

GOOPER: MONOLOGUE (p.156-7)

You jest won't let me do this in a nice way, will yah? Aw right----Mae and I have five kids with another one coming! I don't give a goddam if Big Daddy likes me or don't like me or did or never did or will or will never! I'm just appealing to a sense of common decency and fair play. I'll tell you the truth. I've resented Big Daddy's partiality to Brick ever since Brick was born, and the way I've been treated like I was just barely good enough to spit on and sometimes not even good enough for that. Big Daddy is dying of cancer, and it's spread all through him and it's attacking all his vital organs including the kidneys and right now he is sinking into uremia, and you all know what uremia is, it's poisoning of the whole system due to the failure of the body to eliminate its poisons...

I am asking for a square deal, and I expect to get one. But if I don't get one, if there's any peculiar shenanigans going on around here behind my back, well, I'm not a corporation lawyer for nothing. I know how to protect my own interests.

MAE: MONOLOGUE (p. 153-55)

Mommy, Mommy, Big Mama, we're just as hopeful an' optimistic as you are about Big Daddy's prospects, we have faith in prayer---but nevertheless there are certain matters that have to be discussed an' dealt with, because otherwise---

Here's your brief case Gooper, honey.

Gooper's eight years older'n Brick an' always had t' carry a bigger load of th' responsibilities than Brick had t' carry. He never carried a thing in his life but a football or a highball.

Oh, Mommy, Mommy Big Mommy! Let's be fair! Gooper has given himself body and soul to keeping this place for the past five years since Big Daddy's health started failing. Gooper won't say it, Gooper never thought of it as a duty, he just did it. And what did Brick do? Brick kept living in his past glory at college! Still a football player at twenty-seven!