

I, MONSTER



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SYNOPSIS

A young woman works with her therapist on issues of abuse. She is haunted by a chorus of voices that express her inner thoughts. Finally, she is able to find comfort from her therapist.

CHARACTERS

VOICES	2 - 5 person chorus
SHE	Woman in her early 20's
DOCTOR	Man in his 40's

Playwright requests that a minimum of 2 roles be cast with people color.

SCENE:	The DOCTOR's office consists of pillows and cushions. Downstage playing area is littered with beer cans. An elevated upstage shapes the DOCTOR's office into a "V".
AT RISE:	The clanging of beer cans. VOICES enter from behind audience banging cans together and chanting. Onstage DOCTOR and SHE sit on cushions. DOCTOR watches SHE watch the VOICES as they circle around her.

VOICES

Vile, vile, violence
Your fault your fault
He sees you want
You tease you taunt
Your needs you flaunt
You make him want
You want you want

Vile, vile, violence
Your fault, your fault
It's you he wants
You tease you taunt
Your needs you flaunt
Your fault he wants
Your fault your fault

Vile, vile, violence
Your fault your fault
It's you he wants
The needs you flaunt
Reflect your wants

Vile, vile, violence
Your fault your fault--

SHE

It's not my fault! It's not my fault, do you believe me?

DOCTOR

Tell me.

SHE

I'm not a monster. Tell me I'm not a monster.

DOCTOR

You are not a monster.

SHE

I'm not a monster. I'm—

VOICES

Monster monster
Blood and gore
Whore you whore
Put out some more

SHE

Did I make him do it? I must have. Why else . . . ?

VOICES

Your fault your fault
He wants he wants

SHE

I am a monster.

DOCTOR

Are you?

SHE

Yes. It's my fault. I know it is. And so does he. And so do they.

DOCTOR

Tell me your story.

SHE

Which one?

DOCTOR

The latest one. The most recent one. The last one.

SHE

I can't.

DOCTOR

Why can't you?

SHE

It'll hurt. I'll feel it all over again. They'll taunt me.

DOCTOR

Tell me.

VOICES

Taunt and tease
You aim to please
Taunt and tease
You sleaze you sleaze

SHE

It's eating me up. The voices are too loud.

DOCTOR

What do your voices say?

Vile, vile, violence
Your fault your fault

VOICES

It's not my fault!

SHE

He wants he wants.

VOICES

[DOCTOR REACHES OUT TO SHE]

Don't touch me.

SHE

All right. Tell me your story.

DOCTOR

The voices --

SHE

Tell me your story, not theirs.

DOCTOR

I'm scared.

SHE

Scared of ...?

DOCTOR

Them.

SHE

You're safe.

DOCTOR

I am?

SHE

You're not you're not
Your fault your fault

VOICES

I'm not.

SHE

You are. You are safe.

DOCTOR

I'm not. They say I'm not.

SHE

Where are they?

DOCTOR

[SHE POINTS TO VOICES]

There.

SHE

[DOCTOR DRAWS AN IMAGINARY DOOR IN THE AIR]

The door is shut. They're on the other side.

DOCTOR

Open sesame open sesame
Open the door
You whore you whore

VOICES

They want me to open the door.

SHE

Lock it.

DOCTOR

He's locked you up
He wants he wants
Not safe not safe
Your fault your fault
Open sesame open sesame
Open the door
You whore you whore

VOICES

I can't.

SHE

Lock it.

DOCTOR

I can't.

SHE

DOCTOR

Lock it now.

[SHE LOCKS THE IMAGINARY DOOR BUT
CONTINUES STARING AT IT FIXEDLY]

VOICES

Open, open, open, open . . .

DOCTOR

Turn around.

SHE

I can't.

DOCTOR

Turn around now.

[SHE DOES. VOICES MOAN]

Good. You're safe now. Do you hear me?

SHE

Yes.

DOCTOR

Safe?

SHE

Safe.

DOCTOR

Tell me your story.

SHE

I'm scared.

DOCTOR

Scared of ...?

SHE

Remembering.

DOCTOR

I know. Your story is ugly and horrible but you are not. You are not a monster. You are scared. It's okay to be scared. Now, tell me.

My hands are tied. SHE

You lie you lie. VOICES

[SHE TURNS TO THE VOICES ABRUPTLY]

The door is locked. DOCTOR

They speak through the door. SHE

They're locked behind the door. They can't hurt you. DOCTOR

He lies he lies. VOICES

They can't hurt you. Do you hear me? DOCTOR

Yes. SHE

Safe? DOCTOR

Safe. SHE

Tell me. Go there. DOCTOR

My dress. SHE

Yes? DOCTOR

It's torn. No, it's cut. Shredded. He'll do it to me too if I don't behave. SHE

He'll tear you up
He'll tear you up VOICES

DOCTOR

Tell me.

SHE

He traces my body with the side of his knife. The knife is cold. He tells me it's not.

VOICES

Hot hot
You're hot hot

SHE

He says it's making me hot. But it's not. Am I crazy?

DOCTOR

You're scared.

SHE

Yes.

VOICES

Scaredy cat scaredy cat

SHE

I hear my cat meow. He runs after her. He takes his knife.

VOICES

Scaredy cat scaredy cat

SHE

He comes back. He laughs. He shows me her head.

VOICES

The cat's meow
Meow meow

DOCTOR

Tell me.

VOICES

Your fault your fault
He wants he wants

SHE

He rubs her blood between his fingers. He draws her face on my breast. In blood he draws her face.

VOICES

Out damn spot
Out I say
Your fault your fault
He wants he wants

SHE

It's my fault, it's all my fault. They say so.

DOCTOR

They're locked up behind the door. You're safe. Do you hear me?

SHE

Yes.

DOCTOR

Safe?

SHE

Safe.

DOCTOR

Tell me. Go there.

SHE

He laughs and tells me his knife is hot.

VOICES

It's hot it's hot
You're hot you're hot

SHE

I'm not!

DOCTOR

Tell me. The door is locked. You're safe. Do you hear me?

SHE

Yes.

DOCTOR

Safe?

SHE

Safe. [QUIETLY] I hate him.

DOCTOR

What did you say.

I hate him. SHE

You what? DOCTOR

[SCREAMING] I hate him! I hate him! SHE

You hate you
You hate you
You hate you
You hate you VOICES

DOCTOR
Again. To the pillow. On the pillow. At the pillow. It's him.

[SHE BEATS A PILLOW]

I hate you. DOCTOR

I hate you. I hate you. SHE

I hate you. I hate you. VOICES

Die. DOCTOR

Die. SHE

Die. Die. VOICES

I kill you. DOCTOR

I kill you. SHE

I kill you. I kill you. VOICES

Dead.	DOCTOR
	SHE
Dead.	
	VOICES
Dead. Dead.	
	DOCTOR
I hate you.	SHE
I hate you.	
	VOICES
I hate you. I hate you.	
	DOCTOR
Die.	SHE
Die.	
	VOICES
Die. Die.	
	DOCTOR
I kill you.	SHE
I kill you.	
	VOICES
I kill you. I kill you.	
	DOCTOR
Dead.	SHE
Dead.	
	VOICES
Dead. Dead.	
	[SHE SCREAMS OUT RESIDUE ANGER AND WEEPS]

Is he really dead? Like Puss?

SHE

No. He's locked up in jail.

DOCTOR

He's locked you up
He wants he wants
You taunt you tease
You flaunt you sleaze

VOICES

[SHE STOPS WEEPING ABRUPTLY AS DOCTOR
REACHES OUT TO HER]

Don't touch me. I'm locked up aren't I?

SHE

He's locked up. Your voices are locked up.

DOCTOR

And so am I.

SHE

He's locked you up
He's locked you out
He's locked you in
You're in you're in

VOICES

I'm locked in.

SHE

No. They are locked out.

DOCTOR

I can still hear them

SHE

You're safe. Do you hear me?

DOCTOR

Yes.

SHE

Safe?

DOCTOR

SHE

Safe.

DOCTOR

Puss is gone.

SHE

[WEEPING] Puss is gone. Why did he do that? He loved her.

DOCTOR

Tell me.

SHE

He's crazy.

DOCTOR

Yes.

SHE

Does he hear voices?

DOCTOR

I don't know. Why?

SHE

Have you read my testimony?

DOCTOR

Yes.

SHE

I used to be able to handle it all -- even his worst. I wasn't always crazy, you know.

VOICES

Crazy as a loon
Don't change your tune
Vile, vile, violence
Your fault, your fault
He wants he wants

DOCTOR

You're not crazy now, either. Now tell me your story. Go there.

SHE

I want to unlock the door.

DOCTOR

Why?

SHE

I want them closer to me. I want their support.

VOICES

Crazy as a loon alone
Crazy as a loon alone

DOCTOR

Are you sure? They blame you.

SHE

I know. I don't care. They're mine. Mine for always. I want them near. Can I?

DOCTOR

Would you rather hold my hand?

VOICES

He wants he wants

SHE

No.

[SHE UNLOCKS THE IMAGINARY DOOR. VOICES GO QUIETLY TO HER]

DOCTOR

What do your voices say?

SHE

They don't say anything.

DOCTOR

Tell me. Tell me your story.

SHE

I broke.

VOICES

[QUIET ECHO] Broken, broken, broken, etc.

SHE

Did you know I am an actress?

VOICES

Trust, trust, trust, trust, etc.

DOCTOR

Yes. I read it in your file.

VOICES

Defile, defile, defile, defile, etc.

DOCTOR

Tell me your story.

VOICES

Her story her story
History
Her story her story
History

SHE

He wanted me to prove I was the finest actress in the world -- the universe. [LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY] For Papa.

VOICES

A joke you're a joke
He's a joke it's a joke

SHE

Funny, isn't it?

VOICES

A joke you're a joke
He's a joke it's a joke

DOCTOR

No, it isn't.

SHE

[STOPS LAUGHING] 'Be crazy,' he said. 'It's your only escape. If you don't get hurt too badly I can take care of you. I can take care of my crazy baby. I can take care of you always. You'll never go away. You'll be Puss.' I'd never gotten into character so easily. I'm a monster.

VOICES

Crazy as a loon alone
Crazy as a loon alone

DOCTOR

You are not a monster. Tell me what happened next.

VOICES

Tell him tell him
He wants he wants
You tease you sleaze
He wants he wants

I broke SHE

You broke you broke VOICES
You joke you broke

Something inside got broken. SHE

The unspoken is broken VOICES
You must be jokin'
Don't turn your back
You can't go back
Don't turn your back
You can't go back

Papa? Where's Papa? SHE

Pop goes the papa VOICES
The papa is popped
Pop goes the papa
The papa is popped

He's locked up. You're safe. DOCTOR

Papa? I want Papa! SHE

[CALLING] Papa, Papa, Papa, Papa, etc. VOICES

I want Papa. Give me Papa! SHE

Which Papa? Good papa or bad papa? DOCTOR

The good papa is bad VOICES
The bad papa is good.

No! The good papa is good. SHE

Good bad good bad
You'll never get
what you never had

VOICES

What is a good papa?

DOCTOR

Good bad good bad
You'll never get
what you never had

VOICES

I don't know.

SHE

I'll be good papa. Ask me who I am.

DOCTOR

But --

SHE

I'll be good papa. Ask me who I am.

DOCTOR

Good bad good bad
You'll never get
what you never had

VOICES

Does good papa --

SHE

I am good papa. Ask me.

DOCTOR

[MIMICKING] Ask me, ask me, ask me, ask me, ask me . . .

VOICES

Get behind the door.

SHE

[VOICES GET BACK BEHIND THE IMAGINARY DOOR.
SHE LOCKS IT]

Do you love me, Papa?

I love you. DOCTOR

Would you protect me, Papa? SHE

I'll protect you. DOCTOR

Am I a monster, Papa? SHE

You were never a monster. DOCTOR

Was it my fault, Papa? SHE

It was never your fault. DOCTOR

Will you hold me, Papa? SHE

Yes. I want to hold you, protect you, make you feel safe. DOCTOR

Will you touch me, Papa? You know, touch me, Papa? SHE

No. I want to hold you, protect you, make you feel safe. DOCTOR

Am I a monster, Papa? SHE

You are not a monster. DOCTOR

Was it my fault, Papa? SHE

It was never your fault. DOCTOR

I want Papa. Give me Papa. SHE

VOICES

Pop goes the papa
The papa is popped

SHE

Papa, Papa, will you hold me, Papa?

VOICES

Pop goes the papa
The papa goes pop

DOCTOR

I'll be your good papa. [OPENS HIS ARMS] I'll hold you, protect you --

VOICES

He wants he wants

DOCTOR

-- make you feel safe.

SHE

Papa?

VOICES

He wants he wants

DOCTOR

I won't hurt you.

VOICES

He wants he wants

DOCTOR

You're safe.

SHE

Safe?

VOICES

He wants he wants

DOCTOR

Safe.

SHE

Papa!

[SHE RUNS TO DOCTOR. HE HOLDS HER AS
THOUGH SHE WERE A CHILD. VOICES START TO
EXIT. ONE TURNS TO THROW A BEER CAN AT THE
TWO AS THE OTHER(S) DRAG HIM/HER AWAY.
LIGHTS FADE. END OF PLAY]