

THE LAST WORD

A 2.5-minute monologue

By JANE CAFARELLA

Drama/comedy

CILLA, (any age), is writing instructions for her funeral.

Speaking as she writes.

If you're reading this, I'm dead.

She crosses it out. Too clichéd!

If you're reading this... I mean *bearing* this... *(to herself)* I should record it...

If you're *listening* to this... then you've been charged with ensuring...

She stops.

Oh God! Sounds like a criminal charge!

She scribbles it out and starts again.

If you're listening to this, then you have the privilege of discharging.

Ew! Discharging! Sounds medical.

She scribbles this out.

Fulfilling! Fulfilling my final wishes.

Beat.

I'm dead. Finally. And this is what I'm leaving you...

Prepare to be disappointed.

It's something you'll all *share* – but it will be *different* for everyone.

Drum roll!

What I'm leaving you are the memories we've made together.

All the rotten and wonderful things I've done – TO you and WITH you!

That's what you're getting. Like it or not!

I don't care whether I have a funeral. Burn me and put me on the compost!

I don't care what happens to my material possessions.

The only thing I'm asking is that you tell the truth.

I was no saint in life, so don't make me one in death.

Someone once said that if you don't have any enemies, you're not important. I've been surprised to discover just how important I am!

I'm also surprised to have so many friends. Any friends!

I used to think I'd made mistakes. But as Dolly Parton always said, they weren't 'mistakes'. They were 'events' – all of which led me to you and this moment.

Dear friends!

You all hold a piece of me. And that's enough for me.

I love you all. Thank you for loving me.

Goodbye!

Beat. She thinks aloud:

...I should end with joke, a laugh – or something profound. A promise to come back?

She stops to think, then speaks again as she writes.

I don't believe we come back.

I believe we go on – as a memory.

Beat.

But I could be wrong.

So, watch out!

312 spoken words

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