



MONOLOGUES

This monologue is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at yourstagepartners.com.

Spoon River adapted by Jason Pizzarello

(REUBEN PANTIER steps forward from his grave. Early 20s, good looking, charming.)

REUBEN PANTIER

I was Reuben Pantier.

(He looks at Emily then back out.)

Well, Emily Sparks, your prayers were not wasted,
Your love was not all in vain.

I owe whatever I was in life
To your hope that would not give up on me,
To your love that saw me still as good.
You were the only one.

Oh, Emily.

Let me tell you the story.

I'll skip the part of my father and mother—

Everyone's seems to know it.

After that when school was finished...

How do I say this?

The milliner's daughter, Dora, made me trouble.

And so I went out in to the world,
Where I passed through every peril known
Of wine and women and joy of life.

One night, in a room in the Rue de Rivoli,
I was drinking wine with a black-eyed lady,
And suddenly tears swam into my eyes.

She thought they were amorous tears and smiled
For thought of her conquest over me.
But my soul was three thousand miles away,
In the days when you taught me in Spoon River.



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And because you couldn't love me from afar,
Nor pray for me, nor write me letters,
The eternal silence of you spoke instead.
And the black-eyed lady took the tears for hers,
As well as the deceiving kisses I gave her.

But somehow
Somehow, in that hour, I had a new vision—
Of you.
Oh, Emily Sparks!

(REUBEN, pleased with himself, returns to his grave.)

SPOON RIVER adapted by Jason Pizzarello

Length: 75-90 minutes. (A one-act version of this play is also available.)

Cast Size: 8-50 actors (suggested casting: 17F, 23M)

Genre: Drama

Synopsis: Former citizens of a mythical Midwestern town speak from the grave of the day-to-day hopes and dreams of their lives. Touching, anguished, and contemptuous, their voices and stories weave together in this fresh new take on a modern American classic. You won't forget what you've heard from these distinctively small-town folk as they evoke universal themes of hope, despair, and love.