

FRACTURED

THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE

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ACT I - SCENE V

SETTING: Dr. Jekyll's Study.
Evening.

AT RISE: JEKYLL is working, taking notes. His note-taking could be a voiceover.

JEKYLL

Day four of the experiment. The subject, a.k.a myself, has shown no signs of wickedness or temptation what-so-ever. So far, I've had great success. The only side effects I've found are a general sense of unease-

(HYDE passes briefly by a window that
JEKYLL is facing)

JEKYLL, contd.

-possible mild hallucinations and slight memory loss. A second dose may or may not be required, depending on how the next day goes. I must be careful to-

(HYDE knocks on the window, but is
unseen when JEKYLL looks up)

JEKYLL, contd.

-not let my success up to this point dull my resolve to continue my studies. If the-

(HYDE knocks again. JEKYLL looks up and
sees HYDE, but JEKYLL tries to ignore
him)

JEKYLL, contd.

-if the hallucinations continue I may need to alter the formula and apply a second dosage to correct the problem-

HYDE

Good evening.

JEKYLL

What?

HYDE

(brighter)

Good evening.

JEKYLL

Uh...can I help you with something?

HYDE

I am simply a man looking to escape the rain.

JEKYLL

Well, this is not a coffee shop. But there is one around the corner that I believe stays open quite late.

(muttering)

How late is it?

(looks for the time)

HYDE

I promise, you won't regret allowing me to stay just a little while. I'll be no trouble at all.

JEKYLL

N-n-no, I'm afraid I'm quite tired and not accepting any guests. I'm sorry, but...

LET ME IN [Contrasting *Psalm 1:1-2, Matthew 26:41*]

HYDE

*Excuse me, sir, might I inquire
Could you share your home?
For just a brief stretch of time
Spare me from this cold*

*I know you see me
Please don't ignore me
Let me in*

JEKYLL

No. I'm sorry, but you must leave.

HYDE

*Excuse me sir, but may I say
That fire looks delightful
The rain has chilled me to my bones
Have pity, unlock your door*

JEKYLL

It does look cold out there.

HYDE

*Allow me to entice you, friend
You must feel very lonely*

HYDE

*You could use some company
You'll feel much better once you let me in*

JEKYLL

My housekeeper did bring too much tea (beat) but it is so late and-

(contemplates whether or not to let HYDE in)

HYDE

*You might as well open up that door
I assure you I will get in somehow
I am begging you
To show some simple kindness
I will promise not to misbehave
So, open up that door
I assure you I will never back down
And believe me when I tell you
That you won't regret
Giving me a place in your home*

*I know you see me
You can't ignore me
Let me in
I'm not leaving
I can see you
Henry...*

JEKYLL

How do you know my name?

HYDE

Henry...

JEKYLL

(curious)

How do you know my name? Have we met before?

HYDE

My name is Edward Hyde. You've heard of me.

JEKYLL

(more guarded)

I'm sure I haven't.

HYDE

In that case, I can assure you I'm great company. Just for a little while?

JEKYLL

No. I've told you. I'm not letting you inside my home. It is out of the question.

HYDE

Oh, of course. I understand completely. But, (beat) would you mind if I just sit outside your window until the rain stops?

JEKYLL

I guess that wouldn't be a problem.

(HYDE settles against the window.

JEKYLL hesitantly returns to his work)

HYDE

Perhaps you could tell me about your research? About the sin you are trying to hide with your experiments?

JEKYLL

(startled)

Sin?...I'll have you know that I am researching the human condition. I'm not hiding anything.

HYDE

Ah, yes. Not hiding anything at all. Of course. And how is your research going?

JEKYLL

It is going...as would be expected.

HYDE

And how would one expect it to go?

JEKYLL

Well, using myself as the primary subject allows me to have results almost immediately, but unfortunately, the antidote still leaves much to be desired. I do feel...better, but the initial feeling of elation has worn off. I have some adjustments to make to see if the effects can be sustained.

HYDE

How interesting. Go on.