

## **Steel Magnolias**

### **M'Lynn Audition Monologue #2**

(Regarding SHELBY's recent death:)

Shelby, as you know, would not want us to get all mired down and wallow in this. She would look on it as just one of life's occurrences. We should deal with it the best way we know how ... and get on with it. That's what my mind says. I wish somebody would explain that to my heart ... I couldn't leave my Shelby. It's interesting. Both the boys were very difficult births. I almost died when Jonathan was born. Very difficult births. Shelby was a breeze. I could've gone home that afternoon I had her. I was thinking about that as I sat next to Shelby while she was in a coma. I would work her legs and arms to keep the circulation going. I told the ICU nurse we were doing our Jane Fonda. 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 very afraid that I would not 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 could not leave. I just sat there ... holding Shelby's hand while the sounds got softer and the beeps got further 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 my world and I was there when she drifted out. It was the most precious moment of my life thus far.