

No Small Parts

There are no small parts, only small actors. That's what my father always says. And that's what he said when I told him I was going to be "The Third Woman Who Sits under the toadstool," even though I really wanted to be "the second woman who waits by the wishing well." See, the second woman is a much bigger part. Well, not **MUCH** bigger, but she gets to have a whole scene with the princess, which is about fifteen whole lines, and "The Third Woman Who Sits under the toadstool" only says one word: **Beware!** That's all she says: **Beware!** I mean, you'd think they could figure out something else for her to say: **Look Out!** Maybe even **watch out behind you!** Or even **Don't turn around or you'll see the worst thing you've ever seen in your life!**

My father says that everyone has to start someplace. He says that even Dustin Hoffman started out by playing parts with only one or two lines, and Dustin Hoffman never complained. Dustin Hoffman just went out there and did it.

So I started thinking of my line. I mean, if I only get to say one word, I might as well make sure it's going to be the one word everyone remembers. So I practice:

(a threatening voice) **Beware!**

(a different voice) **Beware!**

(still another voice) **Beware!**

I practice with arm gestures: **Beware!**

I practice with a scarf over my head: **Beware!**

I practice under my bed, like I'm under the toadstool: **Beware!**

I practice with all of the lights out in my room, to get in the mood: **Beware!**

Beware! Beware! Beware!

I spend weeks getting it right, I mean I'm really getting good at it! It may be one word, but it's gonna be the one word nobody ever forgets! Who cares about the princess! Who cares about the second woman with her dumb old wishing well.

The star of this play is definitely going to be, "The third woman who sits under the toadstool!!!"

I have just one question: Who the heck is Dustin Hoffmann?