

SWALLOWED A FLY - KATHERINE KNOWLES

A doctor's office - day.

OLD WOMAN

Doctor, doctor, excuse me, doctor.  
I've swallowed a fly and I want to  
know, is it serious?

DOCTOR

Hm. Well, that depends. How old are  
you, if you don't mind me asking?

OLD WOMAN

I don't mind at all. I'm 91.

DOCTOR

Ah. Oh dear. You see, in young or  
middle-aged women, swallowing a fly  
doesn't present too big a risk, but  
in older women such as yourself -

OLD WOMAN

What do you mean?

DOCTOR

Well, you might be fine. Or -

OLD WOMAN

Or what?!

DOCTOR

Perhaps you'll die.

OLD WOMAN

Perhaps I'll die?! I could DIE!?!

DOCTOR

Perhaps. But try to keep calm. I'm  
going to prescribe you this spider.

OLD WOMAN

A spider? Now I didn't go to  
medical school, but -

DOCTOR

Well, I did, so you're going to  
have to trust me. You swallow the  
spider to catch the fly.

The old woman swallows the spider.

Swallowed a Fly (Knowles) 2.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Do you know why you swallowed a fly?

OLD WOMAN

Well, it was my Grandson's birthday-

DOCTOR

Right, now let's see how that spider's working. Ah. Some wriggling and wiggling and jiggling inside you I see.

OLD WOMAN

Is that a good sign, doctor?

DOCTOR

Is a spider wriggling and wiggling and jiggling inside you a good sign? Hm. No. Not really.

OLD WOMAN

Doctor, please, help me! There must be something you can do!

DOCTOR

Let me think. Yes! Got it! I'll prescribe you this bird.

OLD WOMAN

A bird?

DOCTOR

Now this might be a little uncomfortable, but an adjuvant bird really is the optimum treatment.

OLD WOMAN

But, well, a bird?

DOCTOR

You swallow the bird to catch the spider you swallowed to catch the fly. Now open wide.

OLD WOMAN

I don't know why I swallowed that fly in the first place! If I had known the consequences!

She swallows the bird.

DOCTOR

How does that bird feel?

Swallowed a Fly (Knowles) 3.

OLD WOMAN

Well, the wriggling, wiggling and  
jiggling inside me is a lot better.

DOCTOR

Good! That's good! Phew!

OLD WOMAN

Only now there's a most  
uncomfortable flapping.

DOCTOR

Flapping! Oh No!

OLD WOMAN

Is that serious?

DOCTOR

No. No, no, no, no, no. Nothing to  
be alarmed about at all. (PANIC!)  
Nurse! Nurse! Fetch the cat! And  
fetch a precautionary dog too while  
you're at it! Stat! We might have  
to intubate!

Nurse races in with the cat and the dog.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

No time to lose! Cat, Dog. Dog,  
Cat. You swallow the dog to catch  
the cat. You swallow the cat to  
catch the bird. You swallowed the  
bird to catch the spider -

NURSE

That wriggled and wiggled and  
jiggled inside her?!

DOCTOR

Exactly!

OLD WOMAN

And I swallowed the spider to catch  
the fly!

NURSE

I don't know why you'd swallow a  
fly!

OLD WOMAN

Perhaps I'll die!!

Swallowed a Fly (Knowles) 4.

DOCTOR

Not if I have anything to do with  
it!! I graduated 41st in my class  
at Johns Hopkins!

She swallows the cat and the dog. A moment. Silence.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Good. Looking good, I think - yes -

She coughs up a wad of fur.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

No. Oh No. That's not good. We'll  
have to -

NURSE

But doctor! It's too dangerous!

DOCTOR

God damn it, Nurse! I can't lose  
another one this morning! It's time  
for the horse.

OLD WOMAN

A horse?! Oh no! Not a horse!

DOCTOR

It's your only hope! Nurse. Hand me  
the saw and the spreader!  
I'm going to have to crack your  
jaw. This might sting a little!

NURSE

Do it! Old Woman! Swallow that  
horse!

DOCTOR

Swallow that horse!

NURSE

Swallow it! Swallow that horse!

She swallows. Convulses. She dies.

NURSE (CONT'D)

She's dead?

DOCTOR

Of course.

Blackout.