

He Says He Loves Me

A Play In One Act

By Abby Byrne

He Says He Loves Me

He Says He Loves Me Character List

Girl 1- 16-18. Very young, naive, and vibrant
Girl 2- mid 20s- worn, maybe has stage makeup bruises/cuts
Girl 3- late 20s-mid 30s. Appears very wise and seemingly
all knowing

He Says He Loves Me

He Says He Loves Me

Scene 1

(GIRL 1, GIRL 2, and GIRL 3 are standing on stage. GIRL 3 is observing GIRL 1 and GIRL 2, but GIRL 1 and GIRL 2 do not acknowledge each other, or GIRL 3)

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

GIRL 3

Love. What a strange facet of life. It can hit you at any time. It can hit hard

(GIRL 2 pantomimes being hit)

or it can hit softly and sweetly.

GIRL 1

He's really nice and funny and I enjoy being around him. The other day he said that he likes being around me too! Okay... I'm going to go to talk to him after class today.

GIRL 3

So naive, so pure. The curiosity and wonder that seems so new and reliable will slowly dwindle until it sweeps you away.

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

GIRL 2

But when he gets mad, he gets so mad. When we started out, everything was fine, though as time went on, things got really bad. Every time I hang out with someone, even just a friend, he gets extremely jealous. He waits at my house to see me when I get back and from time to time he even comes to get me at my friend's houses. At first I thought that he just really cared about me, so I stopped hanging out with other people as much. It

He Says He Loves Me

wasn't worth the long lectures, yelling and fighting. He says that he's not a jealous person and that he cares so much about me.

GIRL 3

That's the tricky thing about love. It can only stay so innocent for so long. What he says he may not mean but what he says sticks.

(GIRL 1 moves downstage right/center as GIRL 2 and GIRL 3 move upstage right. GIRL 3 closely observes GIRL 1 and GIRL 2 doesn't pay attention)

GIRL 1

Hey! (pause) I'm good how are you? (pause) No I'm not doing anything on Friday! (pause) I'd love to see a movie with you!

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

(GIRL 2 pantomimes being hit)

GIRL 3

In this moment everything changes. The sweetness begins to fade and something sour emerges.

GIRL 2

After a bit of time, the caring began to stop. Every little thing would cause him to yell and get angry. It felt like I was doing everything wrong. He said that he is devoted to me and I said it back but the yelling caused so much stress. After every fight, he would apologize right away and give me a kiss on the forehead right before

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

He Says He Loves Me

(GIRL 1 says the following monologue as she walks around, as if walking to the movie theater)

GIRL 1

Today's the day. He's going to pick me up at seven and we are seeing a romantic movie at the movie theater! When we get to the theater, it says the movie started fifteen minutes ago. He got a bit mad about it and he said that it was my fault because I picked the movie. It was weird because he is the one who picked this movie at this time.

GIRL 3

There are many times where things don't seem as bad as they are until it's too late.

(GIRL 2 acts out everything that she says here as though it's happening in real time)

GIRL 2

It was the beginning of the bad. It was so scary... He got mad that I was still texting one of my guy friends. He pushed me to the ground and threw my phone on the floor.

(GIRL 3 throws a phone on the ground)

After it all he apologized. He just bought be a new phone and

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

GIRL 3

You're always the fault of his problems.

He Says He Loves Me

(GIRL 1 acts out her amazement while the following paragraph happens)

GIRL 1

We made it in right as the trailers were finishing. As we are eating popcorn, our hands touch. (*giggling*) We decide to hold hands, and a bit after he puts his arm around me. He leans over and asks

(GIRL 3 is to the side of GIRL 1)

GIRL 3

Can I kiss you?

GIRL 1

And I had my first kiss in the movie theater! Right after, he stares at me for a long time. I look away and when I turn back he looks me right in the eyes and

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

GIRL 2

For a while, things began to get better. He didn't blow up at me again, but I didn't really talk to any of my guy friends. That sweet period lasted for a few months until things got... rocky again. He throws fits when the apartment is dirty, but he is always the one messing it up. When he leaves dishes in the sink, he gets mad at me for not immediately cleaning them up. He says he is stressed with school and work and that I am not being a supportive girlfriend but after he gets frantic he will always come back and

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

He Says He Loves Me

GIRL 2

I didn't know if I could leave him. Late one night, he really lost it. He went ballistic. I told him how I think that we need to take a break so I can focus on myself.

(GIRL 2 pantomimes all of the following out while GIRL 3 looks down at her, wanting to help, but unable to)

He throws me to the ground, and keeps punching, punching, punching. First the face, then the stomach and back to the face. Stop! Stop! Stop!

GIRL 2, GIRL 3

Stop!

GIRL 1

After the movie, we went back to his house. He asked me if I wanted to be his girlfriend! I said yes. It was so magical. We started to hang out a lot after that. It's only been a few weeks since we've started dating. Am I too young to love someone? Probably not.

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

(GIRL 2 gets up from the ground)

GIRL 2

Once he stopped hitting me, he just left. I was paralyzed; I laid there on the ground for what felt like an hour before I worked up the courage to stand up and walk over to the couch. He came back home and showered me with hugs, kisses, and flowers. I can't look him in the eyes when

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

He Says He Loves Me

GIRL 1

We spent a lot of time together throughout the rest of senior year. We went to a bunch of movies, we had a romantic picnic on the beach and even spent a day in the city together. By far, prom was my favorite. During the last slow dance of the night, he we stopped dancing in the middle of the dance floor where

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

GIRL 2

He apologized so many times and I couldn't accept it. I was broken inside. I really hated being around him and he realized my hesitancy to be close to him. I tried to clear my head and go on walks. I couldn't go to very public places because my face and body was covered in brusies. He barely acknowledged them; he would just carry on as normal and

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

GIRL 1

We dated for the rest of high school. We spent so much time together over the summer and I hung out with him nearly all of the time. It got harder and harder to say goodbye to my family and friends because I was with him so much, but it feels like his love is all that I need. I melt every time

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

GIRL 2

After a walk one day, I came home to see him with a gun in his hand. He stared at me and said

GIRL 3

(acting as the boy) I don't want to live in a world where you don't love me. Do you love me?

He Says He Loves Me

GIRL 1

(*talking to the boy*) No my parents don't mind that I'm spending so much time with you because I love you.

GIRL 2

I love you.

GIRL 1

I love you.

GIRL 2

I love you.

GIRL 1

I love you.

GIRL 2

I love you.

GIRL 3

The thing is, how can you love someone else or let someone love you, when you don't even know how to love yourself? The manipulation and dependency can eat away at your mind and you get stuck. He says that he loves you but there is no way that he does.

GIRL 2

He lowered the gun, almost reluctantly and said

GIRL 3

I thought so.

(GIRL 2 pantomimes all of the following abuse while crying/on the verge of tears)

GIRL 2

He walks over to me and hugs me. I felt so small and helpless. He lets go, then picks me up, throws me to the ground and keeps

He Says He Loves Me

kicking me over and over. He holds the gun to my temple. He gets close to my ear and whispers

GIRL 3

Never let me doubt your love again.

GIRL 2

After all of that, he tells me that I am the love of his life, and that I have been since high school. He tells me he never wants to leave me and that he could never survive without me. He tenderly carries me to bed, sets me down and lays down next to me. Before he peacefully sleeps while I stay awake all night

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

(Over time, this dialogue with GIRL 1 and GIRL 2 speeds up, until they are nearly overlapping each other.

GIRL 2

He says he loves me.

GIRL 1

He says he loves me.

GIRL 2

He says he loves me.

GIRL 1

He says he loves me.

GIRL 2

He says he loves me.

GIRL 3

(yelling) He cannot love me. He does not love me.

He Says He Loves Me

GIRL 1

After high school I went to college. I got into my dream school but he convinced me to stay near him. We ended up going to the same school. I really didn't talk to many other people. I moved into his apartment with him after freshman year. He got so jealous even when I was only leaving for classes, so I just stayed in a lot. I took a lot of online classes and tried to fill my time with a job. He didn't want me working and being stressed out. He paid for everything- the apartment, the food, and he even helped me out with paying my tuition. A lot of the time he didn't even stay in the apartment so I'd just spend my days there. If I was feeling bold, I would walk around campus. By that point I had already missed out on making friends.

GIRL 2

One day, while walking around campus, I saw an old friend from high school. We decided to catch up over some coffee. She had accomplished so much in her time at college and I felt like I had done nothing. When we ended up leaving that coffee shop and going on with our lives, I was astounded. I knew that he was holding me back and that there was so much that I could do, but he had already stopped me from doing so many things. The friend that I met for coffee met up with me again. I ended up telling her everything and she helped me figure out a plan. I could barely do it, but I mustered up the courage to pack my belongings and run. It took a lot of planning, and the day I left, as he's leaving for work he turned around

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He says he loves me.

GIRL 3

By the end of his work day, I was gone. I ran as fast as I could and I never looked back. I haven't seen him since.

(GIRL 1 and GIRL 2 join GIRL
3 center)

GIRL 3

He Says He Loves Me

So much of our lives were spent under his tight grasp. It took nearly a year for us to escape him. Over time, the bruises and cuts heal. The fear of having a gun pressed against my temple, the stillness of laying on the ground feeling blood seep and bruises swell, and even when he told me that he loved me for the first time are hard to forget. I have grown and I have escaped, but the memories never escape me.

(GIRL 1, GIRL 2, and GIRL 3
grab hands)

GIRL 1, GIRL 2, GIRL 3

He said he loved us. He lied. He hurt us, but now he's gone. I love me and that is all that matters

(GIRL 1, GIRL 2 and GIRL 3
exit, while still holding
hands)

CURTAIN