

Bubble World

by
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Cast of Characters

JASMINE: 17

JESS: 16

Place: Suburban home, New York.

Time: the present, afternoon.

At Rise: The curtain rises, revealing a large bedroom with a tall mirror stage right. Clothes are sprawled out on the floor and the light of day enters the bedroom from large windows upstage.

JASMINE and JESS chill out in JESS's bedroom talking.

Jessica is trying on different shoes in front of a mirror and Jasmine looks on annoyed.

JESS: There's these brown ones..(posing) I love these but I'm not sure how my calves look cause—the black boots are dope cause they give me that extra height...

JASMINE: The boots?

JESS: Yeah.

JASMINE: You tried them on already.

JESS: I know, but it comes down to the boots or these brown shoes. Best with the white dress too, I think.

JASMINE: How long have we been doing this? Let's go out already.

JESS: I want to look good.

JASMINE: You already look good, Jess.

JESS: I need to make a decision on the shoes.

JASMINE: Pink dress, purple dress, white dress...that's all I hear. Brown shoes, white shoes, yellow shoes. On and on and on. Me, me, me, me, me...You are so wrapped up in your little world, Jess. You're in this bubble that you need to break out of and realize that there are things in life other than having your face constantly in your phone.

Don't you realize that we never hang out like we used to? And whenever we do hang out, you are either text messaging someone or calling someone else or hanging up posters on your bedroom wall. It's like the only time we can go anywhere or do anything is if it revolves around something just you want to do and most of that stuff doesn't even interest me anymore. God forbid I suggest something YOU don't like.

We used to always do things together. I feel like we don't click anymore. For once it would be nice for you to call me and ask what I'm up to, do something I like doing for a change. I want us to hang out more and I want us to have fun again. Don't you?

JESS: But you see, that's the thing.

JASMINE: What?

JESS: You don't let me be me.

JASMINE: I don't understand.

JESS: You're constantly criticizing me, like what you're doing right now. Whenever we go to the mall shopping you are always making faces at the things I like. Remember last Tuesday? I wanted to try on those jeans and you made such a stink over it---

JASMINE: Because I was starving. I just finished telling you I wanted to eat cause I was about to faint and then you run over to a pair of jeans.

JESS: I was searching high and low for those jeans for weeks and they finally came back in stock so---

JASMINE: So what? You are so inconsiderate.

JESS: No, you are. You know I wanted those exact jeans and thankfully they had them in my size. I'm sure waiting an extra five minutes wasn't going to kill you.

JASMINE: I'm realizing how selfish you've become. I can't believe it. You were never like this.

JESS: Like what?

JASMINE: This, *this* whatever this is, I don't know what to call you, you're just so blatantly focused on your looks and your style and all this hype and it's way too much.

JESS: Just because I want to look good and feel good, it's a crime?

JASMINE: Don't be stupid. It's not a crime but it's changing your personality.

JESS: What if this is the new me? What if this is who I am and I'm happy?

JASMINE: Doesn't make sense.

JESS: People change, Jasmine. We're growing up. Soon we're going to college and I'm figuring out who I am. Aren't you?

JASMINE: Yeah but, not so drastically...it's almost like you're becoming someone I would see on TV or something.

JESS: Whatever.

JASMINE: It's not...I don't want to lose my cousin.

JESS: ...You're not...don't be so dramatic.

JASMINE: It's true. You're not the same. I don't expect you to be the same forever but the core of who we are, that should be stronger than anything, especially because we've always been close. We should always have that connection, right?

JESS: Maybe we're growing apart, Jas.

(beat)

JASMINE: Is that what you want though?

JESS: I never thought about it, until right now.

JASMINE: So, what does that even mean?

JESS: We're always gonna be cousins. What's your problem?

JASMINE: No kidding. I'm talking about...forget it...you know, we used to talk about going to the same college together too and everything...it's fine. I see where you're at.

JESS: I'm not anywhere but here. You're an idiot.

JASMINE: No, you're an idiot.

JESS: No, you're an idiot for thinking I don't want to be cousins with you.

JASMINE: You know what I mean.

JESS: Yeah, well, we're always gonna be close, just in different ways. I mean, I'm into things you're not into and that should be fine. We should respect our differences, instead of judge. I hate that you judge me all the time and I think that's why I've pulled away.

JASMINE: So, you *have* been keeping your distance?

JESS: You can't say you haven't been difficult to be around lately. Why would I want to constantly feel condemned for doing things that make me happy? You like art and it's cool but it's not my thing...but I don't go around judging you, you know? I don't make you feel bad about yourself for liking art.

JASMINE: ...I didn't realize I was coming down on you like that.

JESS: Yeah. It's been so long and it's like you don't even recognize it. I shouldn't be feeling bad about myself if I'm not into the same things as you, you made me feel so bad that weekend when you made that comment "You're an airhead if you don't know who this artist is" - I get it, we're not on the same path, our interests are going in different directions but there's decisions you've made in your life that I don't agree with but I don't attack you over them, I don't think differently of you just because you've decided on them, I respect you for them, that's the bond I thought we had.

JASMINE: I get it. Damn, I feel bad Jess. Why didn't you speak to me sooner about this?

JESS: I didn't want to argue. I didn't think you'd get it.

JASMINE: I do. I do get it...

JESS: Okay...

JASMINE: You're right, I have been frustrated with you and maybe I've been judging you for not wanting to experience certain things with me, I got frustrated when we were at that gallery because I wanted to show you the works of that artist the week before at the Met but you just weren't interested and that hurt me, I thought you'd be excited about discovering their art...but you're right, you're Jess, this is who you are and I love you for it, you make me laugh, we always have a good time and it's what makes you unique so why should I judge you? When I think it over, you're right, I have been treating you wrong.

JESS: It's alright...you know, it's not like I don't want to do things together. Of course I do. I just want to be free to be me. If you can stop being on top of me and be part of what I like doing, the way I am with you, maybe we can cut the friction. Maybe I will join you at more of these events, it's not like I'm against any of it, I'm down to explore something different, I am Jas, and maybe I should but if you'll just except me, except that I probably am naive about it all, I just won't feel so intimidated.

JASMINE: I get it. You're right. I'm sorry, Jess. We're still friends.

JESS: We're cousins for life.

END OF PLAY