

All My Sons Monologues: Men will do Chris' monologue. Women, you can choose between Kate and Anne.

Chris: *It's all mixed up with so many other things...You remember, I told you, overseas, I was in command of a company? Well, I lost them. Just about all. It takes a little time to toss that off. Because they weren't just men. For instance, one time it'd been raining several days and this kid came to me, and gave me his last pair of dry socks. Put them in my pocket. That's only a little thing...but...that's the kind of guys I had. They didn't die; they killed themselves for each other. I mean that exactly; a little more selfish and they'd've been here today. And I got an idea – watching them go down. Everything was being destroyed, see, but it seemed to me that one new thing was made. A kind of...responsibility. Man for man. You understand me? – To show that, to bring that on to the earth again like some kind of a monument and everyone would feel it standing there, behind him, and it would make a difference to him. (pause) And then I came home and it was incredible. I...there was no meaning in it here; the whole thing to them was a kind of a – bus accident. I went to work with Dad, and that rat-race again. I felt...what you said...ashamed somehow. Because nobody was changed at all. It seemed to make suckers out of a lot of guys. I felt wrong to be alive, to open the bank-book, to drive the new car, to see the new refrigerator. I mean you can take those things out of a war, but when you drive that car y you've got to know that it came out of the love a man can have for a man, you've got to be a little better because of that. Otherwise what you have is really loot, and there's blood on it. I didn't want to take any of it. And I guess that included you.*

KATE--(Mother)

I was fast asleep, and...(raising her arm over the audience) Remember the way he used to fly low past the house when he was in training? When we used to see his face in the cockpit going by? That's the way I saw him. Only high up. Way, way up, where the clouds are. He was so real I could reach out and touch him. And suddenly he started to fall. And crying, crying to me...Mom, Mom! I could hear him like he was in the room. Mom!...it was his voice! If I could touch him I knew I could stop him, if I could only...(breaks off, allowing her outstretched hand to fall) I woke up and it was so funny... The wind...it was like the roaring of his engine. I came out here...I must've still been half asleep. I could hear that roaring like he was going by. The tree snapped right in front of me...and I like...came awake. (She is looking at the tree. She suddenly realizes something, turns with a reprimanding finger shaking slightly at KELLER) See? We should never have planted that tree. I said so in the first place; it was too soon to plant a tree for him.

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I'll do nothing about Joe, but you're going to do something for me.

(Directly to Mother) You made Chris feel guilty with me. Whether you wanted to or not you've crippled him in front of me. I'd like you to tell him that Larry is dead and that you know it. You understand me? I'm not going out of here alone. There's no life for me that way. I want you to set him free. And then I promise you, everything will end, and we'll go away, and that's all. Sit down...(Mother moves L. to chair, but does not sit) First you've got to understand. When I came, I didn't have any idea that Joe...I had nothing against him or you. I came to get married. I hoped...So I didn't bring this to hurt you. I thought I'd show it to you only if there was no other way to settle Larry in your mind. (snatches letter from Ann's hand) He wrote it to me just before he —(Mother opens and begins to read letter)

I'm not trying to hurt you, Kate. You're making me do this, now remember you're---- Remember. I've been so lonely, Kate ...I can't leave here alone again. (A long, low moan comes from Mother's throat as she reads) You made me show it to you. You wouldn't believe me. I told you a hundred times, why wouldn't you believe me!