

The Acupressurer



Joe Bob was a traditional Chinese medicine man. He employed ancient Far Eastern techniques to heal the human body. His repertoire included Shiatsu massage, Qigong, dietary therapy, herbal depilatories, General Tso's clyster, and karate. His specialty, however, was acupressure. Unlike his more deskbound colleagues, Joe Bob made house calls, much to the delight of his clients. Mrs. Edith Pilaf was one such satisfied customer, and she clamored for Joe Bob's services at least once a week. Charging a whopping fifteen bucks an hour, Joe Bob was happy to oblige. There was never anything overtly sexual about the treatments. Joe Bob maintained a professional aloofness, and both he and Edith remained fully dressed at all times. In fact, they seemed to *overdress*. Joe Bob eschewed his normal blue scrubs for a tuxedo, and Edith was almost always clad in an elegant evening gown, tastefully accented by fine jewelry from the Age of Anxiety. On this visit, Edith claimed her chronic hangnails were acting up so Joe Bob, consulting his "Harmony of Meridians" chart, worked the sixty-sixth chakra on the ball of her foot. If he'd wanted to, he could easily have gotten to first base with Edith, so much did she fancy the massage. But Joe Bob – to continue with the basketball metaphor – remained well up in the bleachers behind a frankfurter vendor during the therapy. Well, he *was* a professional, after all!