THE AMERICAN STORYTELLER
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Text Version of Audio Story: Wade

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The Royal Family, you know, over there across the pond in England. They have a very special power, the power to make someone a knight, and if they do that, then you can get to walk around being called "Sir" as in Sir Lancelot, Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Ronald Regan, Sir Elton John. We have a fellow right here in my native Juniata County who does something similar. He doesn't knight you. He takes it upon himself to make you a full fledged king or queen in your own right. Just yesterday I became the latest person to be honored as royalty.

His name is Wade. He decided to make me a king, one among many. He summoned me for a fitting just to see what size crown I would wear. He took the measurements. Every crown is custom made. No two crowns are the same. It took about six weeks and then just a few days ago Wade made the telephone call. He said I could come get my crown. Just yesterday I showed up and rather unceremoniously Wade presented me with my crown. He didn't touch a sword to my head. He didn't read from any passages or official scrolls. He pretty much was only interested in how my new crown fits. It is a nice design and it does fit magnificently.

This Wade fellow showed up in town back about 15 years ago. Besides crowning folks, he also stays busy filling teeth, doing root canals, making dentures and bridges, all that kind of stuff. Wade is Dr. Wade Geisberg, Doctor of Dentistry. As a kid growing up, I hated going to the dentist and would do anything to get out of it. The dentist I went to all those years ago was the meanest, nastiest son of a gun alive. He hated kids, had no patience for them. Even as an adult, I dreaded going to the dentist. My only experience had been the mean, nasty dentist from when I was a kid. And then when this new dentist, Dr. Wade, fell out of the sky fresh from God knows where, landing right in the middle of Juniata County, I thought, yeah, I'll go to him. I figured he couldn't be any worst than that other hack. To my great surprise and joy he was a lot better.

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Juniata County is 90 miles long and 20 miles wide. In all that expanse, there are only 20 thousand people. Dr. Wade has files on roughly half of them. He has described his practice as a water stand in the middle of the desert. Folks don't have a lot of choices here and yet his prices are reasonable. He wouldn't have to have the patience he does with folks. He wouldn't have to take the time to explain procedures the way he does. It would probably be easier to be a jerk like that other guy was, but he isn't. He's a big strapping monster of a fellow with hands like a Gorilla. As you're sitting in the chair waiting, you hear him long before you see him. *"Clomp, clomp, clomp, clomp,"* his feet hitting the floor as he walks.

I don't mind so much anymore going to the dentist. It's not near as bad if you have a good one and he has pretty girls working for him. They hold my hand if it gets bad and that helps. You know, now that I'm a king, going to the dentist ain't so bad.

I'm the American Storyteller.

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