



Will Flanary

Dr. Glaucomflecken

My mom kicked me out of her 6th-grade language arts class. I made one too many jokes, got sent to the principal's office, and received a conduct report to be signed by my dad. There are two things I've always wanted to do in life: be a doctor and tell jokes.

Comedy helped me through a cancer diagnosis during med school...and again during residency. Telling jokes enabled me to navigate the challenges of living as a cancer patient in my 20s. It was my coping mechanism.

As an ophthalmology resident, I started the "Dr. Glaucomflecken" account on Twitter, fresh off a second occurrence of testicular cancer. It allowed me to express frustration toward my genitals for having betrayed me and tell jokes about my life as a resident in ophthalmology. I continued making content through the pandemic, a sudden cardiac arrest, and dozens of reports of people sleeping in their contact lenses with disastrous consequences.

My "Dr. Glaucomflecken" alter ego began as a creative outlet to tell painfully specific ophthalmology jokes and cope with my health challenges. Since then, my comedy has evolved to include satire of the US healthcare system, academic publishing, and the interpersonal conflicts pervasive in the medical system to an audience of millions.



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