

**Girl Under Grain by Karen Hartman**

*Orpah gives a performance in a honky-tonk club in a little West Coast town during World War Two. Gloves, a gown, imagine a spotlight and thunderous applause. Modify costumes to suit, and imagine sound/ lights if that's best for you.*

ORPAH

Thank you. Thank you, every one. Your appreciation is my wide world.  
I can't see you all past these radiant lights, but I can hear your applause and it is like  
thunder. Like gunfire. Like a big big cannon keeping this country safe.  
I can't tell you how good it feels that so many of you chose me tonight. Are you  
ready for my song?

(Orpah leans into the microphone as if to sing, then pulls back and  
speaks)

Let me hear it again, boys. The big big sound of your love.

(She enjoys their appreciation)

You, and you, and you are my hero. Remember *that* when times get tight. It's not  
just your sweethearts and your mothers and your wives. It's girls like me that  
belong to no man who will pray all night for your safe return.  
I've been working extra hard on my song.

(Again almost begins, then pulls back)

Do I look pretty to you?

Some girls believe in mystery but Miss Orpah will tell you straight. I've been  
working extra hard on my looks. I want to be so beautiful for you. Am I?

(Enthusiastic response)

Ooh. I'm in a little bit of pain.

(She removes one stiletto pump to the delight of the crowd, shakes it,  
and slips it back on)

A tiny stone. Now see another girl might dance on top of that all night and just bite  
her smile a bit but it's not in my nature to fake. Anything.

(Big response)

That's right. You gonna remember me?

(Crowd roars)

You're not gonna just disappear like some?

You're gonna come on back, right?

(Crowd roars. She whispers)

Come on back.

(Lights get harsh. Music jolts. Orpah begins a striptease)

*I'm a lonely girl*

*Never seen the world*

*My body is the only place I know.*

*I'm the only girl*

*Remaining in my world*

*You're driving me as far as I can go.*

(Orpah has stripped as much as she planned to take off)

Mmmm. That's as far as I go boys. How I would like to show you the very last bit.

You'll just have to come home safe and see. Good night.

(Orpah blows a kiss. Pause. She waits for her spot to go out)

Thank you. I do enjoy the attention, I'm not ashamed to say. Thank you, every one.

I will miss you, every one. Good night.

(Orpah blows another kiss. Pause)

CAN WE BRING THE LIGHTS DOWN PLEASE?

Got to leave a little mystery. We're not supposed to walk off in the light.

(Crowd gets louder)

PLEASE?

Got to keep you guessing. We're not supposed to turn our backs on the crowd.

FADE ME OUT **NOW!**

Well. Go on home, gentlemen. I'm dressing.

(Orpah hoists the dress onto her body)

Which one of you boys is going to zip me up?

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*You are welcome to perform this monologue for free! It would mean a lot to me if you would [buy this play](#), and it's a good idea for your performance too.*

*You may CUT but you may not CHANGE the words. Please introduce the monologue with title of play and author's name (this is a monologue from Leah's Train by Karen Hartman).*

*Feel free to send a video link to yourself performing the monologue through the Contact page, and let me know if I may share! Thanks and be well, KH*

[www.karenhartman.org](http://www.karenhartman.org)

