

## DALE MONOLOGUE

**Dale.** My parents had taken me and my sister to the lake for the weekend. My mother had bought me my first swimsuit, and I knew that when we got there, I would be able to swim. Oh, how I wanted to swim in that lake. I told my older sister Edith, “when we wake up tomorrow, I’m gonna go down to that lake, and I’m gonna swim.” And Edith said, “Oh, sweet little Dale. We’re ladies. We can’t exert ourselves by swimming. Do what I do. Just sit in the inner tube and float. Ladies float.” But oh, I wanted to swim.

When I woke the next morning, my mother told me that Edith was already down at the lake with her inner tube. So my father took me down the winding path, and we look out in the distance and see Edith, all by herself, just floating. Like a lady.

I ran down to the edge of the water. This was it. My first time to swim. I took my first tentative step into the water. Now until that point, the only time I had ever put my foot in water was when my mother would draw me a lovely warm bath. But this lake was cold. And to my three-year-old little foot, it was as if I had placed in a lake of... sharp icy daggers.

I screamed. I turned back and ran to my father crying. “Oh daddy! It’s so cold. I can’t” My father just glared back at me. When he heard me say “I can’t,” he heard weakness. My father hated weakness.

And he raised up his hand, and he said -”

*(Dale suddenly, almost demonically, becomes her father)*

“You git in that warter, Deelee! You git in that warter! You know you like it.”

I cried uncontrollably.

## LULIE MONOLOGUE

**Lulie.** *(to the audience)* Hello fellow Widows!

*(The audience responds. But not up to Lulie’s standards. She proceeds, addressing the “Current Members” in the audience and the officers on stage)*

Sisters, let’s give them our customary welcome. When we say, “Hello fellow widows!” I want to hear you shout at the top of your lungs, “Hello, Sister!” Now let me hear it with pride!

HELLO! FELLOW. WIDOWS!!

*(The officers and the audience all cheer their response.)*

Can you believe it is that time of year again? The tasting of the first quiche! I don’t think I need to re-iterate the importance of the EGG to me and my life. All of our lives. As I explained in the forward of my best-selling textbook “Women Can Yes: the History of the Egg,” the egg is as close to the Lord Jesus as a piece of food can get. So pure, so perfectly shaped, so delicious. I remember the first time I ate quiche. I was so young. Sprightly. Naive. And that first bite. I didn’t think I’d ever find others who enjoyed quiche as I did. And then I found you all. My sisters. My fellow widows. And I for one cannot wait for you all to try this year’s Prize Quiche.

**Ginny** Well, we have [NUMBER OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS ATTENDING] sisters here in attendance today, and all but one submitted a quiche.

**Dale** Who wouldn't submit a quiche?

*(Vern has spotted someone in the audience.)*

**Vern** Looks like there's someone here who's too ashamed to let the light of day see her quiche ever again. Isn't that right, Marjorie?

*(The sisters gasp.)*

**Wren** *(trying to be polite)* Oh my. Marjorie. I didn't see you. Out there with all the other widows.

**Dale** Yeah, Marjorie. We're used to seeing you up here with the other officers.

**Ginny** *(She remembers the stories.)* Oh... Marjorie.

**Vern** That's right. The Marjorie.

**Wren** Now, now, sisters. We can all discuss Marjorie's fall from grace immediately after the meeting.

**Vern** Let's do that by the way. Immediately after the meeting. Let's get that on the agenda. Ginny!

**Ginny** *(pulling out a small notepad)* I have made note of it as an Action Item.

**Dale** [Oh! An action item!]

**Wren** Oh sisters! The anticipation is so incredible!

**Ginny** I'm so excited for my first quiche breakfast!

**Wren** Yes! And welcome to you Ginny! We're all so fortunate to be together like this today. Not that I have to tell you that. This is such an important day to all of us, of course.

**Vern** Amen sister!

**Wren** It makes you appreciate how brave our dear founder, Lady Ulrika Monmont was. To live alone in the woods all those years, amongst the creatures and birds and berries... until the day when she came across that colony of chickens. The chickens who would produce the backbone of this sisterhood.

**Wren** The egg!

**Ginny** The egg!

**Dale** Oh! That reminds me... I have a surprise for everyone.

*(Dale mischievously smiles and heads towards the exit.)*

**Ginny** Now Dale, you must hurry. Lulie is almost ready.

**Dale** I'll be really quick! *(handing her camera to **Ginny**)* If anyone strikes anything resembling a pose-

**Ginny** Absolutely. I won't let you down.

*(Dale goes to the exit but quickly turns around in a "pose," testing **Ginny**. **Ginny** is immediately ready for it and clicks.)*

**Ginny** You were testing me...

**Dale** I was testing you.

**Ginny** *(with pride)* You were testing me!

**Dale** Guilty!

**Wren** Ginny, I have a new agenda item that I'd like to add to the agenda for today!

**Ginny** The agenda is almost / filled, Wren

**Wren** Thank you! This is important! While I was walking here this morning - it struck me: we need more public spaces to share! We have a park. And it's beautiful. But we need more! So I would like to propose - for the very first time - ...that we build and then donate a ranger station!

**Vern** Wren, we've been over this. There's no use for a Ranger Station. Because there are no rangers in this town.

**Wren** Oh, I don't think that's truuuuue! I think that if we build the station, the rangers will come to it! And it could be right in the center of town. I know the perfect place for it! Right in the center! And if there is ever an emergency, I'll just pull out the ol' phone tree, call everyone up and say, "Yoodle-oo! Meet me at the Rangers Station!" and you would know what I was talking about! Oh, and I could keep an eye out for any kind of Soviet invasion -

**Vern** Woah, whoa, whoa. In the event of a Communist attack - there's a much safer place to go than a Rangers Station.

**Wren** Where are you suggesting?

**Vern** Well, Wren. I'm suggesting you're standing in it.

**Wren** In what?

**Vern** Only the safest place in America Today. You see, Wren, as buildings and grounds chairman, this facility is under the care of my person, which means, by extension, you are all under my person, and while anyone is under my person... Ginny!

**Ginny** Yes?

**Vern** I expect to be obeyed.

**Ginny** (*trying to not succumb to this...*) I've... made note of it.

**Vern** Give 'em the tour, Ginny.

**Ginny** Well I did have this later on the agenda, but I suppose we can break from procedure for this one matter

**Vern** That's right

**Ginny** [Widows, as you probably know when Vern -]

**Vern** Ginny (*She leans in a bit.*) Like I asked you to do it.

**Ginny** [Vern, I feel silly - ]

**Vern** (*the final word*) Ginny.

(*Ginny stands at attention like she is reading a Royal Proclamation.*)

**Ginny** (*in a VERY British accent*) Upon the impeachment of the previous Buildings and Ground Chairman... Marjorie

(*They all turn and glare once more at Marjorie.*)

One Veronica Schultz was elected to the post and tasked with renovating this community Center. Under her direction, this facility was outfitted with a top-of-the-line security system.

**Wren** That's right! Sisters! We should be thankful for Vern's preparedness. Because of her, we are alive!

**Ginny** Yes. I suppose you're right.

**Wren** And personally, I think that if I am to survive something like this, I can't imagine anyone better to survive it with. My sisters.

**Lulie** That's the ticket Wren! Let's all be thankful that we are going through this together. Holding onto our dearest friends. And might I just say fellow widows, I'm so very proud of how everyone is taking this news. End of the world and all.

**Dale** So what do we do now?

**Lulie** Vern, why don't you tell the sisters about the provisions you've made for us in here and then we can continue with the meeting! No need to let this spoil the day.

**Vern** Sure thing, Lulie. Now, we won't be able to safely emerge from here for another four years. Good thing I have enough dried food back there to last [NUMBER OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS ATTENDING, MINUS ONE] of the sisters here for exactly 208 weeks. If we ration properly, we should just make it.

**Ginny** Um... actually, if I may we have [CORRECT NUMBER OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS ATTENDING] here at the meeting today.

**Lulie** Right. So someone needs to be killed.

**Ginny** What?

**Lulie** At some point.

**Ginny** What are you saying?

**Lulie** Soon.

**Ginny** Is no one hearing this?

**Dale** Ginny, Lulie's the president. She's our decision-maker. Don't be such a dip.

**Vern** We aren't gonna kill anyone important. It will probably be somebody - *(She motions her head towards Marjorie. The lesbians consider this.)*