NEW MONOLOGUES FOR WOMEN BY WOMEN II

EDITED BY TORI HARING-SMITH & LIZ ENGELMAN

HEINEMANN
Portsmouth, NH
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Introduction

London. Paris. New Zealand. Vancouver. Miami. San Francisco. Austin. Look like the cities on a Tiffany’s window, but they’re not. They are only a sampling of the cities where women writers have had their words spoken and heard. This volume of monologues by women features artists from coast to coast, continent to continent—and will especially make you want to spend a good deal of time in Texas, from where many of these voices seem to hail.

Not only do these writers come from everywhere, they come at writing from every angle. As you read through this volume, pay as much attention to the biographies of the writers as to their words. Their bios prove that one can hold many jobs in life, have a variety of occupations and hobbies, and still be a writer. Take monologist Molly Rice, for example, who has alternately been a rock musician, a fry cook, a professional trainer, a cancer information specialist, and a hotel lounge promoter. Or Freyda Thomas, who not only translates and adapts Molière and Regnard, but has also been a cruiseship chanteuse (entertaining audiences from New York to Bora Bora), a high school French teacher, a banjo bandleader, a realtor, an office manager, a dog walker, and a nanny. What better training is there for a writer? Or, for that matter, for an actor? We can think of none. Women wearing the hats of short-story writers, performers, novelists, educators, producers, journalists, screenwriters, and visual artists have contributed their words, humor, pain, and passions to this volume. Expressing these words on the page isn’t necessarily easy, but these women prove that it is possible.

Now you have the chance to express their words, passions, and pain on the stage, which is equally difficult, and equally possible. Not everyone is an actor, but many people can act. And here’s your chance. If you aren’t tempted yet, how’s this:
Skim through this volume and you will find delicious experiences with: husbands-to-be, husbands disappeared, and the ex-husband in trailer #6. Revenge fantasies of a not-so-happy Happy Housekeeper. Sex fantasies with none other than the pizza guy. Shopping for shoes. Women missing men. Women wanting men. Women giving men up. Women not giving a hoot. Daughters with fathers, daughters without. Who do you want to be? And if your appetite isn't whetted yet, read on and find out why hay is an emotional crop, why special gifts often cause the biggest problems, and what thoughts just one wasp can inspire. And, of course, ponder the joys of water ballet... There is something here for everyone. What’s in it for you?

As these writers illustrate, stories come from all walks of life. They come out of the least expected places, as well as the obvious. Big ideas grow out of little moments, and small revelations emerge from big events. Everyone has a story to tell, something to express, something they feel. Tiffany's window or not, these gems are indeed forever. They are universal in their specificity, they shine in your hands. They live on through you, because through you, they get told. The monologues collected in this edition are the best of the best. And there are more to come. Perform one now, write one later. Hopefully, it's for the next volume!!

—Liz Engelman, Tori Haring-Smith
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