

CHARACTERS

TRUVY JONES, owner of the beauty shop; 40ish

ANNELLE DUPUY-DESOTO, beauty shop assistant; 19

CLAIREE BELCHER, widow of former mayor, grande dame; 66ish

SHELBY EATENTON-LATCHERIE, prettiest girl in town; 25

M'LYNN EATENTON, Shelby's mother, socially prominent career woman; 50ish

OUISER (pronounced "Weezer") **BOUDREAUX**, wealthy curmudgeon, acerbic but lovable; 66ish

Note: The women in this play are witty, intelligent, and above all, real characters. They in no way, shape or form are meant to be portrayed as cartoons or caricatures.

SHELBY Uh... I can't Friday night. I'm sorry. What's the occasion?

CLAIREE This is going to sound a little silly, but we're coming up to go to the Little Theatre. We have tickets to a play.

TRUVY I didn't know you went to see anything that didn't have a goalpost at either end.

CLAIREE Up to now, I haven't. But Sis and I decided at bridge one day that we needed to keep up. We wanted to expose ourselves to a little more culture. And that's not easy to come by in this neck of the woods.

TRUVY Exactly what are you "exposing" yourself to?

CLAIREE I don't know. Something. The last thing we saw there was pretty good. It was Shakespeare. I was a little apprehensive at first, but you know what? When you get right down to it...he writes pretty straightforward stuff. I have to admit when they hide behind curtains and put little masks over their faces to fool people...that got kind of silly. Sis fell for it, but I didn't.

OUISER Sis Orelle is so dumb. She thinks Sherlock Holmes is a subdivision.

CLAIREE Anyway. Sis and I like it so much, we're planning a theatre trip to New York.

TRUVY New York?! Oh, Clairee. I'm green with envy. Promise me you'll go to the first floor of Bloomingdales and come back and tell me everything. *Woman's Day* says it's impossible to walk through there and not get made up.

CLAIREE We're just talking. I'm scared to death of getting on a plane.

TRUVY It's a piece of cake. You're safer flying than you are in a car. Just sit in the rear. That's the best place to survive the crash.

SHELBY Miss Ouiser. Why don't you go to Monroe with Miss Clairee?

OUISER I am not exposing myself to anything.

CLAIREE You should broaden your horizons.

OUISER You broaden your horizons your way. I'll broaden my horizons mine. I have plans next Friday. I'm going to Shreveport to have my colours done.

CLAIREE Your what?

OUISER I'm going to get my colours done. I'm going to find out if I'm a summer or spring or fall or winter. It's a present from Owen.

CLAIREE What are you talking about?

OUISER Every person has a particular colouring...summer, spring, so on. You determine what season you are, then you know what colours look best on you. Then you're given samples of the colours that are in your palette. It's most helpful when you shop for clothes. It gives you fashion courage.

CLAIREE That is the stupidest thing I have ever heard of.

OUISER It's all the rage.

SHELBY A lot of my friends in Monroe have had it done.

TRUVY There's a quiz on that very topic in that *Family Circle* right over there. I am the epitome of winter.

OUISER Why don't you have it done, Shelby? You're so fashion conscious.

SHELBY No. I'm scared to. I might find out that pink is not in my palette and I'm not sure I could live with that.

CLAIREE I have heard it all. Well, I am going to the theatre. I am going to support the arts in our area.

OUISER I'll write a cheque. I will support art. I just don't want to see it.

CLAIREE It wouldn't harelip you, you know.

OUISER Let's get one thing straight. I don't see plays because I can nap at home for free. I don't see movies because they're all trash and full of naked people. And I don't read books because if they're any good, they'll be made into a miniseries.

SHELBY I'm surprised you and Daddy don't get along any better than you do. Miss Ouiser? How're things with Owen? I try to check up on you, but I haven't been able to lately.

OUISER They're all right. I enjoy his company...on occasion.

CLAIREE I can report that the Sherwood Florist delivery truck stops by her house at least twice a week.

OUISER He knows I like fresh flowers.

CLAIREE And I can report that a strange car is parked in her garage at least once a week.

OUISER There. My secret's out. I'm having an affair with a Mercedes Benz.

TRUVY Ouiser. Forgive me. I have been dying to ask this. Are you and Owen...you know?

CLAIREE Wait, wait wait! I have to get a mental picture of this.

OUISER A dirty mind is a terrible thing to waste. Not that it's any of anyone's business, but no. We are friends. He would like more. I'm dealing with that. But I am old and set in my ways.

SHELBY You are playing hard to get.

CLAIREE At her age she should be playing "Beat the Clock". She's just like her old dog...both have trouble with their new tricks.

TRUVY Ah! No talking trash in my shop!

OUISER I can't help it if men find me desirable.

TRUVY Shelby? When are you going to bring that baby of yours by?

SHELBY Oh! I brought a picture of him. Let me show you!