

Monologues for *You Can't Take It With You*

FEMALE MONOLOGUES

Alice

(Alice is explaining to her fiancé why their relationship can never work.)

Look, Tony, this is something I should have said a long time ago, but I didn't have the courage. I let myself be swept away because . . . I loved you so. No, wait, Tony. I want to make it clear to you. Listen, you're of a different world . . . a whole different kind of people. Oh, I don't mean money or socially . . . that's too silly. But your family and mine . . . it just wouldn't work, Tony. It just wouldn't work. Your mother believes in spiritualism because it's fashionable, and your father raises orchids because he can afford to. My mother writes plays because eight years ago a type writer was delivered here by mistake.

Penny

(She is the middle-aged mother of Alice who is scrambling to get dinner ready for the parents of her daughters fiancé, who have unexpectedly arrived on the wrong night.)

Oh, now, anybody can get mixed up, Mrs. Kirby. It's not a bit of a bother. Ed, tell Donald to run down the store and get half a dozen bottles of beer, and—ah—some canned salmon. Do you like canned salmon, Mrs. Kirby? You can have frankfurters if you'd rather. Well, make it frankfurters and some canned corn, and Campbell's soup. Got that, Ed? And tell him to hurry. Alright, that'll be fine now. *(There is a loud explosion of fireworks.)* Oh! This is Mr. Sycamore's busiest time of the year. Just before the Fourth of July.

Essie

(She is Alice's sister who is a delusional young woman who dreams of being a dancer even though she is quite bad at it)

That kitchen is awfully hot. I just can't stay in there anymore cooking candies. Ed wants me to open up a candy store, but I said, "No," I want to be a dancer, darling! *(She executes rather poorly several dance moves.)* I've only been studying for eight years. That's same amount time that you have been writing plays. What is the new play that you are working on, mother? Are you going back to the war play or are you still working on the one set in the monastery? You'd think with forty monks and one girl that *something* would happen. I know the end will come to you this time. You know, Mr. Kolenkhov says that I am his most promising pupil? *(She completes a final dance pose.)*

Grand Duchess

(An older former member of the Russian monarchy whose family has fallen on hard times and is now a waitress at Childs'. She speaks with a Russian accent.)

Many of my relatives are in this country. Then there is my cousin, Prince Alexis. He will not speak to the rest of us because he works at Hattie Carnegie. He is in ladies' underwear. Ah, Kolenkhov, our time is coming. My sister, Natasha, is studying to be a manicurist, Uncle Sergei they have promised to make floorwalker, and next month I get transferred to the Fifth Avenue Childs'. From there it is only a step to Schrafft's, and then we will see what Prince Alexis says!

Mrs. Kirby

(Middle-aged mother of Alice's fiancé who is embarrassed by her answers in a word association game and is trying to explain herself to her husband)

I don't know—I just thought of you in connection with the bathroom. After all, you are in there a good deal, Anthony. Bathing, and shaving—well you do take a long time. And I did think of "dull" in connection with the word "honeymoon" because it wasn't much fun down there in Hot Springs that season. All those old people sitting on the porch all afternoon, and—nothing to do at night. Oh, well, would you mind terribly, Alice, if we didn't stay for dinner? I'm afraid this game has given me a headache.