

THE PATIENT DR. JEKKYL AND MRS. HYDE.

Dr. Jekkyll had recently completed his internship and set himself up in the practice of medicine in the lively municipality of Mudville. The young doctor hied himself a quantity of office furniture, part of which he installed, together with a glittering blonde, in his shiny waiting room.

The rent and installments on the furniture fell due with as alarming a regularity as patients failed to appear. It became increasingly difficult to stir the blonde Miss Goosebaum from the perpetual redecorating of her countenance. Surrounded by abandoned cross-word puzzles, she was gradually sinking into a lethargy from which even the menacing steps of a grim-faced landlord could not rouse her. Still no patients.

Young Dr. Jekkyll, now growing a trifle frantic, spent most of his time in his diminutive operating room, nervously nibbling the remains of his incipient moustache. There he was wont to retire to evade his creditors and meditate upon the evils of the Republican administration.

"Remember," the young doctor would often warn the placid Miss Goosebaum, "if a patient should come in, (the emphasis on the 'should' was growing ever more strident) he or she should be told to wait. Tell them that I am very busy." Miss Goosebaum nodded vacuous assent.

Then came a day when the blonde burst into the doctor's room and triumphantly announced, "There is a Mrs. Hyde outside, with another woman, to see you. She is - -"

"I am very busy. Tell her to wait," mendaciously interrupted Dr. Jekyll, moving pompously over to the window to observe the progress of the checker game in front of Mudville's fire-hall. Miss Goosebaum withdrew in bewilderment.

Minutes passed, marked by muffled sounds from the waiting room. Again the blonde, this time more urgent. The young doctor struck what he conceived to be a Napoleonic attitude and glared at her. She again retired, tremulous and chastened. More sounds of clamor from the waiting room, followed by an unnerving series of groans.

"Should I go out?" thought the doctor. More time passed while young Dr. Jekyll wrestled with the niceties of his problem.

Suddenly the door burst open and Miss Goosebaum again stood on the threshold. Her hair was dishevelled and she wore a smear of lipstick over one eye. "Doctor," she wailed breathlessly, "come out at once! Oh please come!!"

Assuming his most professional demeanor, young Dr. Jekyll austerely stalked to the waiting room. There on the office lounge lay a silent and wan looking Mrs. Hyde and two not so silent little Hydes, five and six pounds respectively. Her bedraggled companion hovered over the trio. Dr. Jekyll's first patient had indeed been a most interesting one.

THE END

(430 words)

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