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*Dramatic Publishing*



# **THE MONSTERS UNDER THE BED**

**An Original Play for Children**

**by**

**FR. DOMINIC GARRAMONE, OSB**

**and**

**THE ST. BEDE THEATRE TROUPE**



**Dramatic Publishing**

**Woodstock, Illinois • London, England • Melbourne, Australia**

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### AUTHOR'S NOTE

The monsters and their poems were created by the grade school students at our summer theatre program. The rest of the script was written by myself and several high school drama students. Contributors: Adam Aleksy, Danielle Antkowiak, Keith Coughlin, Courtney Darling, Theresa Grant, Madhu Goel, Chenar Howard, Michele Inman, Joy Kennedy, Bill Komarek, Jody Lischewski, Keith Moritz, Shannan Sonnon, Cathy Stoutner, and Joseph Tutaj.

# THE MONSTERS UNDER THE BED

A Play in One Act  
For 14 players (at least 7 women)

## CHARACTERS

STEPHANIE..... host of the sleepover  
CATHY..... her older sister  
MELISSA ..... Stephanie's younger cousin  
ASHLEY  
LAURIE                      \                      guests at sleepover  
JENNIFER                  /  
FELICIA

DARKONOMO ..... the darkness monster  
CRUMPLEBUMP..... the noises in the night monster  
THE FINAL FREAK ..... the math test monster  
DR. WICKED SCHOTT ... the doctor with a needle monster  
TEAZLE ..... the bully at school monster  
BIG BAD BOOM..... the thunderstorm monster  
GRUNTABLE. .... the monster who grabs your ankles

On July 31, 1987, Saint Bede Abbey in Peru, IL, presented *THE MONSTERS UNDER THE BED* at its Summer Theatre Program. The play was conceived, written, produced and acted by the following artists:

CATHY.....	Cathy Stoutner
STEPHANIE.....	Madhu Goel
ASHLEY.....	Shannan Sonnon
MELISSA.....	Courtney Darling
FELICIA.....	Danielle Antkowiak
LAURIE.....	Theresa Grant
JENNIFER.....	Joy Kennedy
DARKONOMO.....	Joey Tutaj
CRUMPLEBUMP.....	Bill Komarek
THE FINAL FREAK.....	Michele Inman
DR. WICKED SCHOTT.....	Chenar Howard
TEAZLE.....	Keith Coughlin
BIG BAD BOOM.....	Jody Lischewski
GRUNTABLE.....	Brother Dominic

\* \* \* \* \*

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Director.....	Cathy Stoutner
Lighting.....	Eric Ernenputsch and Becky Stoutner

### SUMMER PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

Cathy Stoutner	Eric Ernenputsch
Todd Ernenputsch	Becky Stoutner
Hope Reyes	Catherine Lukancic
Ryan Remkus	Brenda Rick
Quentin Buffington	Kathleen Sims

# THE MONSTERS UNDER THE BED

SCENE: *At center stage is a huge bed, large enough to accommodate five girls. A boom box is on the bedside table. The bed must be high enough so that the monsters can easily crawl out. In the original production, the bed was pushed up against the back curtain so that the monsters could wait backstage until their entrances and only one player was under the bed itself.*

THE PLAY BEGINS: *Total darkness. Onstage, the boom box is playing a Halloween sound effects tape with ghostly moans and screams. Suddenly one of the girls yells "Boo!" and they all scream and laugh. Just then CATHY enters and turns the light on in the bedroom.*

CATHY. What in the world is going on in here?

ASHLEY. We were playing a scary sound effects tape that I bought.

CATHY. Great, now you'll all have nightmares. Stephanie, Melissa is here to spend the night.

STEPHANIE (*excitedly*). Did Aunt Eileen have her baby?

CATHY. Not yet, and Uncle Monty wants to stay at the hospital with her, so Mom told him Melissa could stay here. I thought maybe she could join your party.

STEPHANIE. Sure—you girls don't mind, do you?

GIRLS. No, no problem. (*Etc.*)



CATHY. She'll be here in a minute—I told her to get into her pajamas. Oh, here she is.

*(MELISSA enters, carrying her teddy bear.)*

STEPHANIE. Hi, Missy! Join the party!

MELISSA *(shyly)*. Hi, Stephanie. Thanks for letting me stay with you.

STEPHANIE. No problem! Let me introduce everyone.  
*(Points to each girl in turn.)* This is Felicia, and that's Laurie, and you know Jennifer from gymnastics, and the one on the end having a bad hair day is Ashley.

ASHLEY *(pretending to be upset)*. Hey! *(GIRLS all laugh.)*

CATHY *(to MELISSA)*. Are you going to be all right?

MELISSA. Yeah, sure.

FELICIA. We'll take care of her.

CATHY. Okay—but don't play that spooky tape again, and don't stay up too late, or the monsters will come out from under the bed and GETCHA! *(She tickles MELISSA.)*  
In fact, you'd better go to sleep right now—it's later than I thought. *(Exits.)*

MELISSA *(afraid)*. Are there really monsters under the bed?

ASHLEY. Of course not, silly.

LAURIE. She was just kidding.

JENNIFER. There aren't any monsters in here, are there, Steph?

STEPHANIE *(in a spooky voice)*. Who knows? *(GIRLS all laugh.)*

CATHY *(calling from offstage)*. C'mon, girls—I said go to sleep!

STEPHANIE *(whispering)*. Big sisters are such a pain!  
Now she's using her "Mom" voice. Next she'll say, "I

mean it, Stephanie—lights out this second!” (*The GIRLS laugh out loud, then shush each other.*)

CATHY (*offstage*). I mean it, Stephanie—lights out this second! (*The GIRLS stifle giggles again.*)

STEPHANIE (*whispering*). That really is our final warning—we’d better get to sleep. (*They all put their teddy bears on the floor at the foot of the bed and settle down to sleep. STEPHANIE turns out the light and climbs into bed.\**)

MELISSA. Stephanie, turn on the light—I’m scared. (*Groans from GIRLS. STEPHANIE turns light on, then returns to bed and takes MELISSA by the hand.*)

STEPHANIE. Melissa, there’s nothing to be scared of. I was just kidding about the monsters under the bed.

MELISSA. I’m just scared of the dark. Darkness is like a monster at the window.

The darkness monster, Darkonomo,  
Comes in the night and makes the wind blow.  
Tall and hooded, dressed in black,  
Leave the window open a crack,  
And he will slip into your room,  
To fill your heart with fear and gloom.

(*As MELISSA recites the poem, DARKONOMO comes out from behind the curtain, and swirls silently around the bed. As the poem comes to an end, he stops DL, and pulls his cape around himself.*)

FELICIA. Oooh, stop it, Melissa, now you’ve got me scared!

\* Throughout the course of the play, GRUNTABLE reaches out from under the bed periodically, grabs a teddy bear and pulls it under the bed.

ASHLEY. I've got goose bumps.

LAURIE. Me, too!

JENNIFER. Let's leave the light on!

STEPHANIE. This is silly! There's nothing to be afraid of.

Melissa, come with me to the window. *(They walk to the window and look out.)*

Darkness comes when it is night,

So I can see the stars so bright.

I'm not scared by the dark you see,

Because all the stars are winking at me.

*(During this poem, DARKONOMO switches on the lights built into his shirt and opens his cape to reveal the "stars" shining. During MELISSA's next speech, he returns backstage.)*

MELISSA. Gee, Stephanie, I never thought of that before.

Darkonomo makes the stars come out, and I like stars, so I guess he's not really trying to scare me.

STEPHANIE. Of course not. Now let's go to sleep. *(They return to the bed and are about to turn the light out when there is a strange noise.)*

ASHLEY. What was that?

GIRLS. I didn't hear anything? Hear what? *(Etc.)*

ASHLEY. That funny noise. Shhhh...listen...there it is again!

JENNIFER. You're imagining things, Ashley.

LAURIE. Yeah, Melissa's monster story has you all nervous.

*(Just then there is a rattle of chains from under the bed—GIRLS all scream. CRUMPLEBUMP emerges from beneath the bed. He has a bird mask on, and he rattles the noisemakers attached to his costume as he recites his poem.)*

## CRUMPLEBUMP.

When a noise at night makes you jump,  
You can bet it's Crumplebump.  
An eerie creak, a rattle or groan,  
A thump, a screech, a muffled moan,  
My whistles and bells and pots and pans,  
Help me carry out my plans.  
And all I want to do tonight,  
Is give you a most dreadful fright.

ASHLEY. Stephanie, I thought you said there were no monsters under your bed!

STEPHANIE. Well, there weren't the last time I dusted!

LAURIE. When was the last time you dusted?

STEPHANIE. Last summer!

FELICIA. Well, I'M not afraid.

GIRLS. What?! Why not? (*Etc.*)

FELICIA. I have a cousin who is deaf, and when I stayed overnight at her house, she told me that she can't hear funny noises at night so they don't scare her. And watch this. (*She signs a sentence—see appendix.*)

MELISSA. What does that mean?

FELICIA (*signing as she speaks*). It means, "I am not afraid of noises in the night." It's sign language that my cousin taught me. We decided it was like a magic sign to make your fear go away.

ASHLEY. Teach it to us! (*She does, and they sign and speak it three times. CRUMPLEBUMP gets increasingly frustrated trying to scare them. Finally he goes back under the bed.*)

JENNIFER. C'mon, everybody—let's go to sleep.

LAURIE. Yeah—we need a good night's sleep. We have a math test tomorrow.

STEPHANIE. Oh no! I forgot all about it!

LAURIE. Don't worry Stephanie, you'll do okay—you always do.

STEPHANIE. But I get so nervous, and my face gets all hot, and suddenly I think I've forgotten everything.

*(The FINAL FREAK comes out from under the bed.)*

THE FINAL FREAK.

Beware, I'm the Final Freak  
Kids think that I'm a geek  
I flunk and fail kids like you  
A year held back, full of misery, too.  
Some kids study and pass the test—  
they just think that I'm a pest.  
But kids like you who panic and don't study  
I control like Silly Putty.  
I frighten them and freak them, too  
just like I'm going to do to you!

*(Points threateningly at STEPHANIE, then exits.)*

STEPHANIE. See? I told you—it's out to get me! *(Through-out this, LAURIE has been writing on a large notepad that was beside the bed.)*

JENNIFER. What are you writing, Laurie?

LAURIE. Look at this, Steph—maybe this will help. See, I took the word freak and made each letter stand for something different: "You'll do **F**antastic if you **R**elax. Make your best **E**ffort, and you'll get an **A**-plus for your **K**nowledge." *(The GIRLS cheer.)*