

OOZE MONSTER

a three act drama

by Simon Parker

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CHARACTERS:

DOUGLAS, 21, handsome despite his many deep facial scars.

LYDIA, 40.

SCOTT, 42.

ERIN, 23.

AUSTIN, 40.

SETTING:

Apartment.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

Apartment.

Bedroom.

Expensively furnished.

DOUGLAS, 21, handsome despite his many deep facial scars. Removing all of the designer clothes inside.

LYDIA, 40, and SCOTT, 47, both hold open trash bags.

Douglas fills them with unwanted clothes.

LYDIA

Come on, you're getting rid of all of this?

DOUGLAS

I want a clear out.

LYDIA

It's such waste.

DOUGLAS

I don't take fashion tips from either of you two.

SCOTT

It's such waste though.

LYDIA

None of these were cheap.

DOUGLAS

That's what you're worried about?

LYDIA

I just don't understand why you're doing it?

DOUGLAS

Because I want to. That's all the explaining I need to do to you.

SCOTT

You thought about charity?

Douglas is finished. The two bags filled.

DOUGLAS

Do whatever you want with those bags. They're your problem now.

LYDIA

I don't like it when you're like this.

DOUGLAS

I don't care.

SCOTT

Now you've got nothing to wear?

DOUGLAS

I'll get more.

LYDIA

That's why you've invited us around here?

DOUGLAS

You don't want to help?

LYDIA

Of course we do you know that.

DOUGLAS

Then just do what I ask.

SCOTT

You're not going to listen? It doesn't have to be like this you know.

DOUGLAS

What are you talking about?

SCOTT

You need to live your life.

DOUGLAS

I am.

LYDIA

But you're really not. You're trapped in here and you don't need to be.

SCOTT

Why don't you get a job?

DOUGLAS

I'm happy here.

LYDIA

How can you be?

SCOTT

When was the last time you stepped a foot outside?

LYDIA

If it's not shown on television you'll see nothing of this world and it's sad.

DOUGLAS

(points at his scars)

Says you. I say this world is shit. Filled with shit people. Nothing good happens out there. Have you ever watched the news? Why would I want to be out there. To be stared at?

LYDIA

This isn't the answer.

DOUGLAS

Says you. But this is my life not yours.

SCOTT

)And you're happy, yeah?

DOUGLAS

Very.

LYDIA

I just want you to live your life.

DOUGLAS

And what's that even mean? Get a job doing what? The same repetitive shit day after day?

LYDIA

You're not even willing to try.

DOUGLAS

There's nothing out there for me. I need to be on my own. I like it.

SCOTT

So you keep saying.

DOUGLAS

I have to keep saying it because you two won't listen.

Scott and Lydia drop their trash bags down at their feet.

DOUGLAS

(lets out a long deep breath)

I want more money.

SCOTT

So that's why we're here. And that's why you're throwing all this out?

DOUGLAS

I'm not a kid anymore. It's my money.

SCOTT

We were put in charge of it, to manage it.

DOUGLAS

But like I said, I'm not a kid anymore.

SCOTT

You've got an allowance that should be enough.

LYDIA

You don't seem to realize how lucky you are.

DOUGLAS

Lucky? That's what you call this. Nearly dying. Having to learn to walk again at the age of fourteen. I don't call that lucky. And all because of you and Dad.

Lydia has to turn away from him, too upset.

Scott sees her, takes a step forwards towards Douglas.

SCOTT

Calm down.

DOUGLAS

Calm down? Do you have any idea how infuriating that is to hear from someone who's already angry?

SCOTT

You're monthly allowance should be enough. If you're smart with it and look after it, that money should last you the rest of your life. But the way you want to go through it, spending it on shit you don't need you'll be lucky if there's any left at the end of the year.

DOUGLAS

There's that word again. Lucky.

SCOTT

I'm serious.

DOUGLAS

And I'm serious too. I'm an adult now. If I want my money I can get it. Even if I have to sue you both. Don't think I won't drag you through the courts because I will. I'll go to the press if I think it'll help. Then all you're friends will know what you've done and are still doing to me.

Lydia exits. She breaks down into tears.

SCOTT

I don't want to give you anymore if you're just going to spend it on being locked away.

DOUGLAS

Just give me what I want. And we won't have a problem.

SCOTT

You're already living the life of a rich kid.

DOUGLAS

I want more money. Make it happen or else.

Scott picks up the two trash bags filled with clothes and exits.

SCENE TWO

Hallway.

At the front door.

Douglas gestures to it. He wants his parents out.

DOUGLAS

I'm tired.

LYDIA

I'm sick and tired of this being our relationship I want it to be so much more.

SCOTT

Come on, just leave him.

DOUGLAS

Mom I don't want to argue I just want to go to bed.

LYDIA

I don't want you living here on your own, it's making you worse.

DOUGLAS

I want you to go.

LYDIA

Douglas.

DOUGLAS

Both of you, it's my apartment.

SCOTT

Come on let's just go.

LYDIA

Come and move in with us again.

DOUGLAS

(laughs)

Are you crazy?

LYDIA

Why not, you're all so bitter and twisted I hate seeing you like this.

DOUGLAS

I like being alone, I only get like I do when you come around.

SCOTT

Then maybe we shouldn't come around anymore?

DOUGLAS

Perfect, I'd like that.

Lydia gets Douglas's attention back onto her.

LYDIA

Love is stronger than hate, but if all you do is hate it will consume you and you'll be lost. All you will have is hate.

Scott takes out his phone.

Shows it to Douglas.

SCOTT

There, it's done. I've sent you some money.

DOUGLAS

Thanks.

SCOTT

It's what you wanted?

DOUGLAS

Yeah, my money.

LYDIA

Come with us.

DOUGLAS

No.

LYDIA

Then just step outside with us.

Why?
DOUGLAS

Walk us to the car at least.
LYDIA

DOUGLAS
Mom I want you to go. I don't want to argue anymore. I really don't enjoy it.

LYDIA
Then just stop.

DOUGLAS
I will once you've gone.

LYDIA
Really?

SCOTT
He just wants money.

DOUGLAS
What else do I need you for?

LYDIA
Don't Say that.

DOUGLAS
You only visit out of pity

Lydia shakes her head, gives up. She goes over to Scott.

They exit.

SCENE THREE

Bedroom.

Douglas sits on his bed. On his laptop.

The buzzer goes off.

DOUGLAS
Go away.

The buzzer keeps going off.

SCENE FOUR

Hallway.

Douglas opens the front door.

ERIN. She looks up at him, a little guilty.

DOUGLAS

Who are you?

ERIN

I'm really sorry but no one else seems to be in. I live two floors up.

DOUGLAS

OK.

Erin has her laptop tucked underneath her arm.

ERIN

I need help.

DOUGLAS

What the hell do you want me to do about it? I don't even know you.

ERIN

I've just moved in. I just wanted to talk to someone who's lived here for awhile. Sorry.

DOUGLAS

Look I'm the one who should be sorry. Come on in. I've lived here for a few years now. Let me see if I can help you.

SCENE FIVE.

Kitchen.

Douglas and Erin sit at the table.

ERIN

I couldn't get my head around it.

DOUGLAS

Yeah. There's so many forms you have to fill out for everything living here.

ERIN

You've done it?

DOUGLAS

Yeah your application for a parking space is finished. They should get in touch with you tomorrow. But if they don't come back to me and I'll help you again.

ERIN

Thanks so much. I can't believe you've done it so fast.

DOUGLAS

That's OK.

ERIN

You're not so bad after all.

DOUGLAS

Why, who said I was?

ERIN

You screamed at me when you opened the door.

DOUGLAS

Sorry about that.

ERIN

Mind if I use you again?

DOUGLAS

Use away.

ERIN

I want a puppy. How many forms am I going to have to fill in for that application to go through?

DOUGLAS

A lot. Tell you what, put the kettle on and I'll get started.

ERIN

I don't have any skills but if you can think of something I'll pay you back with a favour I swear.

Douglas picks up a television remote and turns on a nearby television.

He channel surfs, can't keep it on any one thing for more than a couple of seconds.

DOUGLAS

Hate sitcoms TV. Fake laughs. The news is full of bullshit. Reality TV is all fake. Look at this. Supposed to be real but they're surrounded by cameras and sound guys.

ERIN

Whoa slow down.

DOUGLAS

What sad people watch these. Imagine being stupid enough to send your money off for this shit.

ERIN

Do you always watch TV like this?

DOUGLAS

I normally don't watch it at all.

ERIN

So no favorite shows?

DOUGLAS

It's all shit.

ERIN

Well no favorite show but I think I've found your favorite word.

DOUGLAS

What's that?

ERIN

Shit.

DOUGLAS

There's shows on TV that just boil my blood. But there's millions of people who watch it and love it.

ERIN

That's because TV is awesome. You never binged-watched a show.

DOUGLAS

Binged-watch?

ERIN

You know, spend ten hours doing nothing but watching something. All the while just silently saying to yourself just one more, just one more and before you know it you've reached the end of the series and you're super pissed that series two isn't out yet.

DOUGLAS

No.

She takes the remote control off of him.

ERIN

Look I'll find your something you'll like.

DOUGLAS

Good luck.

ERIN

I like a challenge.

DOUGLAS

I've got to tell you, I don't think I like anything.

ERIN

This?

DOUGLAS

Seriously?

ERIN

Just watch a couple of these and then I'll go.

They watch television together.

Act two.

SCENE ONE.

Bedroom.

A dream.

The bedroom is filled with a fog.

Douglas is in bed.

He wakes up. Gets up. Walks around.

DOUGLAS

Where do I go? What the fuck do I do now? I can't fucking see!!!

Suddenly a total black figure comes out of the fog and attacks him. Same height and weight as Douglas it's almost a mirror image. But totally black.

It wraps its hands around Douglas's throat and violently drags him down to the floor.

SCENE TWO.

Hallway.

Erin enters.

DOUGLAS

Thanks.

ERIN

That's alright.

DOUGLAS

I need your help.

ERIN

Is it going to take long?

DOUGLAS

You busy?

ERIN

Yeah.

DOUGLAS

Well I'm sorry to have disturbed you.

ERIN

Don't be like that.

DOUGLAS

You're in a hurry?

ERIN

Well yeah I always am. I just moved here. I told you this. I've still got a million things to take care of.

DOUGLAS

Then go do them.

ERIN

I didn't mean to upset you. You called me. Repay the favour I owe you?

DOUGLAS

Yeah.

ERIN

Then what is it?

DOUGLAS

You really want to know?

ERIN

Yeah, but I just hope it's good.

DOUGLAS

I just you to take a look at something.

ERIN

That's all?

DOUGLAS

Yeah that's it.

ERIN

Where?

DOUGLAS

The bathroom.

ERIN

You want me to take a look inside your bathroom?

DOUGLAS

Simple enough.

ERIN

This isn't something disgusting is it?

DOUGLAS

Like what?

ERIN

Like a massive shit in the toilet?

DOUGLAS

No it's impossible to explain, you just have to look see it with your own eyes.

ERIN

Not even a clue?

DOUGLAS

I don't want to ruin the surprise.

ERIN

And who said I like surprises?

DOUGLAS

Everyone likes them.

ERIN

I really don't like this Douglas. You've got me worried.

DOUGLAS

Just open the door. And look inside.

ERIN

I don't want to play along.

DOUGLAS

Play.

ERIN

It's a dumb game.

DOUGLAS

I promise you it's not.

ERIN

You might be crazy. There's nothing in here. That's the joke isn't it?

DOUGLAS

I need your help.

SCENE THREE.

Bathroom.

Erin and Douglas enter.

The monster from his dream sits in the corner .

She screams. Holds a hand in front of her mouth. Her whole body shakes, terrified.

DOUGLAS

It's OK.

ERIN

I want to leave.

DOUGLAS

I dreamed about this. And then I woke up and here it was.

ERIN

I don't understand.

DOUGLAS

Neither do I.

ERIN

It's an actually monster?

DOUGLAS

I have no idea what it is.

ERIN

I can't be here.

DOUGLAS

Wait.

No. ERIN
Erin goes to leave but Douglas grabs a hold of her.

Please don't go. DOUGLAS

Are you mad? ERIN

I really want you to stay. DOUGLAS

Why? ERIN

To work this out. DOUGLAS

I can't even wrap my head around what I'm looking at. ERIN

It came from me. I need to understand it. Stay with me, just for a little while longer DOUGLAS

I can't. ERIN

You can. DOUGLAS

We should both leave, together. And right now. ERIN

He shakes his head.

Let me know what it is that you want out of this. You say you want to understand. ERIN
But what does that mean?

I think it's magic. DOUGLAS

Really? ERIN

What else could it be?
DOUGLAS

I don't even know what it is?
ERIN

Neither do I.
DOUGLAS

Then what are we doing?
ERIN

There has to be an answer for what it is.
DOUGLAS

Look at you. You're loving this aren't you?
ERIN

The monster stands up. But remains in the corner.
DOUGLAS

Look at it.
ERIN

I am.
DOUGLAS

I mean what is it?
ERIN

It's new.
DOUGLAS

Hello.
ERIN

Whoa.
DOUGLAS

Do you think it understood?
ERIN

Try again.
DOUGLAS

Hello. You're in my house. This is my bathroom. What are you?

ERIN

No. I don't think it understands at all.

DOUGLAS

Do you have a name?

The monster remains unmoved. Doesn't even flinch.

ERIN

We could name it.

Douglas claps his hands twice at the monster.

Erin laughs at him.

DOUGLAS

(to the monster)

Copy me.

Douglas claps again.

ERIN

What are you doing?

DOUGLAS

Trying to communicate. If it can't talk maybe it can do something else.

ERIN

Like Morse code?

DOUGLAS

Anything.

Douglas takes another step forwards, gets closer to the monster.

ERIN

Don't. Keep your distance.

Douglas continues to step closer. Reaches out a couple of fingers. Goes to touch it.

DOUGLAS

It'll be OK. I'm sure I'll be fine.

ERIN

How?

DOUGLAS

It came from my dream.

Douglas touches the monster who reacts angrily grabs a hold of Douglas lifting him up off his feet and throws him down to the floor.

Erin screams.

DOUGLAS

It's OK. I'm OK.

ERIN

Don't do that. Don't touch it. Bad idea.

DOUGLAS

Yeah.

ERIN

Don't mess with it.

DOUGLAS

I really thought it would be OK.

ERIN

Well you're wrong. Who can we call? The cops and tell them what? The ghost busters but they're not even real. But then this thing shouldn't even be real.

DOUGLAS

We don't talk to anyone.

ERIN

But we have to.

DOUGLAS

No.

ERIN

Douglas look, we can't work this out on our own.

DOUGLAS

I think we can.

ERIN

Based on what?

DOUGLAS

This is my home and that thing is from my dream, it's my monster.

ERIN

Then why the hell am I here?

DOUGLAS

Because I really want your help.

ERIN

Help with what? Understanding? But that thing can't be understood don't you get it. It shouldn't exist. You're crazy fine but we both can't be crazy together I only met you yesterday.

He gives her a hug

DOUGLAS

I really believe you can do this.

ERIN

Have you snapped?

DOUGLAS

What we've found here, what we've discovered it changes the whole world.

ERIN

And that makes you happy?

DOUGLAS

I didn't think there was anything left to be discovered in this world and then something like this appears.

SCENE FOUR.

Kitchen.

Erin sits at the table.

Douglas is faced by Austin.

DOUGLAS

Who are you?

AUSTIN

I'm really interested in what you've got here.

DOUGLAS

And what's that supposed to mean?

AUSTIN

Now is not the time to go back and forth, speed is the key.

DOUGLAS

What are you talking about?

AUSTIN

You know it's hiding somewhere inside your home. A black ooze.

DOUGLAS

How do you know?

AUSTIN

I'm right aren't I, I'm never wrong.

DOUGLAS

Tell me.

AUSTIN

You don't need to know, what you've got, it has great power.

DOUGLAS

I want to know how you knew what I had here?

AUSTIN

Yours isn't the first and won't be the last there is countless others all around the world you're not special.

DOUGLAS

How could you know?

Austin look across at Erin at the table. He comes back to Douglas.

AUSTIN

Where is it?

DOUGLAS

No.

AUSTIN

If you're not going to be helpful does that mean I'm going to have to search every other room in this place?

Douglas jabs a finger hard into the middle of Austin's chest.

DOUGLAS

You're not going anywhere else, in fact you need to leave.

AUSTIN

You need to show it to me, it's important.

DOUGLAS

I'm not showing you shit and if I have to drag you out then that's what I'll do.

Erin comes down from the table.

ERIN

Who are you?

AUSTIN

What you have, it was created out of fear and hate that's what makes these things.

DOUGLAS

So what are you? Why the secrecy, why can't you just say?

AUSTIN

This is a world that you can't possibly understand.

DOUGLAS

Try me.

AUSTIN

I'm here to get rid of it for you.

Douglas forces out a laugh.

DOUGLAS

But he won't tell us anything?

ERIN

How will you get rid of it.

AUSTIN

Tell me where it is, where is it hiding? They always choose one spot to hide.

DOUGLAS

Don't tell him anything.

AUSTIN

You're wasting so much time.

DOUGLAS

Get out of my home.

Austin places a business card onto the table.

AUSTIN

It's dangerous, I can get rid of it.

DOUGLAS

Now.

Austin exits.

Douglas moves over to the table and sits down.

Erin picks up the business card for a closer look.

ERIN

What are you going to do?

DOUGLAS

Have you told anyone?

ERIN

No, how could I?

DOUGLAS

I don't know, but maybe you did.

ERIN

No I haven't. Do you think we should go there?

DOUGLAS

How did he know it was here?

ERIN

Nothing about anything makes any sense anymore.

DOUGLAS

Yeah you're right.

ERIN

So?

DOUGLAS

You really want to know what I want to do?

ERIN

Yes.

DOUGLAS

You'd come with me?

ERIN

You're going to go and ask for his help?

DOUGLAS

I don't know about that yet. I still don't know anything about it.

ERIN

But you'll go at least, to just check it out?

DOUGLAS

Will you come with me?

ERIN

Is that some kind of must?

Douglas stands up from the table.

DOUGLAS

I'm not going on my own.

ERIN

Then I guess yeah.

DOUGLAS

You know the address?

ERIN

But I'll just use my phone for directions.

They both go to exit.

Whoosh.

The monster appears in a flash.

Grabs a hold of Douglas and throws him to the floor.

Erin backs away, her whole body shaking.

Douglas closes his eyes, terrified. Doesn't dare move a muscle.

After a moment of silence the monster lumbers into a corner and sits down.

ERIN

So it doesn't just stay in there anymore. Really it can go where it likes?

Douglas slowly gets back up onto his feet. He looks over at the monster.

DOUGLAS

Why me?

ERIN

Douglas.

DOUGLAS

Why are you attacking me? You want to kill me? What is it that you want from me?

ERIN

Let's just call him, he clearly knows more than we do.

He steps closet to the monster.

DOUGLAS

If you want to kill me then just do it. I don't care anymore.

ERIN

Don't say that.

DOUGLAS

(screams at the monster)

Go on kill me.

ERIN

(screams at Douglas)

Douglas, please.

DOUGLAS

What?

ERIN

Make the call.

DOUGLAS

No.

ERIN

How could you want this to continue?

DOUGLAS

I'm not calling him. I won't.

ERIN

But you've been made a prisoner in your own home.

DOUGLAS

No.

ERIN

Are you so sure about that? Because what just happened I saw it with my own two eyes.

DOUGLAS

It's a freak. It's not keeping me in here.

ERIN

If it wants to it will. What can you seriously do against it?

DOUGLAS

It's a freak. Look at it. I'm smarter. It won't beat me because I won't let it. I created this monster.

ERIN

But you don't even know how you did it.

DOUGLAS

I can out think it.

Douglas drags the table over and places it in front of the monster.

ERIN

This?

DOUGLAS

I won't be kept a prisoner.

He goes to exit.

Erin stays where she is.

ERIN

This is a bad idea.

DOUGLAS

I didn't ask you.

ERIN

Well I'm still telling.

DOUGLAS

Just watch. It's trapped in here not me.

ERIN

Just call him.

DOUGLAS

No.

ERIN

Are you stubborn or stupid?

DOUGLAS

Neither.

ERIN

What if he could really help?

DOUGLAS

I don't need any help.

He's about to leave.

ERIN

You're crazy.

He glances back at her.

DOUGLAS

You can stay here but I'm not.

ERIN

Oh really?

DOUGLAS

You're not coming?

ERIN

You're not going anywhere. Why won't you listen?

Douglas exits only for the monster to burst forwards.

In a blink of an eye it's on top of Douglas. Rips him back onto stage.

Douglas staggered backwards. Finds his footing and charges at the monster.

He tries to knock it out of the way. No good. The monster is just too strong.

It knocks Douglas away. Douglas slams against the floor with a bang.

The air knocked out of him.

The monster returns to its corner.

Douglas slowly lifts himself up onto his knees.

ERIN

I told you.

DOUGLAS

I don't really need to hear that right now.

ERIN

Why did you even do something so stupid. You had to have known what would have happened.

DOUGLAS

I guess I didn't want it to be true.

ERIN

Well it is, and you've got to get used to it.

DOUGLAS

I'll try.

ERIN

Will you stop, I don't want to watch it attack you again.

DOUGLAS

Me neither.

ERIN

Then what is it that you want?

DOUGLAS

I want you to leave.

ERIN

You do?

DOUGLAS

I don't mean it like that. It's only stopping me. At least that's what I think is going on.

ERIN

You want me to try?

DOUGLAS

I think you'll be alright.

ERIN

You think, and what if it does attack me?

DOUGLAS

Well you don't want to be stuck in here forever do you?

She goes to exit. So far nothing happens.

She exits.

The monster isn't interested.

She enters stage again.

ERIN

It's just you it wants.

DOUGLAS

Lucky me. You can leave whenever.

ERIN

So that's the only reason you wanted me to leave. To see if I could?

DOUGLAS

Have you still got that card? Go to him. Find out who he really is. Why did he already know so much?

ERIN

Oh yeah and you think I'll do this for you?

DOUGLAS

Yeah.

ERIN

Why?

DOUGLAS

Because you want to know what all of this means just as badly as I do.

SCENE FIVE.

Kitchen.

Austin returns with two other MEN. Dressed in suits with saved heads.

Douglas shows them the monster.

AUSTIN

Wow.

DOUGLAS

What you were expecting?

AUSTIN

More. It's very impressive.

DOUGLAS

That's not how I'd describe it.

AUSTIN

You don't even know what you've got here do you?

DOUGLAS

Do you?

AUSTIN

You should leave.

DOUGLAS

And what are you going to do?