

Side # 3
Jasmine/Lyle/
Noble
START

JASMINE

(through door)

Noble? Precious? -- I don't want to violate your creative bubble -- But if I could just have the manuscript? Get things rolling? -- Please?

On the verge of panic, LYLE holds the door shut, grabs the blanket and throws it over his head --

LYLE (as Noble)

Stay out!! Stay out!!

JASMINE tries the door again. Thinking desperately, LYLE grabs the cell phone and dials. He opens the door a crack as the phone rings downstairs -- and in the bedroom --

LYLE (as Noble)

Get that would you, Jasmine?

JASMINE

No, no. It's just some twit from the CBC.

LYLE (as Noble)

Answer the phone!!

JASMINE

(runs down to the phone)

Good Lord!

NOBLE

(comes out of bathroom, holding his head)

Good Lord!

JASMINE

(grabs phone)

Yes??!!!!

LYLE (as Noble, on phone)

Ah, Jasmine, porkchop -- I do apologize.

JASMINE

(on the verge of hyperventilation)

Noble?!!! -- But why are you phoning me when you're --?

NOBLE picks up the phone --

LYLE (as Noble)

Oh, I know, it's inexcusable of me to subject you to this appalling artiste-like behaviour, dear lady --

(NOBLE listens to this with an increasingly puzzled expression -- but doesn't seem to recognize Lyle's voice as an imitation of him.)

But I find the very sight of another human face can put me off for days -- something of a nuisance since it is my own species --

NOBLE
(slams down phone)
Piss off yourself!

JASMINE and LYLE
(each jump at the bang)
Don't hang up!!!!!!

A beat of confusion on each of their parts.
Noble goes back into the bathroom --

JASMINE
Noble? --

LYLE (as Noble)
Jasmine? --

JASMINE
Noble. The manuscript. Please.

LYLE (as Noble)
The manuscript -- yes, of course -- the manuscript --
(trying to remember what he did with it)
Uh -- You shall have it -- forthwith ...

JASMINE
Not forthwith, Noble. Now. You don't understand, my pet! The agency business is hell these days! I answer to L.A. now. They don't just want a Nobel Prize! They want a major motion picture deal! They want spin-offs. They want dwarf action figures! I have to show them that a Botoxed old broad can still deliver! So, please -- if there's even a tiny, flickering ember left of the feelings you once had for me --

LYLE (as Noble)
Feelings? What feelings?

Jasmine bursts into tears, sobbing audibly, as
ABIGAIL come back in --

LYLE (as Noble)
Now, now, pumpkin --

JASMINE
Don't pumpkin me, you heartless bastard!!
(to Abigail)
What are you staring at?!

LYLE (as Noble, confused)

Uh? Nothing.

JASMINE

(waves at Abigail to get lost, resumes sobbing)
I'm sure you've had so many pubescent little pumpkins
sharing your pillow since you dumped me that you can't
even remember their names!

Abigail picks up Lyle's shoes, exits.

LYLE (as himself)

Oh, I wish ...

(suddenly remembers, as Noble)

Pillow -- The manuscript's under the pillow! In the
bedroom!

JASMINE

Under the pillow?!

LYLE (as Noble)

Gestating! Go ahead. Get it. I'll stay on the line.

JASMINE

(her tears instantly dry)

Thank you.

JASMINE leaves the phone, hurries up the stairs.
LYLE waits, the phone to his ear.

JASMINE goes into the bedroom, looks under the
pillows -- finds nothing. She yanks back the
covers, getting more and more frustrated --

NOBLE comes out of the bathroom behind her,
watches in amazement as she ransacks the bed --

JASMINE

It's not here!!!

NOBLE

Jasmine? ...

(She jumps, does a double take -- How did Noble
come out of that door?)

It is you, isn't it? ... Look, there's no need to do
that, dear lady. I have a girl who changes my sheets,
does my laundry --

JASMINE

Noble, I'm not --

NOBLE

Miss Bliss. Doesn't charge me a cent.

JASMINE

I'm not changing your sheets!! I'm looking for the manuscript!!!!

NOBLE

(flinches at the raised voice)
Manuscript? --

JASMINE

False Gods!

In the study, LYLE waits tensely, holding the phone, unable to hear anything --

NOBLE

Ah, yes, well -- It will be done, very soon -- I think.

JASMINE

Soon!!! You mean it's not finished!!!!??

NOBLE

(holding his head, still unsteady)
Please -- I must ask you to lower your voice.

LYLE (as Noble)

(on phone)
Jasmine? Are you there? --

JASMINE

(pacing, ready to start tearing her hair)
I am not going to get angry. Anger is a weed in the garden of life. Bad things do happen to good people. I am my own best friend --
(suddenly spots the manuscript on the floor)
What's that?
(grabs it)
What's this then??!!!!

NOBLE

(looks at it curiously)
Well -- it is -- it.

JASMINE

(snatches it back from him)
Thank God!

NOBLE

(sits there, holding his head, confused)
I'm not myself. It's almost as if -- I've had a memory lapse or something -- lost a couple of days --
(suddenly stands)
Oh God!! -- Did I win!!!! ← End