

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

RED SCARE ON SUNSET, FRANK, page 82 Samuel French, page 252 CB anthology

1950's Hollywood. Frank Taggart, a brooding leading man, is married to the All American star Mary Dale. Her career soared and his is in the doldrums. He was hoodwinked into joining the Communist party. They blackmailed him into murdering his wife. He couldn't go through with it. In despair, Mary tried to take her own life. At her hospital bedside, Frank seeks redemption.

FRANK

My darling. You're alive. You've come back. You tried to kill yourself and it was all my fault. There's so much to explain. But how can I ever make you understand. You, who are so good, so pure. The Communist party found out I'd accidentally killed my childhood friend. They threatened to expose me unless I... unless I murdered you. It was as if they hypnotized me. I should have killed myself. I can never atone for what I did to you. I've given up drinking. Last night, I poured all the booze down the sink. It wasn't that long ago when I asked for your forgiveness and told you I prayed for redemption. That was a lie. This time, let me pray before you. Let me kiss your bible. Lord, please help me. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. *(To Mary)* My beautiful one.