

ROBERTO DANTÈS

DIRTY GOWNS

This is an incident that is not quite uplifting, that certainly never happened in reality, and that in any case can never occur in Italy. The imaginary local health authority of an imaginary country called Pernambuco is living through hours of anxious waiting. The change in majority in the region has led to a change of CEO. Carlos Arcano arrives on a January morning and is welcomed by Dr. Dantes, doctor of the company board staff of the previous CEO. The good intentions of the new CEO will soon clash with political demands and other human stresses. Dantes describes the mechanisms that characterize the health centre that, in spite of the managerial façade, shows permeability to a different logic (in fiction, of course). The fanciful narrative is centred on the story of Helga Butirroza, a doctor of rare beauty and sensuality that manages to attain career goals for which she has no professional qualifications. The happy ending is, as in all fairy tales, assured: the beautiful woman gets the job she coveted, the good doctor that

was impeding her path is fired, and order reigns in the local health authority of Pernambuco.

Although the story is clearly far-fetched, it is told with such verve and participation to seem almost real.

THE AUTHOR

Roberto Dantès is the pseudonym of a physician born in Puerto Aleatorio (?) a bit after the middle of the last century. As a specialist in digestive diseases, hygiene and preventive medicine, the author was a consultant to the Council Member of Regional Health in the mid-80s and has gained experience in hospital wards, in preventive services, and in management staff. He cultivates a passion for theatre that has led him to write several plays. This is his first novel.

After abandoning the pseudonym, Roberto Santi released the pamphlet "I, Doctor Death" (Pironti, 2007) under his real name, in which he recounts the role he plays in the tragic story of Piergiorgio Welby.

