Iris's shrill scream pierced my eardrums like the sound of the megaphone used by a demented presenter standing three centimetres from my ear.

Pale and trembling, she slammed open the door to my office, with/showing no regard for the half-naked man adjusting his trousers.

“Yohanna! Come quick! I don't know what's wrong with him—he's not responding!”

Uh oh/Oh dear. No doubt one of her patients had fainted in her armchair. Classic. The sight of a dentist's tools sometimes has that effect on the poor bastards who are over-emotional. Unless it was a bad reaction to the anaesthetic injected into the bloke’s/chap’s/guy’s gums... Let's find out.

Leaving my patient behind, I followed Iris at a run/rushed behind Iris and, in just a few strides, found myself in the room where she (worked/) performed her duties.

Already, the people in the communal waiting room had put down their magazines and were craning their necks, eager for thrills, in our direction. Armed with the bag containing my instruments, I slammed the door in their faces and approached the armchair where the body lay.

Oh hell no, not him.

I looked at Iris, who was wringing her hands and wailing with worry.

- Hurry up, I don't think he's breathing! He's taken these new drugs... I've forgotten the name... maybe that's why...

I ran my fingers along his neck, looking for a pulse. I couldn't find one.

- Listen, Iris, I don't think I'm in the best position to...

Iris didn't let me finish. Shaking her red mane, she bellowed hysterically:

- You're a doctor! You took an oath, damn it, you've got to help him! Give him mouth-to-mouth, damn it!

I stared at her for a few seconds, pleading with my eyes.

She knew perfectly well that he and I hated each other. Just the thought of putting my mouth on those disgusting lips made me nauseous. Worse. The thought that my tongue might accidentally meet his tartar-filled teeth revolted my small intestine to its very core.

But since I was obliged to do it because of the stupid abbreviation that preceded my name on the door plaque, I summoned up the courage to do it.