..... Blue Horizons resident.  
*(68 lines)*

**SETTING:** A private room in a care facility. Furnish as desired.

## PROPS

- Wheelchair
- Walker
- Bed/Chair
- Clipboard
- Pen/Pencil
- Package containing a duplicate T-shirt with HDYMTWBT written across the front.

## COSTUMES

WILLIS – Casual dress.

NURSE – Nurse uniform.

MADDIE – T-shirt with HDYMTWBT written across the front.

*“In ways great and small, we can all make a difference!”—Maddie Beaulieu*

**AT RISE:** *WILLIS is staring off, as if through a window. NURSE CAROL enters with a clipboard. She is making her daily rounds.*

**NURSE CAROL:** Good morning, Mr. Willis, how are you?

**WILLIS:** Wonderful, just wonderful! Life is peachy.

**NURSE CAROL:** I love your thinly disguised sarcasm. Did you take your medications this morning?

**WILLIS:** As I do every morning.

**NURSE CAROL:** You know it's my job; I have to ask. Tell me, what's on your agenda today?

**WILLIS:** The same as yesterday and all the days before. It's just go, go, go here at Blue Horizons. I don't know how I'll find the time to get everything done.

**NURSE CAROL:** Mr. Willis, there are plenty of activities for the willing.

**WILLIS:** The willing? Sheeple you mean. Is what's her name coming today? It's Thursday. She's late.

**NURSE CAROL:** No, Mary won't be coming back.

**WILLIS:** Doesn't surprise me. Kids these days are like that.

**NURSE CAROL:** Mr. Willis, you weren't very nice to her.

**WILLIS:** That's what you said about the other two.

**NURSE CAROL:** Mr. Willis, students aren't required to come to Blue Horizons. This is not the only place where they can earn community service credits

**WILLIS:** Then why do they come here?

**NURSE CAROL:** A lot of young people have a heart for the sick and the elderly.

**WILLIS:** Apparently they don't have much of a heart.

**NURSE CAROL:** Mr. Willis, you don't make it easy.

**WILLIS:** Good riddance, that's what I say.

**NURSE CAROL:** If you really believe that, then it shouldn't matter to you if it's Thursday.

**WILLIS:** Are you finished with the lecture?

**NURSE CAROL:** There's a new volunteer I'd like you to meet. I asked her to wait outside. I'll get her.

**WILLIS:** Great!

**NURSE CAROL:** I don't have to. There are plenty other residents for her to visit.

**WILLIS:** Bring her in. Let's have a look at her.

*NURSE CAROL goes to the door and motions for MADDIE to come in. MADDIE enters.*

**NURSE CAROL:** Mr. Willis, this is Maddie.

**MADDIE:** Pleased to meet you, Mr. Willis.

**WILLIS:** They all say that; then they disappear.

**MADDIE:** I really am pleased to meet you.

**WILLIS:** Really? Not enough sick people in your life?

**NURSE CAROL:** (*Gently reprimanding.*) Mr. Willis.

**WILLIS:** It's a fair question. Why Blue Horizons?

**MADDIE:** Why not?

**WILLIS:** I like that. Answer a question with a question.

**MADDIE:** Why?

**WILLIS:** Touché.

**NURSE CAROL:** If you'll excuse me, I have rounds. Good day, Mr. Willis.

**WILLIS:** Good riddance, Nurse Carol.

**NURSE CAROL:** Every time I leave, he says that. Good riddance! I'll leave you two to visit. (*Exits.*)

**WILLIS:** She's a regular Nurse Diesel, that one.

**MADDIE:** I don't know what that means.

**WILLIS:** No surprise. They teach you anything in school these days?

**MADDIE:** A lot of things, maybe not the things you learned in school.

**WILLIS:** No doubt about that. What did you say your last name is?

**MADDIE:** I didn't say. It's Beaulieu.

**WILLIS:** What kind of a name is that?

**MADDIE:** It's a name, a name like yours.

**WILLIS:** Not like mine, it's not. What is it, foreign?

**MADDIE:** French. It means 'beautiful place.'

**WILLIS:** You an immigrant?

**MADDIE:** Does that matter?

**WILLIS:** It might. I don't know anything about you. I like to know who I'm dealing with.

**MADDIE:** My name is Madelyn Beaulieu. My friends call me Maddie. I am seventeen years old. I'm a senior at Jefferson High.

**WILLIS:** You got a boyfriend? Girlfriend? You go to church? Temple? Mosque? Whatever? That's what I'm talking about. I want to know who you are.

**MADDIE:** Mr. Willis, I don't think you want to know *who* I am. I think you want to know what I am.

**WILLIS:** That's right, I want to know *what* you are.

**MADDIE:** I am a citizen of the world.

**WILLIS:** What does that mean?

**MADDIE:** It means I don't like labels. I don't identify myself that way. I try not to judge others that way.

**WILLIS:** That's how you find out if you have anything in common with people. That's what brings people together.

**MADDIE:** It's also what separates people.

**WILLIS:** Got something to hide? Maybe something you're ashamed of?

**MADDIE:** I am here to keep you company for a few minutes. That's all.

**WILLIS:** Don't bother! We don't have anything in common.

**MADDIE:** Then it was a mistake for me to come here. It was nice to meet you.

**WILLIS:** That's it?

**MADDIE:** Mr. Willis, I don't think my being here is good for you.

**WILLIS:** You think you know what's good for me? You think you know something about my life? You think you can just come in here and fix things?

**MADDIE:** If I have done something to upset you, I am sorry. I'm not here to fix anything. I'm just here to visit, to keep you company. I hardly know anything about you.

**WILLIS:** That's right, you don't. You don't know anything about me, or my life. Name one thing you know about me.

**MADDIE:** You're right. I don't know anything about you. I can only make an observation.

**WILLIS:** What's that?

**MADDIE:** You seem like a man who's angry.

**WILLIS:** Look around. This is not the world I grew up in. Why shouldn't I be angry?

**MADDIE:** This is the world we live in.

**WILLIS:** And it's a lousy world. Things have changed, and not for the better. And they're not going to get any better.

**MADDIE:** I don't believe that.

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