



## SUSPECT 11°TES

# 1920'S SLANG

Absent treatment: Dance with a timid partner

Applesauce: Nonsense!

Bearcat: A fiery woman

Bee's knees: Fantastic

Big cheese: An important person



Bird: A (usually odd) person

Bootlegging: Selling illegal alcohol

Bump off: Murder

Chunk of lead: Dull, unattractive

Dough: Money

#### GRAY GARDENS

**PROFESSION**: Still relevant singing starlet of the silent silver screen

**FAVORITE SAYING:** By the belly of Taft!

**FAVORITE COLOR**: The bright blinding light of fame

**FAVORITE SMELL**: Honeydew

I've been to Frankie's Fix thousands of times, and how! But I prefer not to say my age. A woman never gives away that secret. A flapper might, but not me.

I'm not the funny old bird people say I am. I was relevant 30 years ago, and I'm still relevant now. I single-handedly won women the right to vote. And now I have a respectable second husband. A reverend. Very ritzy. It is true that his hands are clammy, his cane is ugly, and his breath smells awful—but otherwise he's very swanky.

I'm here to see my daughter Ruby sing in the premiere of her new cabaret show *A Cup of Coffee, A Sandwich, and You*. I'm proud that Ruby married Blake Billions. He's got so many good qualities. He's got a wealth of kindness, a wealth of knowledge, and last and most importantly, a wealth of wealth.

Ruby lights up the room like a billboard. But I'll outshine her when I get my chance in the spotlight. Frankie and I grew up together, so I'm sure he'll let me onstage.



### GRAY GARDENS

**HOW I KNEW THE DEAD FELLOW:** Blake was my daughter Ruby Pearl's husband. Blake also attended my husband Sam's church.

A rich fellow is dead. What a shame. What a misfortune to society! On the other hand, that big cheese Blake was blackmailing me. Just for my \$100,000 in unpaid parking tickets! It might be cheaper to pay for the tickets, but I'm not good with money.

People are always stealing my money. I was once hustled by a fridge salesman named Walter Belle. In my opinion, anyone who sells kitchen appliances is a con man. Can't trust anyone with a mixer.

My husband Sam and I pass most of our days tending to our garden. We grow all sorts of things: tomatoes, carrots, peppers, chives, nightshade. We find that nightshade is the best way to keep the rabbits out.

WHAT I DRINK TO FORGET: Another glass of champagne.



#### GRAY GARDENS

I'm upset that Frankie didn't come through and make me the star I was always meant to be. What a sap.

I'm a good eavesdropper. Earlier this evening, I overheard Dr. Agatha Quinn crying in the bathroom whining about how she's broke. I just sat on the toilet until she left.

I love dancing, but with Sam I'm always getting absent treatment. I thought when I married him he would be an upgrade from my first husband. But now, I think that I should've stayed married to my first husband. That maybe I shouldn't have murdered him.

I'm not the only murderous one here tonight, so don't pin Blake's death on me because I murdered someone a few years ago. Just last week I was sipping my iced tea at The Fat Cat country club, and next thing you know, Bruce Hunter sat down next to me after his game of golf. He leaned in close, tapped his nose, and whispered: "Maxine Powers paid me a thousand dollars to bump off Blake." Bruce is a common torpedo! A real assassin!