



MONOLOGUES

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Who Put Bella in the Wych Elm? by Katherine Vondy

Professor Webster is a forensic pathologist in 1943 with a very high opinion of himself. In previous scenes, he demonstrates both a weak stomach for the work of actually examining a body and a lack of curiosity about the lives of the dead people he investigates (especially women). Yet now he is receiving a prestigious award, because of COURSE he is.

PROFESSOR WEBSTER

I am pleased to accept this award for distinguished service in the field of forensic pathology. I shall value it equally with my other awards for distinguished service in the field of forensic pathology. I have many. Forensic science is a magical thing. Magical and disgusting. I cannot tell you the number of times I have been overwhelmed by the sheer horror of it all, yet still I persevered. Because that is what life is about. Or, in the instance of forensic pathology, what death is about. One will never win awards if one does not persevere through the grotesque and the macabre. That is a Truth and I advise you all to make note of it. *(Pause.)* Have you noted it? I shall give you several more seconds to complete the note. *(Pause.)* Very good. As I was saying, throughout my career I have persevered in my relentless pursuit for answers. To what questions? To many questions. Here are some of them. What was the time of death? What was the cause of death? What made that puncture wound in the sternum? Where did the kidneys go? These and more are all questions I have answered. And sure enough, my peers and my subordinates have recognized all the questions I have answered, and now I have this new award, which is very nice. At this time I will be happy to answer questions from the audience.

WHO PUT BELLA IN THE WYCH ELM? by Katherine Vondy

Length: 80-90 minutes

Cast Size: 9-25 actors (14 any) **Genre:** Drama

Synopsis: While wandering Worcester, England in 1943, a teenage boy happened upon the skeleton of an unidentified woman inside the trunk of a large tree. An investigation commenced to determine who the woman was and how she died, but it raised more questions than it answered. Was she a spy? Was she a prostitute? Had she been part of an occult ritual? Theories abounded, but no definitive answers emerged. Then graffiti began to appear around town, asking a question that remains unanswered to this day... *Who Put Bella In The Wych Elm?* uses the historical mystery to explore the ways in which society imposes identities on women, and ultimately ask how much it's possible to truly know another person.