

a beat**by**beat book

FANTASY MONOLOGUES FOR YOUNG ACTORS



Douglas M. Parker

*For my brother and sister
who chose reality for themselves
and left all the fantasy to me.*

Published by Beat by Beat Press
www.bbbpress.com
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INTRODUCTION

What is a fantasy monologue? All acting, of course, is fantasy to some extent. The situations and characters portrayed in a play or monologue – even if they’re based on real events or people – are not, in fact, those events or people. But even so, most plays and monologues are not considered to be fantasy.

Situations and characters that are based on fictional events or people bring us one step closer to fantasy, but even so, most fiction-based plays and monologues have still not achieved the right to be called fantasy.

Quite simply, fantasy requires a “fantastic” situation or character – one that does not exist in the real world. In this book, you’ll find monologues for vampires, time travelers, talking animals, characters with unusual powers, kids who live on Mars, and people who simply live in or imagine fantasy worlds of their own creation. Their monologues are Fantasy Monologues because the entire premise is based on fantasy.

WHO IS THIS BOOK FOR?

For the most part, the monologues in this book were created for actors and acting students aged 7-14, as well as for the teachers, directors and acting coaches who work with them. As you look over the possibilities, you’ll notice that some of the selections may work better for actors toward the lower end of that age range, while others may work better for actors toward the upper end. Simply choose for yourself or your students the pieces that seem to be the best fit and that offer the best learning, acting or audition possibilities. As you look over the book, feel free to explore at random, as the monologues are presented in no particular order.

A QUICK WORD FOR ACTORS

Every monologue was written to work equally well for male and female actors, which means that any monologue in this book could be right for you. Simply choose whichever pieces appeal to you the most, or allow you to explore particular emotions, situations or acting challenges.

Although some minimal stage directions are given above some of the monologues (or in the text of the monologue itself), feel free to follow or ignore any suggestions made. Quite simply, every monologue is here for you to act, interpret or modify in any way that works best for you. If it helps you to change a word, a name or an action, go ahead and do it. The monologues are merely the canvas, you're the artist.

Finally, as you look over the monologues in this book, always keep in mind that, despite the fact that each character lives in a fantasy universe, they are all still us. Their emotions are the same emotions we have here in the real world. Their desires and needs are just as real to them as yours are to you. Your job is to find the "real" inside the fantasy. Once you do that, you will always be able to bring each character and each moment to life.

PAIL OF WATER

(Your character is either Jack or Jill from the well-known nursery rhyme.)

You make one mistake and people never forget it. Seriously. I mean, yeah, Jack [or Jill] and me went up the hill to fetch a pail of water. And, yes, one of us fell down and broke his crown and yeah, yeah, the other one came tumbling after. And no – we did not bring back any water. We did not succeed in our mission. And, if I was to be totally honest, we also lost the bucket. But come on. It wasn't like we went up the hill to save the planet from an alien invasion. There wasn't a baby up there up there about to be eaten by a bear. It was *water*. We fell down. We didn't come back with a pail of water. Someone else got up out of their chair, got a bucket, climbed up the hill and fetched a pail of water. Big deal. Life will go on. And just to set the record straight, I am perfectly capable of fetching water. I personally have fetched hundreds of pails of water, both before that incident and after. So has Jack [or Jill]. It was *one time*. Sheesh. Maybe it's time we all moved on.

FLYING

There's a scene in Peter Pan where Peter teaches the kids to fly. And the way he does it is, he tells them to think their happiest thoughts. And they do it, and they just start flying. I mean, it tells you right in the book how to do it! So I thought – if they can fly, I bet I can too. So I just started thinking about all the things that made me the happiest. Like the day we picked up my new dog, Rex, from the kennel. And the day I beat my dad at chess – which is also known in my house as the day my dad let me beat him at chess. Or the time my sister gave me a birthday present, when it wasn't even my birthday. Or when my mom says she loves me. And by the time I was finished, even though I was still lying in my bed, I was flying so high I thought I'd never touch the ground again. And I could look down and see everyone and everything in my life and they were all looking up and smiling and waving back at me . . . I don't know if there really is a Peter Pan or an island filled with lost boys and pirates and Indians, but it doesn't matter. Because I know one thing for sure . . . I know how to fly.

ADVENTURE

(Your character is giving a report to the class, using a remote control to change the photos that are being projected onto a screen behind you.)

OK, so this summer I took a trip to South America with my mom, my little brother Jackson and my dad. My dad is an anthropologist. That's from the Greek word *anthro* meaning mankind and *pologist* from the Greek word for apologize – I think. So basically, my dad goes all over the world figuring out why mankind does the things it does and then apologizing for it. This trip, we went to South America, to figure out why the remote Indian tribes there do whatever it is that they do.

(Click the remote to project a photo on the screen behind you.)

This is a picture of us getting off the boat.

(Click the remote to change the photo on the screen behind you.)

This is a picture of me and my family with our guide Pablo.

(Click the remote to change the photo.)

This is Pablo getting captured by the Jaguar Tribe, way up in the Amazon rainforest.

(Click the remote.)

This is my mom, dad and Jackson getting captured.

(Click the remote.)

This is a selfie of me hiding behind a tree.

(Click the remote.)

This is a picture of me saving the daughter of the chief of this other tribe called the Monkey People from drowning. It's actually pretty funny because I didn't know that I was saving her from drowning. I actually thought she was just this huge fish, and I was really hungry.

(Click the remote.)

This is a picture of me being made the new chief of the Monkey People.

(Click the remote.)

Now here I am discovering a gold mine.

(Click the remote.)

And this one's a diamond mine.

(Click the remote.)

And this one's a plutonium mine. As it turns out, there are actually a lot of mines in the Amazon rainforest that no one knew about. And they're super easy to find!

(Click the remote.)

This is me using the money I got from the mines to build a bunch of schools and libraries and stuff for the Monkey People.

(Click the remote.)

This is me meeting the president of United States.

(Click the remote.)

And the president of Russia.

(Click the remote.)

President of Brazil.

(Click the remote.)

The pope.

(Click the remote.)

Movie star.

(Click the remote.)

Movie star.

(Click the remote.)

Rock star.

(Click the remote.)

Another president.

(Click the remote.)

Movie star.

(Click the remote.)

Billionaire.

(Click the remote.)

And here I am saving my mom, dad, Jackson and Pablo from their captivity with the Jaguar Tribe. Sorry mom. Sorry dad. Sorry Jackson and Pablo. I didn't know where you were until then.

(Click the remote.)

And here we are getting back on the ship.

(Click the remote.)

And this is the most amazing ice cream buffet ever that they had on the ship. You could totally eat as much as you wanted and then go back for even more.

(Click the remote.)

And here we are getting off the ship.

(Click the remote.)

And here we are in front of my house.

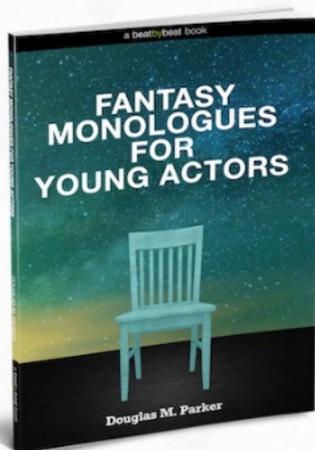
(Click the remote.)

And this is my hamster, Toby. Overall, it was a pretty cool summer and I can't wait to find out what part of mankind we visit next year and apologize for.

ONE DAY

The less there is of something, the more precious it is. Olive trees can live for two thousand years. Giant tortoises for a hundred and fifty. And us mayflies? Twenty-four hours. How amazing is that? A whole life in a single day. You're born at five in the morning, just as the sun starts to color the sky. You get *one* sunrise, but it's a moment that lasts almost forever, casting a golden light across your entire childhood. You leave home at six a.m., then spend hours just exploring the world. And you can fly! Think of it – unlimited freedom in a world where every moment is a day and every perfect minute lasts a month. Years of morning light and summer breezes in a single hour. By eight or nine, you've made friendships that will last a lifetime. A passing cloud changes the face of the world. And always, there's more to see, more to do, more to live as you fly high above the water. By three you've fallen in love, and by four you have a family. Soon the sun, which has been with you always, begins to set. That soft, half-forgotten golden light of your childhood returns. Your own children fly away and newer, smaller suns appear as the night surrounds you. And always, so much left to see. So much left to do. For the first time in your life, the air goes still. The moon rises and explodes with a cool, white light. And still, so many hours – so much life – is left. Who knows what strange, new things could happen next? With so much time. So much life. So many possibilities. All in a single day.

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