

See Jane

original author from a Baptist church in Castro Valley, CA 1994, slightly edited by S. Kirton in July 2010

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[4+ actors. Empty stage; Jane enters and takes center stage, with a briefcase by her feet. Two other actors stand behind her, on either side, and Narrator sits downstage, holding a large book.]

Narrator: See Jane. [Narrator gives plenty of time for movement on stage, and reads as though reading a children's primer. Jane waves, or curtseys.]

Jane loves Jesus. [Jane looks angelic]

Jesus loves Jane. [Jane smiles broadly and looks heavenward]

Jane is leaving for work. [Jane picks up briefcase and mimes "walking"]

Goodbye, Jane! Have a nice day! [Jane waves and continues "walking," stops and puts down briefcase]

Here is Jane at work. [Jane looks industrious]

Jane works hard. [Jane mops her brow with a handkerchief from her pocket]

Uh-oh. [Jane looks around concerned]

Here comes Sam. [Jane waves unenthusiastically]

Sam always wants a favor from Jane. [Jane makes a face]

What will Sam want from Jane today? [Jane sighs and looks depressed]

Uh-oh. Bad news. [Jane looks disgusted]

Sam wants Jane to lie. Sam wants Jane to tell their boss that they both got to work at the same time. Sam was really twenty minutes late. Again. [Jane mimes an unfriendly conversation, hands on hips]

Poor Jane! What will she do? [Jane looks thoughtful and responds while Jane's sin nature and her new nature give input; each comes closer, and backs up, showing who is talking to Jane at the time]

Sin Nature: Psssst! Jane! What's the problem here? Go ahead! Remember, Sam was the first one to be your friend when you were the new kid on the block and nobody wanted to listen to your ideas.

New Nature: Nope, Jane. Bad idea. You're trying to be an example to Sam of what a good Christian is.

Sin Nature: It's just a little, white lie!

New Nature: A lie's a lie, Jane.

Sin Nature: [makes a sound of disgust] Compared to the stories you used to tell, this is nothing! Nobody's gonna get hurt from this, toots. Except maybe Sam, when you let him down.

New Nature: Who's it better to let down--Sam or the Lord?

Narrator: Too late to think about this any more, Jane. Here comes Mr. Potter. Maybe he won't ask and then you won't have to say anything about Sam. Maybe he's just coming over to say, "Good Morning." Maybe... just maybe...[Jane looks nervous] Nope! He's asking if Sam came to work with you, Jane. Now what?

Sin Nature: *[getting irritated]* You know, it's JUST like that Sam to put you in this kind of predicament! It would sure feel good to punch him in the nose right now!

New Nature: Now Jane...

Sin Nature: Who does Sam think he is, anyway?!

New Nature: Jane, this is a good time to keep your cool...

Sin Nature: Oh yeah?! Well, what if you just don't feel like keeping your cool?

New Nature: Right now, Jane, you need to answer Mr. Potter's question. And you need to tell the truth.

[Jane mimes a conversation where she tells her boss that Sam didn't come to work with her.]

Narrator: There goes Mr. Potter. He doesn't seem very happy. *[Jane looks down, discouraged]* Jane is not very happy. She feels like she has let down her friend by telling the truth.

Sin Nature: You know, Jane, I didn't mind you doing this Christian bit at first, but I gotta tell you, it seems to CAUSE more problems than it fixes! Take this situation, for instance. NOBODY'S HAPPY! You're feeling guilty...your boss is mad as fire...and Sam's probably gonna hate you and spread ugly rumors around the office about you!

New Nature: You're a new creature, Jane. Let's pray that the Lord will turn this into an opportunity to witness to Sam, and maybe your boss, too.

Sin Nature: Hah! Yeah, right! I'm sure Sam's gonna be real open to your witness after you just got him into hot water!

New Nature: God's ways are not our ways, Jane. He can work when it doesn't seem possible for anything good to come out of a situation!

Sin Nature: *[to New Nature]* Would you cut that out?! I'm trying to build a decent case of resentment, here!

New Nature: It won't work. Will it, Jane?

Sin Nature: How do YOU know, big mouth? Why don't you just come on over here and we'll see who's boss in Jane's life, huh? *[looks ready to fight New Nature]*

New Nature: If you say so...

[Jane starts looking confused as the two natures start scuffling a little; New Nature quickly twists Sin Nature's arm behind her back, "escorting" her offstage, where loud noises and crashes, with a few screams thrown in for good measure can happen. New Nature comes back in, dusting her hands off, standing next to Jane again.]

Narrator: Well, Jane, this has been quite a day at work. *[Jane nods vigorously]*

But...guess what? It's time to go home now! *[Jane looks happy and relieved as she looks at her watch]*

At least for today... *[Jane looks worried again]*

Good-bye Jane! *[Jane waves, picks up briefcase and exits, along with New Nature and Narrator]*

End