

# 3rd Jerk Theory

Dan Tappan

January 2026

G C  
These days, walking down the street, feels like everyone I meet's  
D7 G  
A victim of some strange and awful curse.  
G C  
Burdened with an attitude that comes across as rude,  
D7 G  
as if greeting or acknowledgement would make their troubles worse

The first jerk I encounter, I ignore, it doesn't matter.  
Someone must be having a bad day.  
But after two, or even more, My face, reflected in a door  
D7  
Reminds me what I've heard a wise man say

G B7  
3rd jerk theory; 3rd jerk of the day  
C D7  
A person on a mission with a grumpy disposition  
G B7  
3rd jerk theory: After you've met two  
double time  
E7 A7  
You could send yourself a letter, odds are getting better  
D7 G  
The person with a problem may be you

And I see in my reflection, the source of the infection  
That contributes to the atmosphere so foul  
And remember wearing headphones, in the grip of teenage hormones,  
Stalking down the hallway with my face set in a scowl

## chorus

So if you hear a honk behind you, and you look into the rear view  
with your finger on the trigger for a flip  
just remember, maybe nearer than the jerk who's in the mirror  
Is another jerk, seated where you sit

chorus. leave off final 'you' and tag with

G B7  
3rd jerk theory: After you've met two  
E7 A7 D7  
The person with a problem's prob'ly  
G B7  
3rd jerk theory: After you've met two  
1/2 time  
E7 A7 D7 G  
The person with a problem's really you