

I Cried A River Over You

By Ellen Jurik, 2006

*A play in One Act
Running for 10-15 minutes
For five actors- three male, two female.*

Characters:

Scarlet Washington	<i>female</i>	A scorned young woman hell-bent on revenge.
Sam Monroe	<i>male</i>	A private top private investigator.
John “Johnny” Wells	<i>male</i>	Scarlet’s ex-lover.
Lola La Rosa	<i>female</i>	A floozy, dating Johnny.
Joey the Waiter	<i>male</i>	An Italian waiter.

Set in middle class “America,” in the 1940’s.

Scene 1

Location: Sam Monroe's upstairs office. Morning.

Scarlet Washington is sitting on a desk. She is voluptuous and sexy: curvy figure, full, wavy hair, and sensuous red lips. She is filing her nails and obviously waiting for someone.

Sam Monroe walks in. He is obviously some kind of private investigator. As he takes off his coat and hat and places them on a hatstand by the door, the girl puts away her nail file and stands up. The man turns around and sees her.

SCARLET: Mr Monroe?

MONROE: Oh... hello. Can I help you, Miss...?

SCARLET: Scarlet Washington. But please, call me Scarlet.

MONROE: Miss Scarlet.

SCARLET: Why yes. You see, I have a problem.

MONROE: A problem.

SCARLET: Yes, a problem. I used to love a man.

MONROE: It is no crime to love a man, Miss Scarlet.

SCARLET: Well, I don't love him anymore.

MONROE: I see. Oh... pardon, M'am. You're not married, are you?

SCARLET: Oh, no, not at all.

MONROE: Then I don't see what your problem is.

SCARLET: Well, this man... he...

MONROE: ...yes?

SCARLET: I'm sorry, do you mind if I sit down?

MONROE: Oh, no, not at all.

He pulls up a chair for her. She sits down on the desk again.

MONROE: Ah... so, tell me about this problem of yours.

SCARLET: This man, he is a very rich, very important man.

MONROE: Whom you used to love.

SCARLET: Yes.

MONROE: And whom you don't love now.

SCARLET: That's right.

MONROE: Did he love you?

SCARLET: Oh, well, he never used to. He always said that Love was below him. It was an emotional thing, and he would never be so weak as to indulge in such fancy. I used to tell him how I loved him, and he kept me on his arm until one day he refused to keep me any longer.

MONROE: I'm awfully sorry, Miss.

SCARLET: Thank you. I cried so much over that man, and just kept trying to make him love me.

MONROE: Miss Scarlet, surely you know that you can't *make* someone fall in love with you.

SCARLET: Oh, but I did.

MONROE: You did?

SCARLET: But I didn't love him anymore. He left me, I moved on, and then he comes back to me saying how he's sorry, how he loves me.

MONROE: And that did not make you go back to him?

SCARLET: No. He was the type of man who would...

MONROE: Yes?

SCARLET: I feel ashamed to say it.

MONROE: You can say anything you like, while you're in here.

SCARLET: I mean, I feel ashamed to admit being connected to such a man.

MONROE: He was a man of ill repute?

SCARLET: Something like that.

MONROE: In what way? Money, women ...drugs?

SCARLET: Oh, Mr Monroe, *please*, can we not go into it?

MONROE: I'm sorry Miss, but I'm going to have to press you.

SCARLET: You'll think poorly of me, for getting involved with a man like that.

MONROE: I assure you, I won't. You're not connected to such a man, and so long as you don't engage in any of those activities, your reputation is protected in my eyes.

SCARLET: Well...

MONROE: ...yes?

SCARLET: All of them.

MONROE: What?

SCARLET: All of them!

MONROE: ...I'm not sure I follow you.

SCARLET: He was involved in all of what you said!

MONROE: What I said...? Money, drugs and women?

SCARLET: Mm. Especially the last one.

MONROE: Good heavens! Whatever made you love him?

SCARLET: Well, he had a certain... way... about him. He could make anyone fall in love with him, and never want to leave him. No matter how terrible he acted to them.

MONROE: Oh, my dear Miss Scarlet. How can I help you?

SCARLET: I... I want you to expose him. Or kill him. Can you kill him?

MONROE: Kill him!

SCARLET: Oh, I'm sorry. What a foolish request. You see, he's just hurt me so much, and I know he's bound to have hurt many others.

MONROE: I see.

SCARLET: But... if you *did* kill him, it'd just solve so much.

MONROE: Miss Scarlet. Killing a man is a very serious matter! It is not to be taken lightly on a whim of revenge.

SCARLET: Oh, but Mr Monroe, this is not a whim.

MONROE: Oh?

SCARLET: Not at all. I've been up all night for a week, planning it. And I made sure it wouldn't even look like a murder!

MONROE: You have.

SCARLET: Yes!

MONROE: You don't look like you've been up all night for a week!

SCARLET: Oh, Mr Monroe!

MONROE: Well, what was your plan?

SCARLET: Well, I thought maybe we could go to this nice little restaurant where he often goes. Seeing me with anyone else will put him in a fit of jealousy.

Lights fade to black over Scarlet's last line.