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**Jealousy Jane: Competition Version**

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# JEALOUSY JANE: COMPETITION VERSION

A DRAMEDY IN ONE ACT BY  
*Lindsay Price*



*Jealousy Jane: Competition Version*  
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## Characters

4M 4W 2AG

**JANE:** (W) The Jane of the title. Chained to a Jealousy Monster. Claims not to be jealous.

**MONSTER:** (AG) The first stage of Jane's Jealousy Monster. Dressed in green rags and hunched over. Speaks in grunts, snorts, and word fragments.

**JEALOUSY:** (AG) Jane's monster, fully developed. Dressed to the nines in a flashy green outfit.

**BETINA:** (W) Jane's younger sister. Loves Jane, but is willing to stand up to her.

**OSCAR:** (M) Jane's best friend. A smart aleck. Knows Jane really well.

**BILL:** (M) Jane's boyfriend. Loves Jane, doesn't want to confront her about her jealousy, but knows it's the right thing to do.

**ENSEMBLE ONE:** (M) Also Andre. Also wants to address the fact that the ensemble doesn't have names.

**ENSEMBLE TWO:** (W) Also the Woman Who Walks.

**ENSEMBLE THREE:** (W) Also the Circus Barker. Also, wants to be called Moxie.

**ENSEMBLE FOUR:** (M) Also the Interviewer.

The monster has been divided into two roles so that you can go all out with costumes and make-up. I have seen this role played both masked and unmasked, both work well. The monster can and has been played by just one actor.

Feel free to add more ensemble roles; I've seen the Jealousy Monsters' Ball section with over 30 actors and it was amazing! You could further divide up the four ensemble roles amongst more actors as well.

## Set

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Most of the play can be done with a bare stage. You'll need a couple of chairs and cubes. There is mention of a "school set" which should be minimal and look homemade. It can be as simple as a set of lockers. It should also be on wheels so that it can be quickly wheeled in and out.

There is a point where Jane attends a Jealousy Monsters' Ball. If you have the ability for a quick set change (perhaps a green sparkly curtain) go for it. Otherwise, use green moody lighting to show the change.

## Time

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The Present

*A spotlight comes up on a MONSTER. It is hunched over, snorting and grunting. There is a thick rope around its waist, which extends into the darkness. It is dressed in green rags.*

MONSTER: Ous-ous-snort-rgh-rgh-agh-ous-ous-ug-aggggh-rrrrrhhhh-eee-eeee-jel-snort-jel-snort-argh-ug-ous-snort

*Lights up full and we see attached to the other end of the thick rope is JANE. She looks extremely sullen. The MONSTER continues to grunt and snarl during the following.*

JANE: Hello. My name is Jane. The Jane in the title – *Jealousy Jane*. Pretty catchy don't you think? Of course you would.

*The MONSTER's grunts get louder. JANE tugs on the rope and it quiets down.*

JANE: But it is completely untrue. I am not a jealous person. There is not a jealous bone in this body. What do you have to say about that? I would demand my money back if I were you. Tell them, "I was expecting to see a play with some jealousy in it and apparently there is none!"

MONSTER: Arghy-veee-en-je-ja-ya-snort-unt-en-snort-veee-argh

*FOUR ENSEMBLE members enter and stand in neutral facing the audience.*

JANE: I'm sure some of you are wondering why I'm attached to a monster.

ENSEMBLE ONE: (*confused pose*) Why is she attached to a monster?

ENSEMBLE TWO: (*different confused pose*) What is that snarling thing?

ENSEMBLE THREE: (*pointing*) Why is that girl on stage attached to that, that,

ENSEMBLE FOUR: (*pointing*) That monster!

*The ENSEMBLE members return to neutral.*

JANE: Right. Well, I don't know. I'm not the sort of girl who associates with monsters.

*The MONSTER's grunts get louder. The ENSEMBLE gasps out loud and poses in reaction to the MONSTER. JANE tugs on the rope to quiet the MONSTER.*

JANE: My plan is to ignore it until it disappears. Poof! *(to the MONSTER)*  
Do you hear that? Poof!! *(grumbling)* Stupid plot twist.

ENSEMBLE: Lights up on a teenage girl attached to a monster by a  
thick rope. A grunting, growling, slobbering monster.

*The MONSTER grunts louder. The ENSEMBLE  
members look at one another and take a step away.  
JANE tugs on the rope.*

JANE: Last week I woke up and that *(referring to MONSTER)* was playing  
in my sock drawer. It was much smaller then. Now it's full-grown,  
and gets into everything. Say hello, Monster!

ENSEMBLE: Monsters don't talk!

JANE: I know they don't. Of course they don't.

MONSTER: Aggggh-rrrrrhhhh-eee-eeee-jel-snort- ouss-jel-rhhhhh-  
snort-ouss.

*The ENSEMBLE members look at one another and  
exit quickly.*

JANE: All of this is ridiculous. I have absolutely no idea why I'm  
attached to a monster.

OSCAR: *(offstage)* OH COME ON!

BETINA: *(offstage)* Oscar! Be quiet!

OSCAR: *(offstage)* She's deluded!

BILL: *(offstage)* Sorry, Jane!

JANE: I hear some dissension from the wings. *(calling out)* Come out  
and have your say! *(to MONSTER)* Try not to bite or drool on any  
of them.

*OSCAR, BETINA and BILL file onstage, giving the  
MONSTER a wide berth.*

JANE: Isn't this a motley crew. Betina, my supposed beloved sister.  
Oscar, my supposed beloved best friend, and Bill, my supposed  
beloved boyfriend.

OSCAR, BETINA & BILL: Hi, Jane.

JANE: This is my play, you know. You come in when I say.

BETINA: We wanted to talk to you about... Well... *(she gestures  
vaguely to the MONSTER)*

OSCAR: It's getting bigger.

JANE: No it's not.

OSCAR: Jane, look at the size of -

JANE: *(interrupting)* Shut up!

BETINA: Jane.

JANE: What? *(they don't speak)* Well?

BILL: We wanted... Um, we have some scenes for your play. Some additional scenes...?

JANE: Do you? Are you sure?

BETINA: Yes. *(calling off)* Scene One!

JANE: You're going to use my ensemble too? Why not take over everything.

*The three give a clap. The ENSEMBLE runs in and poses. The MONSTER grunts and snarls.*

OSCAR: Keep that thing on a tight leash. Who knows how it will respond to theatre.

ENSEMBLE: Scene One.

BETINA: This is how a situation should be normally handled.

BILL: We're not saying you're not normal...

OSCAR: Bill.

BILL: Sorry.

OSCAR: The scene with the concert tickets.

*Everyone but JANE claps. ENSEMBLE ONE and ENSEMBLE TWO approach each other.*

ENSEMBLE TWO: Hi Oscar, whatcha got there?

ENSEMBLE ONE: Only two tickets to the hottest concert in town.

ENSEMBLE TWO: That has been sold out for months!

ENSEMBLE ONE: Not if your dad knows the promoter. Front row centre.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Who you gonna take?



ENSEMBLE ONE: Take? This baby's going to the highest bidder! Care to put in an offer?

ENSEMBLE TWO: Nah. I'm a bit strapped for cash at the moment.

ENSEMBLE ONE: Tough luck. It's gonna be a scorcher.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Have fun!

ENSEMBLE: The end.

*Everyone but JANE claps. ENSEMBLE ONE and TWO return to the ENSEMBLE group.*

JANE: (to BILL) Aren't you supposed to be my boyfriend? Why are you doing this?

BILL: Sorry...

BETINA: Moving on.

ENSEMBLE: Scene Two.

OSCAR: (to audience) Observe, gentle viewer, how Jane...

BILL: Who we know and love...

JANE: (sarcastically) Ha!

OSCAR: Handles the same scene.

*Everyone but JANE claps. ENSEMBLE THREE and FOUR move into position.*

BETINA: The scene with the concert tickets.

ENSEMBLE FOUR: Hi, Jane.

ENSEMBLE THREE: Hi Oscar, whatcha got there?

JANE: Freeze!

ENSEMBLE THREE: I didn't do anything.

BETINA: (to JANE) What?

JANE: Why should I let someone else play me in my play? I should play me.

BILL: I don't know if that's a good idea.

JANE: It's a great idea.

BETINA: Ok. But, you have to do it exactly as it happened.

JANE: Aren't you supposed to be my sister? My flesh and blood?

BETINA: The scene with the concert tickets. Exactly as it happened.

*Everyone but JANE claps. ENSEMBLE THREE returns to the ENSEMBLE group.*

ENSEMBLE FOUR: Hi, Jane.

JANE: Hi Oscar, whatcha got there?

ENSEMBLE FOUR: Only two tickets to the hottest concert in town.

JANE: That has been sold out for months!

ENSEMBLE FOUR: Not if your dad knows the promoter. Front row centre.

JANE: Who you gonna take?

ENSEMBLE FOUR: Take? This baby's going to the highest bidder! Care to put in an offer?

JANE: I'm a bit strapped for cash at the moment but –

ENSEMBLE FOUR: Tough luck, Jane.

*ENSEMBLE FOUR strolls away, back to the ENSEMBLE group. JANE starts to breathe in fast, shallow breaths. The MONSTER becomes really agitated, snarling and grunting louder.*

MONSTER: Jel-Ja-Ya-En-Jel-ous-ous-ous-eee-eee-eee

BILL: Jane, are you OK?

JANE: Who cares about those stupid tickets! The band sucks and I hope he gets spit on!

MONSTER: Jel-Ja-Ya-En-Jel-ous-ous-ous-eee-eee-eee

JANE: He doesn't deserve to have those tickets! Why does Oscar get all the breaks? He doesn't deserve to have a father that knows the promoter! I do, I do, I do!!!

*There is a moment of silence. JANE clears her throat. The MONSTER goes back to muttering.*

OSCAR: Yep. That sounds about right.

JANE: Whatever.

BILL: Jane, it's not -

JANE: Ok, so I overreacted a little.

BETINA: A little?

JANE: Yes, a little. That was an isolated incident. I was having a bad day. I shouldn't be labelled because of one bad day. And, I think it's pretty slanderous that you would come out here and make false accusations (*referring to the audience*) in front of all these people.

OSCAR: It's in the title!

BETINA: Oscar.

BILL: Take it easy...

OSCAR: If it's YOUR play Jane, how can you miss the biggest freaking part of it?

JANE: I'm not jealous and you can't make me!

BETINA: All right, all right! Can I talk to Jane alone, please?

OSCAR: Fine by me. (*exits*)

BILL: You're not too mad are you, Janie? (*no answer*) I'll be in the wings if you need me.

*BILL exits with the ENSEMBLE following behind. JANE moves away from BETINA, dragging the MONSTER behind her. BETINA approaches the MONSTER and tries to touch it but the MONSTER snaps at her.*

JANE: (*without looking*) Careful. It bites.

MONSTER: Ous-ous-snort-r – jel-snort-jel-snort-argh – ous-ous-snort

BETINA: Does that sound like a word to you?

*JANE tugs on the rope and the MONSTER quiets down.*

JANE: Monsters can't speak. Everybody knows that.

BETINA: OK. So. (*she sighs*) We're only trying to help. Do you see that?

JANE: I see that my friend, my sister, and my boyfriend are all against me.

BETINA: That's not it at all. We're trying to – Jane, it's not normal to have a monster attached to you.

JANE: It's not a jealousy monster and I am not jealous! (to MONSTER, who is muttering) Will you be quiet? A person can't hear themselves think! (the MONSTER quiets down)

BETINA: Let's look at this another way. Let's say you're not jealous.

JANE: Let's.

BETINA: Can we say instead that you've been getting worked up over small things lately?

JANE: I do not!

BETINA: What about last week when Andre and I were sitting in the basement?

JANE: (in a mocking voice) Andre. The great Andre.

BETINA: We have a scene about it.

JANE: Of course you do. (BETINA opens her mouth to speak and JANE interrupts) Don't say another word. I want them to see it firsthand. (calling off) Hey! Ensemble! Andre scene!

*The ENSEMBLE runs on and gets into place. OSCAR and BILL follow behind.*

OSCAR: (entering) You don't need to shout.

JANE: (to audience) You'll see that I'm right. I'm not jealous. This time I'm going to watch so there's no funny business.

ENSEMBLE: Scene Three.

BILL: The scene in the basement.

*Everyone but JANE claps. ENSEMBLE THREE approaches ENSEMBLE ONE and TWO. Everyone watches.*

ENSEMBLE THREE: Hello, you two. Monopolizing the basement again?

ENSEMBLE TWO: We're just watching TV. Why don't you join us?

ENSEMBLE THREE: (speaking in an Eastern European accent) I wouldn't want to get in the way. Who knows what you two get up to down here.

ENSEMBLE ONE: Please, Jane. Join us. You can speak with Betina while I use my brain to conduct a beautiful love poem in her honour.

BETINA: He doesn't have an accent. (to OSCAR) Did you tell him to do Andre with an accent?

OSCAR: Of course not. It's an artistic interpretation.

BETINA: (to ENSEMBLE ONE) Did he?

ENSEMBLE ONE: Yep.

OSCAR: Spoilsport.

ENSEMBLE THREE: He recites poems for you?

ENSEMBLE TWO: All the time. It's so romantic.

ENSEMBLE ONE: Thank you, my beautiful bounty of borscht.

ENSEMBLE THREE: You two make me sick.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Jane!

JANE: I didn't say that! I'm not jealous of you and Andre!

BILL: I'm so glad to hear you say that because I've been worried that you -

JANE: (*interrupting*) How come you never recite poetry to me?

BILL: You never asked.

JANE: Betina doesn't have to ask Andre. He just does it.

BILL: If you want me to, I will.

JANE: It's not the same. It irks me that my beautiful younger sister, with the pretty name and the great wardrobe, and the highest marks also has to have the boyfriend from another planet.

OSCAR: But you're not jealous.

JANE: It's so unfair, unfair, unfair!

*During JANE's tirade, the MONSTER has gotten more verbally and physically agitated.*

MONSTER: Jealousy, jealousy, jealousy!

OSCAR: Whoa. It speaks.

JANE: Leave me alone! Get off my stage!

BILL: But Jane...

JANE: All of you get out!

*BETINA, BILL, and OSCAR exit along with the ENSEMBLE. JANE takes some deep breaths. The MONSTER goes back to muttering.*

JANE: *(to the audience)* Sorry you had to witness that.

MONSTER: Jel-Ja-Ya-En-Jel-ous-ous-ous-eee-je-ja-ya-en-vee

JANE: Shut up! *(she turns to the audience)* No one likes to see the heroine lose her cool, even if she had a perfectly good right to. You may be wondering why it is that this is my play and yet some things seem to come as a surprise to me. *(she reaches down and picks up a worn script from the side of the stage)* I thought it would be more exciting not to know. Which... maybe wasn't the best choice... *(shakes her head)* No. I know who I am. I trust who I am. *(tosses the script offstage)* I am not jealous and the fact that my monster is growing is... I can't think on this empty stage. Bring on the school set!

*The lights change. We are now in a school hallway. The ENSEMBLE, as well as BILL, BETINA, and OSCAR, help roll on the school set. The set should have a homemade "theatre set" feel. The ENSEMBLE moves around the stage as if they are in-between classes, talking to one another, and at the same time looking at JANE with her MONSTER. Over the following, each ENSEMBLE member realizes they want to escape and sneak off.*

*JANE is struggling to get down the hallway with her MONSTER. She pulls at it, but more often than not the MONSTER doesn't want to go.*

JANE: School is great. I have a lot of friends. I have a nice boyfriend; I do really well in all my classes. *(to MONSTER)* Stop fighting me! *(to audience)* It won't go away for some reason.

*OSCAR, BILL, and BETINA approach JANE.*

BETINA: Can we talk?

JANE: None of you are in this scene.

BILL: But, Jane...

JANE: *(pulling on the MONSTER)* Come on, come on.

OSCAR: That monster is looking pretty feisty.

JANE: Get out of my way.

BILL: We want to help you.

JANE: Did I ask for your help?

BETINA: Jane.

JANE: Can't you see I'm trying to show how popular and friendly I am?  
*(looks around and sees ENSEMBLE FOUR sneaking off)* Where are you going?

ENSEMBLE FOUR: I totally forgot, I gotta go.

JANE: Go where?

*The MONSTER grunts loudly and ENSEMBLE FOUR uses the moment to run off.*

JANE: Get back here! Where is everyone?

BILL: They don't want to be here.

JANE: What are you talking about?

BETINA: Everyone knows about your monster.

JANE: I don't believe this!

*The MONSTER makes noises that sound less and less like grunts and more like words.*

MONSTER: Jealargyousy, argh, snort, snort, rrrrrresenughtment, en-veeee – sp-arg-hite, bit-bile bit-bile-rr-rr-rr, bitterbitterbitter.

OSCAR: *(singsong)* That sounds like words...

JANE: Let me be loud and clear: there will be no talking about anything from any of you in this play unless I say so. If you're not in the scene, keep your mouth shut!

*JANE turns her back. OSCAR, BILL and BETINA look at one another. OSCAR and BETINA leave. BILL moves as if he is going to approach JANE, but instead decides to exit.*

*After they have left, JANE turns around as if to apologize and is shocked to find that she is alone. She steels her resolve and starts to pace the stage. The MONSTER starts to imitate her.*

*By now, the MONSTER makes fewer grunts. It almost begins to walk upright. It should seem as if the MONSTER is moving in and out of a human*

*personality. Whenever JANE looks at the MONSTER, it reverts to monster-like actions as if it doesn't want JANE to know that it is changing.*

JANE: I don't need them!

MONSTER: Gggggrunt, snort, neeeeeed, argh, argh...

JANE: I don't need to go to school. I don't need friends. I don't need anyone.

MONSTER: Rrrrrrarh, anyarhphone.

*JANE turns and looks at the MONSTER. An idea forms in JANE's mind.*

JANE: Saaaaaaay. For this whole play I've been fighting you but maybe I should do the opposite. There has to be a way to survive with a monster. Make a living, even. There is always someone who is willing to pay for something unique and exclusive. I could do a lecture tour. I'll bet the people are dying for someone like me! This is the plot twist I have been waiting for! Lights! Set! The star is ready to take centre stage!

*Lights change and JANE comes to stand in front of a podium. Her MONSTER stands behind her. JANE bows her head as if she has just finished giving a speech. The MONSTER imitates this bow. OSCAR, BETINA, BILL, and the ENSEMBLE enter clapping their hands.*

BETINA: Thank you for that thrilling speech.

OSCAR: It's such an honour to have you here.

BILL: I know that hearing you has changed all our lives forever.

*They all clap enthusiastically again.*

JANE: Thank you.

BETINA: We're now going to open the floor to questions.

JANE: I am ready and willing to answer.

*The ENSEMBLE all raise their hands.*

ENSEMBLE: Pick me! Pick me!

*BETINA points to ENSEMBLE ONE.*

ENSEMBLE ONE: I want to ask the monster a question.



*The MONSTER steps forward and is about to say something when JANE pushes it back.*

JANE: The monster doesn't speak.

ENSEMBLE ONE: Oh, how disappointing!

JANE: Yes, well, them's the breaks. Next question?

ENSEMBLE TWO: But I distinctly heard it make a number of noises during your speech.

ENSEMBLE THREE: And words, too.

ENSEMBLE FOUR: I definitely heard words.

JANE: I speak for the monster. Next question.

ENSEMBLE TWO: But I want to know what it's like to be a monster.

JANE: I can tell you that –

ENSEMBLE THREE: Let the monster answer.

JANE: It can't.

ENSEMBLE FOUR: We want to hear it speak!

JANE: I told you the monster doesn't speak. Can we please get off the monster? I'm the one who gave the speech. Let's talk about me. This is supposed to be about me.

BETINA: You're not jealous, are you?

JANE: Of course not, I –

BILL: She sounds jealous.

OSCAR: Imagine that, jealous of her own jealousy monster.

JANE: I'm not jealous and it's not a jealousy monster.

ENSEMBLE FOUR: Let the monster speak.

OSCAR, BILL, BETINA & ENSEMBLE: Speak! Speak! Speak!

JANE: NOW, HOLD ON.

*The lights change. OSCAR, BILL and BETINA give one another a knowing glance and move to the side of the stage with the ENSEMBLE. JANE comes downstage and addresses the audience.*

JANE: Sorry to stop. Not professional, I know, but that scene wasn't right for me. What I need, what I excel at is one-on-one. I think the talk show circuit could be just as lucrative for me and my monster. Lights! Set! Show theme!

*The lights change, a talk show theme song is heard, BILL and OSCAR bring forward two chairs. JANE sits in one, ENSEMBLE FOUR sits in the other as an INTERVIEWER. The MONSTER prowls behind. Again, it is starting to look less and less like a MONSTER. Everyone watches the interview.*

ENSEMBLE FOUR: My name is Jet Jones and welcome to today's edition of *Talk and Share, Share and Talk*. You've read her book *Monster On a Leash*. You've heard about her tours across North America and Europe, and the sell-out crowds everywhere she goes. And now, you're seeing it here first - it's Jane!

JANE: Thanks for having me, Jet.

ENSEMBLE FOUR: You are a tough lady to get a hold of. No one can get enough of you!

JANE: I know a lot of people have monsters inside them. I was just lucky enough to figure out how to use mine to the best advantage.

ENSEMBLE FOUR: I can tell you the staff here at *Talk and Share, Share and Talk* were absolutely abuzz when they heard you were humbly gracing us with your presence.

JANE: As they should be. I have a lot of insight to share.

ENSEMBLE FOUR: Let's get to it. Where did the monster come from?

JANE: Excellent question, Jet. I'm in favour of the indigestion scenario.

ENSEMBLE FOUR: Come again?

JANE: It's an indigestion monster. A symbol for "don't eat so fast." Chew your food or a monster might come after you. *(she growls, the MONSTER imitates her)* It's a symbol for healthy eating.

ENSEMBLE FOUR: Are you for real?

JANE: Uh, I'm very much for real, Jet.

MONSTER: Very-snort-much-urh-arghghgh.

ENSEMBLE FOUR: This is what you're telling people?

JANE: Most of my talks actually focus on dealing with the monster as opposed to where...

ENSEMBLE FOUR: It's a monster! It's a green monster! It's got "Jealousy" written all over it! Are you so blind that you don't know when your worst attributes are staring you right in the face?

JANE: NOW, HOLD ON.

*The lights change and the music grinds to a halt. JANE comes downstage. BILL looks like he wants to go and talk to JANE, but BETINA and OSCAR stop him.*

JANE: I don't think this is going to work either.

MONSTER: Argh, Jane, snort, snort, Jel-osssss-eeeeeee.

JANE: What I need is for someone else to do the talking and for me to just be... representative. The sight of me alone will make a lot of money. I'm sure of it. I could be a performance artist. I could run away and join the circus. If that isn't an adventure, I don't know what is. Lights! And all the other stuff.

*Tired circus music begins to play. ENSEMBLE THREE, as a circus barker, moves forward.*

ENSEMBLE THREE: Step right up, step right up! Sights that will thrill you to the core, and chill you to the bone. Step right up, step right up! Come in, come in, there's room for all of you.

*JANE steps forward. The MONSTER prowls around her, stepping in front of her at times.*

JANE: Wow, look at all the people. And they're all here to see me! (to the MONSTER) Hey, get out of my way; you're blocking my light.

ENSEMBLE THREE: Step right up, step right up to see our first freak...

JANE: Hey!

ENSEMBLE THREE: The Jealous Woman. Isn't she hideous?

JANE: That's not right, that's not my billing! That's not what we discussed!

ENSEMBLE THREE: See how fast her monster grows. Soon there won't be anything left of her.

JANE: What?

ENSEMBLE THREE: Mothers, shield your children's eyes from this abomination.

JANE: NOW, HOLD ON. Stop! Everyone get out!

*JANE comes quickly downstage to stop the scene. This action causes the MONSTER to be flung offstage. BILL, BETINA, and OSCAR, as well as the ENSEMBLE, exit quietly.*

JANE: (to audience) Abomination? Don't you think that's going a bit far? Even if I were a jealous person, and I'm not... It's not that bad to be jealous. It's just a feeling; an emotion... (she won't give in) It's ridiculous. They don't know what they're talking about.

MONSTER: (offstage) They're just telling the truth.

JANE: And you, I'm getting tired of you – (JANE's mouth drops) You. You talked!

*JANE backs away in horror towards centre stage as the MONSTER enters - transformed. It is cleaned up in a dazzling outfit and walks upright with an extremely elegant air. The MONSTER has been transformed into full-blown JEALOUSY. JEALOUSY carries the script.*

JANE: What happened? You don't even look like a monster anymore.

JEALOUSY: I know. It's great to be me. (takes in a deep breath) This is truly glorious.

JANE: I don't like this plot twist at all.

*JANE tugs on the rope, but JEALOUSY will not budge.*

JEALOUSY: I think I'm here to stay, Jane. (JANE tries to tug the rope again and nothing happens) And you are a very gracious host, if I may say so. The more you deny me, the stronger I get.

JANE: I am not in denial.

JEALOUSY: That's the spirit.

JANE: You can't stay. I don't want you here!

JEALOUSY: (tugging on the rope, knocking JANE off-balance) And yet here I am. So what are we going to do today? What about the mall? You don't like the mall, do you, Jane? All those girls with their better looks and their better bodies.

JANE: Stop it.

JEALOUSY: They've all got money to burn too, don't they? They don't ever look at the price tags like you have to.

JANE: Stop it!

JEALOUSY: My goodness, it feels good to hate them so much.

JANE: Shut up, shut up, shut up!

JEALOUSY: I'm hungry, Jane. Let's go get something to eat.

JANE: I don't want to.

JEALOUSY: You're not in charge anymore, sister. I'm just getting started. The play is mine.

*JEALOUSY holds up the script. JANE's eyes widen in horror.*

JANE: You can't do that!

JEALOUSY: Change of set, please!

*The ENSEMBLE rolls the school set back on. JEALOUSY walks with purpose and JANE is dragged behind. OSCAR, BILL, and BETINA stand on the fringes and watch the action.*

JEALOUSY: (to an ENSEMBLE MEMBER) You've got the lead in the school play? How did that happen? I've got more talent in my baby finger than you have in your whole body! (to another ENSEMBLE MEMBER) You won that writing contest? I should have won. You're not half as good as me.

OSCAR: That is some monster.

BETINA: We're too late now.

BILL: She doesn't even look like herself anymore.

JEALOUSY: (to another ENSEMBLE MEMBER) You made the basketball team? Of all the luck. How on earth did that happen? You get everything you ask for, don't you? You never have to lift a finger.

*JANE gets flung by the trio. The ENSEMBLE MEMBERS exit, moving the school set off.*

BILL: Hi Jane.

JANE: Hello.

OSCAR: How's it going?

JANE: Perfectly fine.

BETINA: Are you sure?

BILL: You don't want any help?

JANE: Of course not, everything is under control...

*On the word "control" JANE gets dragged away by JEALOUSY.*

BILL: We have to do something.

OSCAR: What can we do?

BETINA: It's too late.

BILL: It can't be too late. Where's the script? Can't we read ahead?

BETINA: We could if we could get it away from that thing. I can't watch anymore.

*BETINA exits. OSCAR and BILL follow. JEALOUSY and JANE come downstage.*

JEALOUSY: Where did everyone go? You sure know how to clear a room.

JANE: Why are you being so mean?

JEALOUSY: I'm just acting on your instincts, Jane.

JANE: They're not my instincts, I would never say those things.

JEALOUSY: But you think those things. All the time. And you do say them behind people's backs. Do you think that just because you don't say something to a person's face, that makes it all right?

*JEALOUSY pushes JANE away.*

JANE: *(to audience)* As you can see, I'm in a bit of a bind here. I didn't expect this turn of events.

JEALOUSY: *(returning)* Who are you talking to?

JANE: The audience.

JEALOUSY: I see. *(looking out)* Are you jealous of any of them?

JANE: Only that they are out there and I'm up here.

JEALOUSY: Then I guess I should just continue on. *(as if quoting)*  
Jealousy crosses in front of the previous main character, Jane,

upstaging her handsomely. Jealousy smiles, turns its head and speaks, in lovely dulcet tones. Jealousy, colon, Come on, Jane, we're going to a party. Lights! Set!

*The lights change to green and moody. Dance music plays. ENSEMBLE members enter wearing monster masks. They interact with one another, laughing, and dancing. JEALOUSY looks like it's ready to have a great time. JANE looks on in horror.*

JEALOUSY: Looks like a great crowd tonight.

JANE: What kind of party is this?

JEALOUSY: It's a Jealousy Monsters' Ball. I've been dying to attend one but I've never been fully developed. I owe it all to you, Jane.

JANE: All these monsters are inside of people?

JEALOUSY: This is just the tip of the iceberg. Monsters are everywhere: hiding in your ear, sitting on your shoulder, sucking up your thoughts. And once you let a monster out, it's impossible to get rid of it.

JANE: Impossible?

JEALOUSY: That's right. I've no time for small talk, Jane. Mingle, mingle.

JANE: I don't want to mingle with monsters. They look awful.

JEALOUSY: Who said you had a choice?

*JEALOUSY stalks off to schmooze with other monsters.  
JANE collapses in a chair.*

JANE: This is horrible. If this monster is a part of me, then I have some pretty awful parts to my personality. No, I'm not a bad person. I have friends, I have... well, I had friends. The last time I talked to Bill I yelled at him. I wish Bill was here. I wish Betina was here. I even wish Oscar was here. He would love this. I wish I could go back to the beginning of this play and make different decisions. How come we always know what to do too late?

*ENSEMBLE TWO sashays into the room as the WOMAN WHO WALKS. She has the look of a woman from the 40's with a scarf over her head, sunglasses, and a walk to match. She is carrying a clutch purse. She moves to stand beside JANE. She does not look at JANE.*

ENSEMBLE TWO: Pssst. Psssst!

JANE: (*looking at ENSEMBLE TWO*) Are you pssting me?

ENSEMBLE TWO: Don't look at me!

JANE: (*looking away*) Why not?

ENSEMBLE TWO: We mustn't arouse suspicion.

JANE: Why not? With who?

ENSEMBLE TWO: The monsters of course.

JANE: (*looking at ENSEMBLE TWO*) The monsters?

ENSEMBLE TWO: Don't look at me!

JANE: (*looking away*) Sorry.

ENSEMBLE TWO: I can't help but notice that you have a monster attached to you.

JANE: Can't help but notice? Are you nuts?

ENSEMBLE TWO: Shhhh!!

JANE: Sorry, sorry. Yes, I have a monster.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Why don't you control it?

JANE: I would if I could.

ENSEMBLE TWO: So, why don't you?

JANE: You obviously have no idea what I'm going through so—

ENSEMBLE TWO: I have a monster.

JANE: (*looking at ENSEMBLE TWO*) What?

ENSEMBLE TWO: Don't look at me! I have a monster, too.

JANE: You do? Where is it, then? Where's your rope?

ENSEMBLE TWO: I have no rope.

JANE: Then how can you have a monster?

ENSEMBLE TWO: It's in here.

JANE: Where?

ENSEMBLE TWO: Here. (*she holds out her purse*)



JANE: There? But that's so small.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Open it.

*JANE opens it and there is a booming sound of grunts and snorts. JANE quickly closes the purse again.*

JANE: How did you do that?

ENSEMBLE TWO: I took control of the little creep.

JANE: But I thought they were impossible to get rid of.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Who told you that?

JANE: My monster.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Of course it did. It wants you helpless and hopeless.  
You can do it, too.

JANE: Do what?

ENSEMBLE TWO: Shrink your monster.

JANE: I can't. It's got my script and I can't even get a word in edgewise.  
*(as if to prove the point, JANE is jerked by the rope)*

ENSEMBLE TWO: You must fight your jealousy, Jane. That is the only way. Otherwise you will lose yourself completely. Soon the monster will not be satisfied with being on the end of a rope, dragging you around. It will want to take over completely. There'll be nothing left of you.

JANE: Tell me what I have to do.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Name it. That is the first step.

JANE: If I name it, that means I admit I'm a jealous person.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Aren't you?

JANE: Maybe a little bit. Maybe a lot. I haven't been very nice to my friends and family. It's like I'm always lashing out.

JEALOUSY: *(turning its head)* What's going on over there?

JANE: I can't deny it anymore. Everything is all my fault.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Say it, Jane. Say it!

JEALOUSY: Jane?

JANE: I am Jealousy Jane!

*There is the sound of a gong and JEALOUSY is hunched over, reduced to grunts and snorts. The sound of the gong scares all the other MONSTERS, who run offstage. The green light changes back to natural and the dance music fades.*

JANE: I did it! *(she grabs the script from JEALOUSY)*

ENSEMBLE TWO: That's just the beginning. You've only paralyzed it.

JANE: There's more? But that was really hard to say, doesn't it count for something?

ENSEMBLE TWO: You let your monster get too big. You have to shrink it.

JANE: But how do I do that?

ENSEMBLE TWO: You must discover the how. I cannot tell. This is your battle.

JANE: Great. Maybe the answer's in the script. *(she starts flipping pages)* Hey! The end has been torn out!

ENSEMBLE TWO: The monster must have done it.

JANE: That means the story could end up any which way!

ENSEMBLE TWO: Or have no ending at all.

JANE: We'll see about that. *(she tosses the script offstage)* What about backup? Can I have some support?

ENSEMBLE TWO: You're running out of time.

JEALOUSY: Jel-snort-jel-snort-argh-rrrrh-ous-ous-snort

JANE: I need my friends.

ENSEMBLE TWO: Hurry, Jane! *(runs off)*

JANE: Betina, Oscar, Bill, get out here!

*The three enter.*

OSCAR: Is it time for us already?

BILL: This play went by so fast.

JANE: We're rewriting the ending.

OSCAR: Is that a good thing?

JANE: Yes. No. I don't know. Just trust me. Ok?

BETINA: Good luck, Jane.

*JANE turns away. OSCAR, BILL, and BETINA clap and then assume poses of scepticism. JEALOUSY grunts and snorts but not as much as at the beginning.*

JANE: Thanks for coming over.

OSCAR: You've still got your monster.

JANE: That's what I want to talk to you about. I'm sorry for the way I've been acting. I was wrong. I don't want to be this way anymore. Maybe it's too late. Maybe I don't deserve a second chance, and if that's your decision then I will live with it. But I guess I'm asking for one.

*OSCAR, BETINA and BILL look at one another.*

BETINA: What do you think?

OSCAR: I think I'm gonna cry.

BILL: Oscar.

BETINA: But do we help her?

BILL: Yeah. She's kinda cute.

OSCAR: Gross.

BETINA: I think we should, too.

OSCAR: Oh, ok. *(with a grin)* We got your back.

JANE: Thanks.

JEALOUSY: What a lovely scene.

*During the previous, JEALOUSY has reverted to standing upright, and loses the grunts and snorts. When it talks, the others all gasp.*

JANE: Oh no, I'm not ready!

JEALOUSY: Jane, you don't stand a chance.

*JEALOUSY grabs its end of the rope and JANE grabs hers - it's a tug of war.*

JEALOUSY: You can't beat me, Jane. I'm too strong.

JANE: I can be strong, too.

JEALOUSY: It's too late. *(pulls on the rope to bring JANE closer)*

JANE: *(pulling back)* No!

BILL: Leave her alone!

JEALOUSY: Stay out of it, Billy, this is between old Janie-pie and moi.

*JEALOUSY changes position to catch JANE off-guard.  
JANE scrambles back up to standing.*

BETINA: Jane, what do we do!

OSCAR: It's getting stronger.

JEALOUSY: You might as well give up.

JANE: NO.

JEALOUSY: I can see you're tiring already. *(tugs on the rope)*

OSCAR: Jane, you're not going to beat it physically. You need another way.

JANE: I admit I'm a jealous person. I admit it.

JEALOUSY: Nice try, I know you don't mean it.

JANE: I do! I've hurt the people I love the most.

JEALOUSY: What a sad story. *(jerks the rope again, knocking JANE off-balance)*

BILL: Jane!

BETINA: That's it! Jane! Tell me why you're jealous of me.

JANE: What, here? Now?

BETINA: Yes. Right to my face.

JANE: I can't. It's too embarrassing.

JEALOUSY: Ooooooh it's too embarrassing. You're mine, Jane!

*JEALOUSY gives an extra big pull. OSCAR, BILL and BETINA give a yell. JANE somehow keeps her footing and begins to talk to BETINA.*

JANE: Betina! I've always wanted to be as pretty as you! I've always hated the way you look, I've always hated that you went out on

dates every weekend and you have a beautiful boyfriend and you have beautiful friends and everything you have makes me feel like a nothing.

BETINA: Why didn't you talk to me about it?

JANE: I don't know.

*JEALOUSY laughs and jerks the rope.*

JANE: I do know! I thought you'd laugh at me and make me feel more stupid and ugly than I already do.

OSCAR: But Betina's not like that.

JANE: I know she's not. It was... I can't say it.

*JEALOUSY tugs the rope again.*

BILL: Come on, Jane!

BETINA: It's OK. Say it.

JANE: It was easier to live a lie. I'm the one who makes me feel ugly and stupid.

JEALOUSY: What a touching sc-argh-snort. Arghhhhh!

*OSCAR, BILL, and BETINA all give a shout and cheer.*

BETINA: It's working!

BILL: Keep going!

JEALOUSY: You don't know what you're – snort-talkingargh.

*JANE changes positions and throws JEALOUSY off-guard.*

JANE: Oscar, I've always been jealous of you.

OSCAR: Me? Why?

JANE: Everything seems to fall in your lap. You're always getting free concert tickets, or going to film openings, or weekend whitewater rafting extravaganzas. You're funny. Everything comes so easily for you.

*JEALOUSY grunts and snorts.*

OSCAR: That's not true, you know. None of the things I really want come easy.



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