

ELLIE

A Dramatic Monologue

by
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(Director's note: This selection is appropriate for a most accomplished actor. It entails the running of several emotions and the projection, usually, of taking on the role of an elderly man.)

INTRODUCTION: The evening before his wife's funeral, Paul, an elderly man, has a final few moments with his companion of more than sixty years. He approaches and stands before the casket.

Eleanor....Ellie....Ellie....it wasn't supposed to be this way. I was supposed to go before you....Men always do it seems. I always said you'd be able to hook up with the other "happy widows" going to card parties and such. But, darn it, here I am alone. But I guess you didn't have much to do about that and I won't fault you for it.

I wish you'd tell me what I'm supposed to do now. Our trip together is over all of a sudden....You always said we traveled together through all our years. You were always the one who plotted the way. If you could just send me a message....

Do I sell the place? I won't go live with or near the kids. I don't plan to ever have to go to one of them nursing homes....smelly places. Too many of our friends ended up there. No, I won't go until they drag me at least.

I don't suppose the house will fall apart if I try to keep it up. We've saved enough so that I can get some help in....Maybe a "looker" for a housekeeper....Just kiddin', Ellie. Only you belong here....only you'll ever be here....

Havin' enough to go on was your doin', Ellie. You're the brains of financial matters. Startin' with counting egg money up to our annuities and other money matters. Yes, Ma'am, you did the brain work....I just followed those mules and eventually pushed tractors....Thanks to you.

Ellie, remember how we started? They said we were too young....All of them said that. Our folks.... Even the school principal....What with the depression and all, I guess we didn't show much promise.

But we were in love. And we waited, Ellie, and that first night, as you held me, you said, "We'll show them." It took over thirty years for someone to write "our song." (Lightly sing) "They tried to tell us we're too young....Too young to really be in...."

But as you said....We "showed 'em," Ellie. All we've gathered. The farm, the house the kids, gone now and doin' okay. All of 'em through the university. And the grandkids....I like to think the little girls are reflections of you, Ellie.

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---