

A MONOLOGUE

# Freshly Squeezed

by Tara Meddaugh



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*Freshly Squeezed*

A monologue from the full-length play, *The Victory Garden Plays*:

***Ruth & Harry and the Dinner Party***

By Tara Meddaugh

*Cast:* Female

*Age range:* Teen-adult

*Genre:* Comedy

*Running time:* Approximately 1.5 minutes

*Setting:* A dining room/kitchen, 1940s

**About the play, *The Victory Garden Plays*:**

While soldiers fight abroad in WW2, those remaining on the Homefront strive to make a difference by creating Victory Gardens, supplementing limited food supply. But the pressures on the homefront extend much further than simply growing produce. A child worries her failing rooftop garden is an omen of misfortune for her father's return from a POW camp. An infertile woman throws her purpose into feeding neighborhood families. A wealthy man whose chemical plant is commissioned by the government for war purposes struggles with how to leave a meaningful legacy not tainted with warfare. These stories, and more, are given light in *The Victory Garden Plays*, a series of 7 vignettes chronicling people's journeys with their new realities of love, growth, life and death. *Learn more at <http://www.tarameddaugh.com/the-victory-garden-plays>*

**About the monologue, *Freshly Squeezed*:**

While Ruth prepares the dining table for a small dinner party, her husband, Harry, enjoys a glass of her fresh lemonade. He compliments her refreshment and she explains to him the burden of excelling at so much, yet managing to remain kind despite the jealousies of others.

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RUTH

It's freshly squeezed. That's the difference. That's what you're tasting. You can't compare anything really to homemade lemonade from homegrown lemons. It takes an awful lot of care, Harry. They're not natural to this region. I've really garnered a green thumb these past few years. Everyone on Halstead knows my garden is the most plentiful. Now, that's not bragging, Harry. You'd know I'd never brag. I'm not crass like Betty with that perfumed hair at church and muttering those cuss words in the powder room. It's just the truth and if I can't speak the truth to my own husband, who can I?

(pause)

Some of the girls are resentful though. It comes with the territory of being the best at anything, shame as it is. I've encountered this all my life. Yet I try to remain understanding. I always look at those less fortunate than myself and gosh, so many girls in school had such a hard time with Math although I can't see why, but I never said that to them because I was raised to be

gracious. And don't you know I let Betty cheat off of me even though it really didn't matter if she did well in Math or not because even then, I just knew she was going to get pregnant before she finished High School, and well, don't you know that's exactly what she did.

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To read the full-length play, *The Victory Garden Plays*,  
from which this monologue comes, visit  
<http://www.tameddaugh.com/the-victory-garden-plays>

To learn more about Tara's plays, visit  
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