

The Way of All Fish
By Elaine May

Miss Riverton: But you can be very famous. Anyone can be. And I know how. You know how? You can kill someone famous. Of course, it has to be someone *really* famous and people have to be convinced that you're not part of a conspiracy. And meeting someone famous isn't so easy. When I was younger that's all I thought about-who can I kill who's famous and how can I meet him. Probably I should have been thinking how can I meet someone who's famous and how can I kill him-but I was just a kid. I thought of killing the President but everyone who tries to kill the President is such a slug. I mean, I made a list of successful presidential assassins who still had some kind of stature and you know who there is? Booth. Because he killed Lincoln. And where are you going to find another Lincoln? And-I don't know- it just seems like such a failure of imagination to go right to the President: kill someone famous-kill the President. Duh. Of course, Jack the Ripper is still famous and he just killed a lot of totally unknown prostitutes. But that may be because no one knows who he really is. I mean, you can easily kill someone and just be overlooked-unless you kill a lot of people, or kill a few people but in a really ghastly way-but it would have to be so ghastly.