

The Gossip

(The Woman with an issue of blood)

A monologue by: Peggy Barnell

(Woman enters, talking on her cell. The writer recommends this be performed in a heavy New York/Jewish mother accent)

Ellen? It's me. Hey, you're never gonna believe. I was down at the Farmer's Market this morning, picking up some sweet corn for Herman's dinner tonight. They got it there fresh today - looks really good, too. But guess who was there? No, guess. No, I want you to guess. No. (pause) No. (pause) No. (pause) It was that Jesus fella- the teacher everyone's been talking about. - he was there - at the market! But guess who else was there? Oh, never mind - you'll never guess. I saw "the woman". I can't remember her name... Sheila? Shelly? Stella? But you know the one I'm talking about - THE WOMAN - Yeah, yeah!

I know. I haven't seen her or heard anybody talk about her for what - a year or two anyhow. Yes, I'm sure it was her. She's a little hard to miss, you know. She's so pale and sickly looking - she stands out in a crowd like a sore thumb. Though this morning she was trying to be all sneaky - she had a scarf draped around her head and half her face - but not a proper mask. She did not want to be seen. She must've heard people talking about the teacher - you know, heard about him healing people and all.

Yeah, me too. I thought maybe she died. Last I heard she had some kind of breakdown when her acupuncturist told her to hit the road. (chuckles)

Nobody wanted to deal with her "issue of blood".

Yeah, I know she went through an herbalist, an endocrinologist, a reflexologist, a couple of gynecologists, a rheumatologist and a chiropractor - oh, and a massage person..

Anyway, everybody knows she's "unclean". She shouldn't be hanging around where she might contaminate people. That's just rude - and disgusting! Who knows who she might have bumped up against? There were children there, for goodness sakes. And there she was - at the Farmer's Market! Trying to be all sneaky - trying to get to the teacher. But he called her on it right off. He stopped what he was doing and was asking his group: Who touched my robe?

Well, she didn't have no choice then but to step up. And when she pulled off that scarf and everybody saw who it was... Whoo-hoo - you shoulda heard that crowd!

The teacher said something about her faith having healed her...(pause) Yeah, I know. I don't know about that either, Ellen. I got my eye on him, for certain.

(looks off-stage) Ellen, listen, my Herman is home - and I haven't even cleaned the corn yet. Gotta go- I'll call you later.

She Exits - the end