

THE FINE THINGS IN LIFE

by Lydia Stryk

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Characters.

Eve Vogel.

George Laut. (Later, GEORGE TWO).

Louise Fisher.

Joe Gentile.

Dorothy Laroux.

Maria Sola.

Becky Jones.

Ned Jones.

Earl Hurd.

Rhoda Sagalowski.

Lorraine Swanson.

The Goddess.

Man.

Second man.

Third man.

THE FINE THINGS IN LIFE is set in the mind of Eve Vogel. Maria and the Goddess should be played by the same actor. The three unnamed men should be played by the actors playing the three male friends of Eve. THE CHORUS OF FRIENDS appear at intervals throughout the play, requiring the actors to remain on stage throughout, entering their particular scenes when called upon, otherwise sitting on the side of the stage or in an arc behind the action.

New York City, the late 1980's.

Scene

The Office. GEORGE is dictating his Christmas shopping list. EVE writes.

GEORGE

What'd I get her last year?

EVE

Perfume. You get her perfume every year.

GEORGE

Is it a crime?

EVE

Maybe she'd like black satin panties for a change. Or a set of fine English Bone China.

GEORGE

Nah. Get the perfume. I like it when she smells nice.

EVE

What about your wife, George?

GEORGE

You choose. I trust you. You got good taste. Choose her something fine. Don't be stingy, either.

EVE

And the boys?

GEORGE

Money. Money. I'll give them money. Maybe then they'll love me. What do you think?

EVE

Don't get your hopes up.

GEORGE

Stop at the bank on your way back. I'll give them money.

EVE

And the partners, George?

GEORGE

Drink. Make sure it's rare. You choose. You know best.

EVE

And the girls in the office?

GEORGE

Something sweet.

EVE

They're all on diets.

GEORGE

You choose. Get me a ham sandwich.

EVE

You had ham yesterday. And the day before.

GEORGE

What should I eat? Tell me, Eve? You always have the best ideas.

(Lights fade to suggest the passage of time.)

GEORGE

Didn't I get her perfume last year?

EVE

(sighs) Every year for the last ten years, George, you got her perfume.

GEORGE

Is it a sin?

EVE

Maybe she'd like an alligator handbag. Or a diamond nose ring.

GEORGE

Nah. Get the perfume.

EVE

And your wife?

GEORGE

You choose.

EVE

The boys?

GEORGE

Boys? They're monsters. Stop at the bank on your way back.

EVE

What about the others?

GEORGE

You choose, Eve. You've got the imagination. And not stingy, either. Get the best.

(Lights fade on GEORGE.)

EVE

The best things in life are not free. Don't let them fool you. The fine things fall around the body, melt and charm the mouth, startle the vision, make you weak at the knees. Once you've tasted the fruits there's no returning. After years of Christmas shopping for George, there was no way back for me. At first, I picked a few items up for myself. On George's account. He never figured it out. Into my inner pockets flowed the fine things in life. I began with a string of pearls from Japan. Close on the neck. Shimmering all the colors of the rainbow. Ever-changing in the changing light. Now each pearl. It becomes cool like you. Or hot like you. Pearls together on a string. They live with you. And when they like you, they shimmer. When they don't, they go blind. You really have to listen to them and learn ... I chose cups lined with gold, hiding their riches. So that you only discovered their true beauty as you drank. First Flush Darjeeling. Flowery Orange. Golden Assam Superior Pekoe. ... But things don't put you on a plane to paradise. Now, how I saw it. The big guys never got caught. Their crimes were, well, look, imagine the finest department store in the world. The clerks wearing blindfolds, the goods literally sitting loose on the shelves begging to be had. And a pat on the back for you as you exit. And honors to the one who can carry the most away. More and more, George sought my advice. It began to feel a little like I had something to give and plenty to say. And it was around that time that a voice began humming at the nape of my neck, from inside the shiny bodies of my pearls, asking just what's fair? What's the deal?

**TO READ THE WHOLE PLAY OR FOR ANY OTHER INQUIRIES, PLEASE
CONTACT info@lydiastryk.com**