

BAD MONSTER

by Jeremy Gable

(Dim lights on the interior of a sorry excuse of a house.
Worn wood, rusted metal.

A mattress on a bedframe. A smaller mattress on the floor.

Few decorations, no pictures, no books, no electronics of
any kind. A small American flag nailed to the wall.

All along the wall are mousetraps.

Clothes hang from and are piled under a makeshift closet
rod. It is all women's clothes.

A door to the outside is on one side of the stage. Doors to
the bathroom and barely-stocked pantry on the other.

A small window, too high to look through, is the only view
to the outside world. Through it, we see a tree. Moonlight
streams through, casting the tree's shadow on the floor.

This house sits in a forest a couple miles away from the end
of County Road 51-B on the border of Canada and Idaho,
on the edge of America and in the middle of nowhere.

A weird hum fades in, like the electric shake of a cicada or
rattlesnake. This shall be referred to from this point forward
as The Hum. It intensifies, getting louder until...

BANG!

Something slams against the door)

SMOKY

(Off-stage)

Ow!

(The door is thrown open, and SMOKY enters. She is in
her early twenties. Her intelligence is limited, but her
curiosity is endless.

She wears a jacket, sweatpants and sneakers. A rope is tied
around her waist, trailing behind her.

She turns on the lights and leaps on the larger mattress,
calling behind her:)

SMOKY

(CON'T)

I am safe now!

(She waits for a response. She gets none)

I forgot to open the door!

(She feels her forehead)

My head is okay.

(She throws off one sneaker)

Left...

(And the other sneaker)

Left.

No, right!

Right right right!

(As she removes her jacket, she sings:)

I was on a walk

The trees were tall with green

It was dark and cold

And I was scared and scared...

(She gets an arm stuck in the jacket sleeve. Shaking it out:)

But I am at home ...

Aaaaand ...

I am on the bed ...

Aaaaaaaaaand ...

the song will stop!

(She takes off her sweatpants, revealing shorts underneath.
This takes some difficulty, and she rolls off the bed,
giggling at her clumsiness. She speaks:)

Jane saw a monster!

And and and ...

it was walking.

(She looks at the door)

Jane!

(No answer)

Jane?

(No answer)

Jaaaaaane?

(No answer. Quiet and intense:)

There was a monster.

And I ...

was ...

JANE

Smoky!

(JANE, 40's, appears at the doorway. She looks unamused. She often looks this way. SMOKY yells, startled)

Why are you shouting?

(SMOKY leaps off the bed excitedly)

SMOKY

Jane!

(She bounds to JANE, throwing her arms around her)

I missed you!

JANE

I was checking the traps.

SMOKY

I missed you.

JANE

I was gone, what, thirty seconds?
No need to pee yourself.

SMOKY

(Proud)

I did not pee.

(JANE puts a hand on the open door)

JANE

You see this?

SMOKY

Yes.

(JANE waits for more)

That is the door.

JANE

Aaaand?

SMOKY

That is the door.
And I forgot to open.
It.
And and and I hit my head
and and and ...
it ...
hurt.

JANE

Great story.
You also forgot to close it.

SMOKY

Yes.

(JANE waits for more)

I did.

JANE

Aaand?

(She points to SMOKY's body)

SMOKY

Oh! I took off my clothes!

JANE

And we don't take our clothes off with the door open.

SMOKY

(Overlapping)

... the doorpen.

JANE

Rope.

(SMOKY hands her the rope. JANE hangs it on a nail on the wall)

The door stays closed.
It's for your own protection.

SMOKY

Okay!

(She leaps on the bed and gets tangled in the sheets)

JANE

You listening?

SMOKY

Nope.

(As she gets further tangled, JANE takes a beer can and balances it on the front doorknob)

JANE

There are things out there, Smoky,
big scary things that wander the forests of Idaho,

JANE
(CON'T)

just looking for people to snatch up.
And all they want is to get in here,
take you away,
and do some ...
really awful things.

SMOKY

Awfulawful.

(All that can be seen of SMOKY is one leg poking out from
the sheets. JANE finally notices)

JANE

What are you doing?

SMOKY

The bed is eating me!

JANE

Well that's not very nice.

SMOKY

Help!

JANE

In fact, that's just un-neighborly.

SMOKY

I do not want to be food!
Hellllp!

(JANE walks over and untangles SMOKY from the sheets)

JANE

HoorayYou'reSavedGetOutOfBed.

(SMOKY laughs and tangles herself in the sheets again)

Not tonight.

SMOKY

Help!

JANE

No.

(She tickles SMOKY's foot. SMOKY squeals)

Out.

(SMOKY untangles herself)

SMOKY

That was funny!

JANE

Yeah, a real hoot.

(SMOKY tries to tangle herself in the sheets yet again)

Oh, c'mon!

(She grabs SMOKY's leg and drags her out of bed.
SMOKY drags a few sheets with her in protest)

You're cleaning that up.

(She smells something)

You *did* pee yourself, didn't you?

(SMOKY shakes her head)

Are you lying?

(She shakes her head again)

Do you need to pee?

(She shakes her head again)

Then what's that smell?

(She shrugs)

Maybe there's something in the house.

Whaddya think?

(SMOKY shrugs.

JANE starts checking the mousetraps)

SMOKY

You saw a monster.

JANE

Yep, I did.

SMOKY

It was the the the ...
the Kyjinn!

JANE

Yep, it was.

SMOKY

And and and ...

(Whispering)

We were quiet!

JANE

What I wouldn't give to have that back.

I was scared.

SMOKY

There's a lot of scary shit out there.

JANE

Scary shit!

SMOKY

Smoky!

JANE

Watch your mouth.

(SMOKY lowers her head)

Did you did ...
Did you get scared?

SMOKY

I can't be scared.
If I was, who would protect you?

JANE

I dunno hey I I I, uh ...

SMOKY

(She loses her thought)

Are you hungry?

JANE

Smoky.

(SMOKY is spacing out)

Smoky!

(No response)

You hungry?

(SMOKY looks at her)

Okay.

(SMOKY nods)

(She goes to the pantry)

SMOKY

I don't want peanut butter.

JANE

That's all we have.

SMOKY

I don't want peanut butter!

JANE

Don't push me, kid.

SMOKY

(Stomping)

I don't want peanut butter!!!

JANE

(Putting the peanut butter back in the pantry)

No?

Fine. You get nothing.

Say bye-bye to peanut butter.

SMOKY

No!...

JANE

Peanut butter says bye-bye.

Bye-bye, peanut butter!

(SMOKY throws a shoe at the wall. JANE gets in her face)

Is this what you're doing now?

You giving me this?

Because I'll give you to the count of three
to turn this around.

You know what happens at one.

You get the hand.

(JANE holds up her hand. SMOKY flinches)

So ...

are you giving me this?

SMOKY

... Mayb--

JANE

One!

(JANE slaps her own palm right in front of SMOKY's face.
The noise and proximity startle SMOKY. She cowers)

You know what happens at two.

You get the darkness.

Now ...

is this ...

what ...

you're giving me?

(SMOKY shakes her head no)

You gonna behave like a good girl?

(SMOKY nods)

JANE
(CON'T)

Look at me.

(SMOKY does)

You know I don't like to do that, right?

(SMOKY nods)

Soon as I trap something,
we're gonna have ourselves a big meaty dinner, okay?

SMOKY

With ...
with the sprinkles?

JANE

Yep. And that's called pepper.

SMOKY

Peppep ...
Pepper.

JANE

And barbecue sauce and ...

(She looks in the pantry)

.... well, that's it,
pepper and barbecue sauce.

SMOKY

I like mouse.
And and and I like chitmunk
and and and ...
I like cat!

JANE

Well, I trap one, you'll be the first to know.
You're lucky, ya know,
there are countries where people can't even eat peanut butter.
They eat leaves, and mud,
and sometimes they eat other people.

SMOKY

That is weird.

JANE

You could have been with someone else,
and one day they'd look at you and say,
"Today I'm gonna have Smoky for breakfast!"

SMOKY
(Giggling)

I am not brekkeest!

JANE

Doesn't matter.
They'll make you into breakfast.

SMOKY

The Kyjinn'll make me into brekkeest?

JANE

The Kyjinn most of all.
He's just waiting for you to go out there without me
so he can gobble you up.

SMOKY

And turn me into poop!

JANE

Yeah!
A big stinky pile of Smoky poop.

(SMOKY laughs ...
then remembers something)

SMOKY

Oh, I saw your your your ...
your Kyjinn paper.

JANE

What Kyjinn paper?

SMOKY

The paper in your shoebox.

(JANE freezes)

The paper with the words on it.

JANE

... How'd you find it?

SMOKY

I heard a mouse,
and I was gonna grab it,
and and and I heard it under your bed,
and I heard it in your shoebox,

SMOKY
(CON'T)

and I open your shoebox,
and and and the mouse was not there,
but the paper was ...
in there ...
in your shoebox.

JANE

You ...
You read any of the words?

SMOKY

Kyjinn.

JANE
(Confused)

... Kyjinn.

SMOKY

It was a big word,
and it was a "K" word.
"K" words start with "kuh".

JANE
(Relieved)

Oh, yeah.
Yeah, it's a "K" word,
and that's what it says,
it says "Kyjinn".

SMOKY

"Kyjinn" starts with "K".
"K" words starts with "K".

JANE

Very true.

SMOKY

Kill. Kiss--

JANE

And now you're gonna name 'em all...

SMOKY

Kite.

(She gets an idea)

Will you kill me?

JANE

What? No!

SMOKY

Okay.

Will you kiss me?

JANE

(Realizing the game)

No, Smoky,
I will not kill you,
I will not kiss you.

SMOKY

Okay.

Will you kite me?

JANE

Yeah, sure, I'll kite you.

SMOKY

Good.

JANE

And just how am I gonna "kite" you?

SMOKY

Wellll ...

you put the rope on me
and and and you put me in the air
... and I fly and I say "Ahhhh!"

(She stands on the bigger mattress, simulating flying)

And and and you say
"I gotcha! Ever and ever!"

JANE

That's some sort of logic.

SMOKY

Will you kite me?

Sure.

JANE

And and and you will hold me?
I will not fly into the sky?

SMOKY

You will not fly into the sky.

JANE

Ever and ever?

SMOKY

Ever and ever.

JANE

(SMOKY jumps up and down on the bed)

Yay!

SMOKY

Off!
You're gonna ruin the mattress.

JANE

(SMOKY climbs off, singing:)

I will be a kite
I will be high as trees
And Jane will hold the rope
And she will make me...

SMOKY

Ahh!

(In pain:)

(She sticks a finger in her mouth)

What now?

JANE

Mah tooth hurth!

SMOKY
(Finger-in-mouth:)

(She tries sticking both hands in her mouth)

Okay stop, stop, let me.
Say ahh.

JANE

Ahh...

SMOKY
(JANE repositions her)

Here, in the light.

JANE

Ahh...

SMOKY
(JANE looks in her mouth)

I don't see anything.

JANE

It hurts!

SMOKY

Well I can't fix it if I can't see it.
So ...
Just ...

JANE
(They have an awkward physical exchange)

Ow!

SMOKY

Well, stay still, don't do anything.

JANE
(SMOKY starts going limp. She falls against JANE, who tries propping her back up, to no avail)

Okay, that doesn't include standing.

(SMOKY goes more limp, giggling. JANE struggles to keep her upright)

Jesus, Smoky,
you're a bag of bricks.

SMOKY
(Enjoying this game:)

You're a bagga bricks!

JANE

No, *you're* a bagga bricks!

SMOKY

No, *you're* a--

(A knock on the door.)

JANE freezes)

SMOKY
(CON'T)

Some one is at the--

(JANE covers SMOKY's mouth, dragging her into the bathroom. She puts a finger to SMOKY's mouth to indicate quite. SMOKY nods and covers her mouth. JANE closes the bathroom door.

She rushes to the bigger mattress, reaching under it.

The door knob turns, dropping the beer can, which hits the floor with a clatter.

JANE pulls a handgun from under the mattress and aims at the door.

It slowly opens. A handsome man leans in. He is LORENZO, good looks, immense charm, nice voice.

He sees JANE. A frozen moment.

Then, he raises his arm. He's also holding a gun. He aims it at JANE.

He slowly enters, the two of them facing off)

LORENZO

... Despite how this looks, I'm really very nice.

JANE

I have nothing you want.

LORENZO

Actually, you do.
I just need a place to stay for the night.

JANE

Nope.

LORENZO

Just one night.
I promise I'm harmless.

JANE

Of course you are.

LORENZO

I know, this looks ...
I can't stay out there.
It's dangerous.

JANE

Yeah, who knows,
there might be men with guns out there.

LORENZO

Look, we can put away the guns, okay?
I'm not a bad guy.
And let's be honest, from the looks of it,
you could probably take me.

JANE

I could.

LORENZO

Right? So...

JANE

... On three.

LORENZO

Sure.
You can count.

JANE

I certainly can.
One ...
Two ...
Three.

(LORENZO lowers his gun. JANE tightens her grip. He raises his gun again)

LORENZO

Okay, seriously?

JANE

How can I trust you?

LORENZO

I was putting my gun down!

JANE

Fine, fine!

(They both slowly lower their guns)

LORENZO

Better.
Now to the ground?

(They both slowly place their guns on the ground)

Beautiful.
Now...

(He sticks out his hand)

I'm Lorenzo.

(JANE looks at his hand)

JANE

What sorta name is that?

LORENZO

I mean ...
I didn't choose it.

(He sticks his hand out further. Begrudgingly, JANE shakes it)

Um ... ow.

(She lets go)

And your name?

JANE

Nope.

LORENZO

Okay, then.

(He looks around)

Is it just you here?

JANE

Yeah.

(The toilet flushes)

LORENZO

Well, I'm convinced.

(SMOKY enters)

SMOKY

I *did* hafta pee!

(She sees LORENZO)

You are tall.

JANE

Smoky, not one word!

(To LORENZO:)

Don't talk to her.

LORENZO

Her name is Smoky?

SMOKY

Yes, and she is Jane.

JANE

Hey!

LORENZO

I'm Lorenzo.

JANE

Hey!

SMOKY

Lenzo!

JANE

Smoky!

LORENZO

Jane.
I like it.

JANE

Okay, out.

LORENZO

Please, just one night.

JANE

Nope, you can't stay.

LORENZO

Well, I can't leave...

JANE

You can definitely leave, and you're going to leave, there's no way in hell you're staying here, and how can I trust you when you come barging in here with a loaded gun pointed at my...

LORENZO

...and I don't really want to tell you why, so you're gonna have to trust me when I tell you that I can't go outside right now or else something will happen because I'll DIE BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE!

... There's something out there.

LORENZO

The Kyjinn?

SMOKY

What?

LORENZO

It was probably a bear.

JANE

This was ...
This was bigger.
A bear doesn't do what this did.

LORENZO

I do not like bears.

SMOKY

A bear I can handle.
This ...
wasn't that.

LORENZO

It was the Kyjinn!

SMOKY

What ...
is that, what's the Kyjinn?

LORENZO

Just a, uh ...

JANE
(Not sure how to explain)

SMOKY

He is a monster,
a big big monster!
And he is big ...

(She demonstrates)

... and he has ...

(She simulates fangs)

... and and and he is ...

(She stomps around the room, snarling and pretending to
wreak havoc)

RAAAARGH!
Boom! Boom!
RAARGH!

(With her fingers, she creates a tiny person walking along)

Doot-da-doot-da-doo...

(She pounces on the tiny person)

RAAARGH!!!

(Tiny person voice:)

Nooooo, noooo!!!

(Gobbling up the tiny person)

Ralm-rom-rom-rom-rom...

(Faking another person shooting at her with a gun)

Pew! Pew pew!

(Pretend wounds)

BRAAAAGH!!!

(Snatching up the tiny person, who says in tiny person
voice:)

Oh no, you are gonna eat me now!

(Monster voice:)

Yes I am gonna eat you now.

(Eating the person and chewing)

Rom-nyang-nyang-nyang!

(She makes a fart noise.)

LORENZO

... Yeah, that's about right.

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