

2AMK9 ANALYSIS: CHARACTER (JANICE)

OBJECTIVES & OBSTACLES:

SUPER OBJECTIVE:

Janice seeks to find quiet in a world of constant noise.

MAJOR OBSTACLES:

S#	MAIN OBSTACLE
INT	<i>Janice portrays herself as an actor in the Twilight Zone TV show.</i>
S1	Whether the Landlord will agree to take her on as a tenant. Janice just wants to get away from the noise.
S2	The invisible dog is barking and keeping her awake.
S3	The generation gap between herself and Vivian and Benny. She doesn't know how to ask them about the invisible dog.
S4	The invisible dog and the rain continually get louder so Janice can't sleep. Janice's main obstacle is a lack of information. Why is the dog here? Why can only she hear it? Is it here to attack her? Is she in danger? What does this mean about her sanity?
S5	The Landlord keeps making unwanted sexual advances on Janice. There is a clear power dynamic with the Landlord. Janice is not in control.
S6	Vivian and Benny are concerned but unhelpful. They are complacent.
S7	The Landlord keeps calling the house. Janice is scared that the Landlord is going to assault her. She learns that the dog is there to protect her.
S8	The power the Landlord has is intimidating and makes it difficult for Janice to protect herself. If she stands up for herself

	will she lose the house? Wait if the Landlord is injured does that mean that the invisible dog is truly real? Is Janice not crazy?
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ACTION TRAITS:

- AT 1: Janice interacting with the shadow puppet
- AT 2: Janice frantically try to fall asleep
- AT 3: Janice jumping back in response to the Landlord touching her
- AT 4: Janice gardening to relax
- AT 5: Janice being the only one that can hear the invisible dog

FUNCTIONAL TRAITS: *Aid to the audience*

- FT 1: Representation of Generation Z amongst Baby Boomers
- FT 2: Contrast to Christianity in Suburban America
- FT 3: The sheet with the shadow puppet represents the unknown to Janice

CHARACTERIZATION OR PERSONALITY TRAITS: *CLUES TO THE WAY THEY ACT? i.e. temperament, abilities, background, appearance, and behavior*

ADJECTIVES & STATEMENTS FROM THE SCRIPT:

<i>STAGE DIRECTIONS</i>	<i>Pg#</i>	LINE
	29	<i>A soundscape in the dark. Janice enters with the Landlord.</i>
		<i>The Landlord leans forward so she can use his back to write on.</i>

		<i>Janice surveys the yard.</i>
	30	<i>Janice watches the dog until it fades.</i>
	31	<i>Janice continues raking until the lights change to night.</i>
	32	<i>The Landlord enters. She peers around the yard for a few moments until Janice enters.</i>
		<i>Janice approaches, then is distracted by the surroundings.</i>
	33	<i>The Landlord puts his hands on her. Janice steps quickly away.</i>
		<i>Repulsed, Janice stomps down the ground where the marker is. She continues to search the rest of the yard for paw prints and finds none.</i>
	34	<i>The Landlord enters with binoculars. He focuses his binoculars on a spot, and watches for a moment. Then he fishes his keys from his pockets and moves in the direction of the house. He hears a dog growl.</i>
		<i>Janice enters, FRANTIC, looks toward the screen, the yard, but there's nothing at all to see.</i>
	35	<i>Janice returns to the backyard, searching for any remnants of the fight she heard last night. Nothing.</i>

<i>WHAT OTHERS SAY:</i>	<i>Pg#</i>	<i>CHARACTER</i>	<i>LINE</i>
	29	HOST	Janice moved to the suburbs in search of life at a slower pace.
		HOST	So Janice can't have a dog, but maybe a dog could have her.
		LANDLORD	You said you like to work with your hands?

	30	VIVIAN	You'll get used to (the quiet)
	31	BENNY	Doesn't sound like something you need to worry about.
	32	LANDLORD	You never called me, so I thought I'd come by, see if you have everything you need. Maybe something I could take care of for you.
		LANDLORD	Come closer--I don't bite.
	33	LANDLORD	There are all sorts of rules, and I'd hate for you to break one. It means your lease could be terminated. I'm here to help you. But you gotta call me, let me know what's going on. I could come over again, make sure it;s all good. You know what I mean?
		BENNY	Don't be ridiculous! Happy to do it!
		BENNY	We're keeping an eye out, don't worry.
		BENNY	If you have any problems at all, you know where we are. If you holler, we can hear you and will come running.
	34	VIVIAN	That's what good neighbors are for, dear.
		LANDLORD	What the hell? I know you're out there. Go on, git.
	35	VIVIAN	Hey there, was just coming by.
		VIVIAN	Having some bad dreams?
		LANDLORD	You're lying. You have a dog.
		VIVIAN	It's true. If she'd had a dog, we'd've noticed. I'm a busybody.
		LANDLORD	I can have you evicted. You let that dog get at me. I know you were there, and you

			didn't do a thing to stop it.
	36	LANDLORD	Her dog attacked me last night. I don't know where you're hiding it, but I'm calling animal control, I'm calling the cops.
		LANDLORD	What are you going to do? This is my property. I'm not trespassing.
		BENNY	We've lived here a long time. We've witnessed a lot of things around this place. A court might like to hear about them. But we didn't hear anything sounding like a dogfight last night.
	37	BENNY	And if she needs any help around the house, she can start with us.

<i>WHAT JANICE SAYS:</i>	<i>Pg#</i>	<i>LINE</i>
	29	Quiet is good. I'm happier when I have a project.
	30	I am wide awake. It is too quiet.
		Everything is fine.
	31	You come her every night. Always after midnight. I know because I still do not sleep. Are you out there watching me back?
	32	I don't know if I should call someone.
	33	Sorry, have I done something wrong?
		Am I supposed to worry?
	34	Now that (the breathing) has stopped, it's too quiet. Promise you'll stay here tonight? Outside my

		window? All I want to do is try to go to sleep. Stay? Stay. Good dog.
	35	I don't have any pets, I swear, I don't.
		Did you call me last night?
	36	Why were you outside the apartment last night? What were you doing here?
		But I could call them. I could tell them that you're making unwanted sexual advances, that I feel uncomfortable. That you keep threatening to evict me. That you make false claims about a dog attack and are here to intimidate me. And the city will care, when I file a claim against you. You'll care when you go to court.
		If I miss a rent payment then you can come out here. Otherwise, write me a letter. Don't show up without an appointment. Don't call me.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHARACTER ON THE PLAY'S DRAMATIC ACTION:

Janice is the protagonist, although the show acts as an ensemble show. She acts as a generational foil to Benny and Vivian. Additionally, she is the main source of conflict for the Landlord. Janice represents young ideas and the restlessness of the younger generation due to technological advancements which have shifted generational social standards. Although the Landlord is the antagonist, no one in this show is innocent. The Landlord has had significant financial and marital struggles that feed into her sexual advances. That doesn't make them morally right or her a "good person" it just makes her a constantly growing and struggling person. Janice wants to fall asleep because she just wants control over her own life. The play reaches a climax when Janice finally takes control of her own life.