

THE THIRD STORY

Steve, Zygote (2 men)

Act I
Scene 15

1940's Los Angeles. Queenie Bartlett's elegant apartment. Mob queen, Queenie Bartlett's devoted gangster son, shows up at her apartment and finds the failed scientific clone, Zygote. Steve's dark secret is that he suffers from intense claustrophobia, that manifests itself when he least expects it.

STEVE

You're here a lot, aren't you?

ZYGOTE

I make myself useful.

STEVE

Where's my mother?

ZYGOTE

She's out.

STEVE

Out where?

ZYGOTE

I'd rather not say.

STEVE

I wanna know what's going on with my mother.

ZYGOTE

If you loved her you wouldn't need me to answer your questions.

STEVE

Who the hell are you to tell me how much I love my mother?

ZYGOTE

I know how much you've hurt her. And you hurt her every time you bring you trampy wife around.

(Steve grabs Zygote by the collar.)

ZYGOTE

I may be ugly but jealousy is making you positively green/

STEVE

Me? Jealous of you? Ha!

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ZYGOTE

I've become your Mama's best buddy. We have lots of fun together. She's teaching me how to play Canasta. I'm the only one she can trust. She calls me her "keeper of the secrets."

STEVE

What secrets? What do you know?

ZYGOTE

Let's find some private little place to talk. Oh, I forget, you can't handle small places. Poor Stevie might wet himself.

STEVE

I swear I'm gonna kill you, Pinhead, but not today 'cause when I do I wanna take a nice long time with it. Now, get out!

ZYGOTE

May I get my things from the other room? I've been staying here, you know.

STEVE

Get your stuff and put your hat on. That toupee of yours reeks of something awful.

ZYGOTE

It's not the toupee. I expel gas through my ears. (*Zygote exits into the bedroom.*)

STEVE

Just when I thought I'd heard everything.