

Steel Magnolias Audition Monologues

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE TO MEMORIZE FOR AUDITION

TRUVY (talking to Annelle about the local gossip. She obviously knows it all)

I have a strict philosophy that I have stuck to for fifteen years... "There's no such thing as natural beauty". Remember that, or we're out of a job. You must live close by. Within walking distance, I mean. I didn't see a car. You live over at Robeline's, right? Ruth Robeline, now there's a story. She's a twisted, troubled soul. Her life's been an experiment in terror. Husband killed in Vietnam. I have to tell you, when it comes to suffering, she's right up there with Elizabeth Taylor.

ANNELLE (talking to M'lynn about Shelby's death)

I think in Shelby's case, she wanted to take care of that baby, of you, of everybody she knew... and her poor body was just worn out. It wouldn't let her do everything she wanted to do. So she went to on to a place where she could be a guardian angel. She will always be young. She will always be beautiful. And I personally feel much safer knowing she's up there on my side. I know some people might think that sounds real simple and stupid... and maybe I am. But that's how I get through things like this.

ANNELLE: (Telling the women about her past)

Everything is horrible. Bunkie . . . that's my husband. He left. We only moved here a month ago. He just vanished last week. Nobody knows where he went. He took all the money, my jewelry, the car. Most of my clothes were in the trunk. He's in big trouble with the law. Drugs or something. He never paid the rent so I got thrown out of our house and had to move in at crazy old Mrs. Robelines. The police even said my marriage . . . my marriage . . . may not be legal . . . And I was scared to say something. I need a job in the worst way and I didn't know if you'd hire someone who may or may not be married to someone who might be a dangerous criminal. But I swear to you that my personal tragedy will not interfere with my ability to do good hair.

CLAIREE (Telling everyone about her gay nephew)

I'm such a nosy old thing. I asked him how he...met people. 'Cause in my day you could tell by a man's carriage and demeanor by which side his bread was buttered on. But today? In this day and age? Who knows? I asked Marshall, "How can you tell?" and he says "All gay men have track lightin'. And all gay men are named Mark, Rick, or Steve." (laughs) He is such a nut...track lightin' (laughs).

CLAIREE: (Telling Shelby about her marriage)

Lloyd and I missed it to fifty years by three months. That stinker. Bless his heart. He tried. He just couldn't make it. I remember everything about our wedding. The flowers, the food. Ouiser was my maid of honor. Shelby, I hope you and Jackson will be as happy as Lloyd and I were. We had such a good time. Until last November . . . at least he hung on through the state playoffs. I miss the whirlwind of being a mayor's wife. It's not easy being just one. I don't like going to things by myself. If I go with another couple, I'm a third wheel. If I go with a friend, we're just a couple of old biddies. I know I should try to find something to occupy my time. And I really do love football. But it's hard to parlay that into a reason to live.

SHELBY (Talking to her mom about her pregnancy and her possible health problems)

Mama. I don't know why you have to make everything so difficult. I look at having this baby as the opportunity of a lifetime. Sure, there may be some risk involved. That's true for anybody. But you get through it and life goes on. And when it's all said and done there'll be a piece of immortality with Jackson's looks and my sense of style...I hope. Mama, please. I need your support. I would rather have thirty minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special.

M'LYNN (talking, through tears, about the last minutes with Shelby)

I stayed there. I kept on pushing...just like I always have where Shelby was concerned...hoping she'd sit up and argue with me. But finally we all realized there was no hope. At that point I panicked. I was afraid that I wouldn't survive the next few minutes while they turned off the machines. Drum couldn't take it. He left. Jackson couldn't take it. He left. It struck me as amusing. Men are supposed to be made of steel or something. But I couldn't leave. I just sat there holding Shelby's hand while the sounds got softer and the beeps got farther apart until all was quiet. There was no noise, no tremble. Just peace. I realized as a woman how lucky I was. I was there when this wonderful person drifted into this world, and I was there when she drifted out. It was the most precious moment of my life so far.

M'LYNN: (Explaining why she's giving Shelby her kidney)

I'm just so relieved it was me. The boys are young. I never want them to go through it. And who would want one of Drum's mean old organs? But! The best thing about all this is that with all the tests and stuff, I have discovered I have the constitution of someone ten years younger. How about that? I'm happy. Look at the opportunity I have. Most mothers only get the chance to give their child life once. I get a chance to do it twice. I think it's neat. And Shelby needs her health to chase after that rambunctious kid of hers. I've got two kidneys and I only need one. I'm just glad we can get it over with before it gets too hot.

OUISER (Arguing with Clairee over going out to get cultured in New York)

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 mini-series. And as far as Owen is concerned, Clairee, a dirty mind is a terrible thing to waste. We are friends. He would like more. I'm dealing with that. But I am old and set in my ways. Besides, I can't help that men find me desirable.

OUISER: (To the women about her feud with M'Lynn's husband)

It's not your fault, M'Lynn. I used to think that you were crazy for marrying that man. Then I thought for years that you were just a glutton for punishment. Now I realize that you must be on some mission from God. I have not slept in days. I look like a dog's dinner. However, when I got up this morning, I decided I would try to rise above it. Whatever that man has done, I would overlook it in honor of your wedding day, Shelby. I thought I would make myself a little presentable and fix up the house in case somebody wanted to drop in . . . it being a big day in the neighborhood and all. So I go out to cut some fresh flowers for the living room. I go down to my magnolia tree and there is not a bloom on it!