

***STAR ACTING* at ESPA**
MONOLOGUES FOR WOMEN
by Charles Busch

DIE MOMMIE DIE, EDITH, page 54 Samuel French

1960's Beverly Hills. Edith is the daughter of movie producer Sol Sussman and his songstress wife, Angela Arden. When her beloved father dies, Edith has to convince her troubled brother, Lance, that their mother killed their father.

EDITH

Our mother murdered our father. She poisoned him. Many rich old men who die of heart attacks were really the victims of arsenic poisoning. The results are remarkably similar. What if Mother was clever and found another way to slip him the arsenic. A method devised to bypass the digestive track. The night Daddy died, he was complaining of constipation. A doctor prescribed a powerful suppository. Suppose Mother found a way of tampering with the laxative. Lance, you're Sol Sussman's only son. The heir to his great name. It's up to you to avenge his death. I'll stand by you. I know I haven't always been a good sister. I've teased you, shaved your head, tried to blind you. But I was young and immature. I've done a lot of growing up in the last forty-eight hours. Lance, we share the same blood. The blood of Sussman. The Sussman tradition of film making. Sol Sussman's death must be avenged! Lance, kill mother! Stab her, shoot her, strangle her. Be creative. But do it soon! Your head is pounding, isn't it? Sometimes it feels like you've got an atom bomb inside your skull that's ready to go "pow!" Daddy told me it was the drugs, the pill popping Mother did during her pregnancy that made you the way you are. Daddy showed me the doctor's report. It's locked in his safe deposit box. I can get it for you, if you like. It's all becoming clear to you, isn't it? All your sad little life, you've felt different because you were different. Something was wrong with your brain. It made you a little slow. Made it hard for you to understand things. You've always been a big fat failure but don't you see, it's not your fault at all. It's hers. Because Mother was so selfish and evil that she wouldn't give up her precious sleeping pills. She destroyed you! She turned your brains into mush! Into creamed spinach!