

A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE

A One Act Play

by

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CAST: GIRL – 17 years old who looks to be in her early 20's. Race neutral.

MAN – Late 30's to late 40's Race neutral.

TIME: Present

SETTING: Around two A.M.

* denotes overlapping dialogue

(Suggestion of a poorly lit wooded area. Maybe a public park. It is early morning and relatively dark out)

GIRL

(In the darkness whispering to herself)

I am walking home alone
And in this moment I am dreaming
I am dreaming of all that will be
I am dreaming of all that could be
I am dreaming of the things that shall not be
And in spite of everything
I... A girl
This girl
Walks home alone...

MAN

(Offstage)

What's that... Hello...?

(MAN enters from the darkness holding his cellphone to light his way)

Who's there..? *(Pause)* Is someone weeping?

(For the first time we can see a GIRL sitting on the ground)

Oh, it's a young woman...

(Tries to get her attention with a cough)

Excuse me...

(Startled, the GIRL quickly rises and straightens her dress)

Don't be afraid... I didn't mean to frighten you.

GIRL

Who says I'm afraid...

MAN

I just thought you might be...

GIRL

Why..? No...

(Walking closer)

MAN

Why were you weeping just now?

GIRL

Who said I was weeping?

MAN

It's just...

GIRL

No...

MAN

But I thought I heard... Just now... *(Pause)* I could be mistaken.

(Silence)

GIRL

You said you thought you heard someone?

MAN

Yes, just now. *(Pause)* But to whom were you speaking..?

GIRL

Who said I was speaking..? No one... *(Pause)* The wind...

MAN

(Comes closer with his cellphone light)

Ah, you are very beautiful. *(Pause)* But what are you doing out here all alone? Has someone hurt you?

GIRL

Hurt me? No... Not at the moment. *(Pause)* Why do you ask?

MAN

It's just that you were there on the ground when I walked up.

GIRL

And what did it look like when you first saw me?

MAN

I don't know?

(Silence)

GIRL

I was resting.

MAN

That's not what it looked like to me.

GIRL

But I thought you just said you had no idea what I was doing?

MAN*

So you were resting... At this hour..?

GIRL*

I've been walking for quite a long time...

MAN

Walking..?

GIRL

Yes...

MAN

Walking where?

GIRL

(Points behind)

From over there.

MAN

I see...

GIRL

Do you..? *(Pause)* ...And you?

MAN

What about me?

GIRL

Why are you out at this time of night?

MAN

I can't sleep... Insomnia... I've had it since I was a child. *(Pause)* Where exactly did you come from?

GIRL

(Becoming annoyed)

I've told... I came from over there! Besides, why should it matter to you where I come from?

MAN

I'm sorry..? I guess you could say I was being curious... That's all.

GIRL

So then it doesn't matter to you where I come from?

MAN

No... I don't think so. Should it?

GIRL

But you're not sure are you?

MAN

No. *(Pause)* Yes!

GIRL

What if I told you it was very far away.

MAN

Far away..?

GIRL

Yes... Where I come from... You see, that's why I stopped to rest here on the ground. *(Pause)*
But I should go now...

MAN*

Why?

GIRL

... Before it's too late.

MAN

Now..?

(GIRL starts walking)

MAN

But I just got here. Won't you stay a little while longer?

GIRL*

I really must be going...

MAN*

But wait..!

(GIRL stops walking briefly)

Where are you going?

(GIRL points forward)

MAN

Where?

GIRL

(Pointing again)

There... *(Pause)* I live just over there.

MAN

Are you sure?

(MAN joins GIRL as she starts walking)

GIRL

Why of course I'm sure... I've lived there practically my whole life.

MAN

Your whole life?

GIRL

Yes, at least since I was...

MAN

But that's not possible.

GIRL

(Paying him no mind)

I tell you I have.

MAN

But no one's lived in that part of town for years.

GIRL

Now that's where you're mistaken. Besides, I just told you I live there.

MAN

Alone?

GIRL

(Secretively)

Sometime...

MAN

So there are others?

GIRL

Sometimes...

MAN

I don't understand.

GIRL

I bet that happens to you a lot, huh?

MAN

Excuse me..?

GIRL

You seem a bit confused.

MAN

I don't like that.

GIRL

Like what... *(Pause)* You know there are an awful lot of things in life people don't like... But what can you do about it? Take me for example... My ole man likes to drink... And when he does... He comes home just to beat the crap out of me and my mother.

MAN

Jesus... I'm sorry.

GIRL

Don't go making a mountain out of a mole hill... I mean... Why should you be sorry? It's him that should be sorry... I wouldn't be out here, walking home alone at this god forsaken hour if it weren't for him and his freakin' drinking. Besides, I was only trying to make a point... *(Having lost the point she was trying to make)*

MAN

Well what point is that?

GIRL

Now you've done it... You've gone and made me forgot what I was going to say...

MAN

What did I do?

GIRL

Oh forget it... It's not my fault there's been a misunderstanding.

MAN

A misunderstanding..? I haven't misunderstood anything.

GIRL

Oh... So now you're calling me a liar?

MAN

No of course not... It's just that I was under the impression that the city had closed down that area years ago... You know...

GIRL

Ah... No...

MAN

You must know..?

GIRL*

No...

MAN*

After the murders...

(They stop walking)

GIRL

Oh God. *(Pause)* Don't tell me you're one of those people.

MAN

One of what people..?

GIRL

One of those people that go around believing every urban legend you're told.

MAN

Why of course not.

GIRL

Well, it sure looks that way to me.

MAN

Well looks can be deceiving now can't they?

(Silence)

GIRL

You know... I think you're making this whole thing up, just to try and scare me.

MAN

(Feathers ruffled)

That's not true... Besides, I wouldn't do a thing like that!

GIRL

If you say so..!

MAN

I most certainly do. *(Pause)* Look... I have my car... Why don't you wait here and let me go get it... I can give you a ride the rest of the way.

GIRL

No... No thank you... That won't be necessary... Besides, it's not that much further... Really.

MAN

What are you afraid of?

GIRL

I'm not afraid of anything... Besides, I can take care of myself. I have for some time now.

MAN

Are you sure?

GIRL

(Annoyed)

Why of course I'm sure! After all, I've lived around here my whole life... Remember! *(Pause)* If it's all the same to you, I think I'll walk... But thank you very much.

MAN

You really shouldn't be out here in the dark?

(GIRL starts walking)

MAN

(Yelling out after her)

It's quite dangerous you know.

(GIRL stops walking)

GIRL

Yes, I know... But it's ok, really it is... Besides, I have my cellphone should I get lost.

MAN

Well... What if I just walk with you to make sure you get home safely?

GIRL

You don't have to do that... I'll be fine.

MAN

It's no problem... Besides... I'd feel much better knowing you got home safely.

GIRL

Suit yourself...

(The MAN seems hurt by her words)

Sorry... That's very kind of you.

MAN

(Recovering)

You think so?

GIRL

Yes... I do!

MAN

I wouldn't have it any other way. Besides...

GIRL*

Are you sure?

MAN*

... No good deed goes unpunished.

(Silence – MAN and GIRL start walking)

MAN

I'm Matthew by the way...

(The MAN attempts to shake GIRL's hand but she moves away – Stopping)

GIRL

What are you doing?

MAN

Sorry... I wasn't trying to touch you.

GIRL

You're not supposed to do that you know... Not here. Not Now... Please... I don't like being touched.

MAN

No... I promise I won't touch you. I just... I just wanted to introduce myself.

(Silence)

GIRL

(GIRL and MAN start walking again)

Lillian...

MAN

Sorry..?

GIRL

My name... It's Lillian

MAN

Well nice to meet you, Lillian. *(Pause)* I am sorry about back there.

GIRL

Apology accepted.

(GIRL and Man walk on then – Stopping)

GIRL

Matthew, I think you should go back now.

MAN

Is it because I tried to shake your hand?

GIRL

No... No... I swear... It's just that... I think it would be best.

MAN

For who... You or for me..?

GIRL

The both of us... Don't you think?

MAN

Oh, come on... Let me walk you home?

(Silence)

GIRL

Your wife must be worried about you?

MAN

My wife..? No... *(Pause)* Why do you think I have a wife? Is it because you think I look old?

GIRL

Yes... No... It's your hair.

MAN

What about my hair?

GIRL

It's beginning to turn grey.

MAN

Yes... I guess it is just a bit...

(Silence – MAN and GIRL start walking again)

I was married...

GIRL

Oh..?

MAN

Yes... But she's died now... What about you?

GIRL

Me... Married?

MAN

I meant how old are you?

GIRL

Seventeen...

MAN

Oh..!

(They stop walking again)

GIRL

You look surprised...

MAN

You seem older to me.

GIRL

Yes, so I've been told.

MAN

By who... Your boyfriend?

GIRL

(Blushing)

No... *(Pause)* I don't have a boyfriend.

MAN

Are you kidding me... A pretty girl like you... No boyfriend?

GIRL

By other men.

(Pauses to examine self)

I've been told I developed early for my age... I think it's because of the size of my chest... What do you think?

MAN

(Embarrassed)

If you're asking me, I think you're being crude.

GIRL

Crude..? I'm not sure I know what that means?

MAN

It means a young lady such as you shouldn't talk like that.

GIRL

Oh...

(Caricature of a 18th century British prostitute)

Well now... Ain't you the gentleman.

MAN

As a matter of fact, I am.

GIRL

(Having not wished to offend)

I see that now...

(Silence)

MAN

(Changes subject)

So... Is this the first time you've walked home alone?

GIRL

Oh God no... I've done it lots of times... What about you?

MAN

No... But to tell you the truth, I don't know why I do it...

GIRL

You don't say..? Well there's always a first time, isn't there?

MAN

Yes, I guess you're right... There does always have to be a first... A first date... A first kiss... A first love... *(Pause)* To be quite honest, I'm not in the habit of walking myself or anyone home for that matter.

GIRL

(Playful)

Well Matthew, what are you in the habit of doing? *(Pause)*

(Realizing he is embarrassed)

So... Do you still want to walk me home?

MAN

Yes...

(Silence – MAN and GIRL walk for a while)

GIRL

Do you mind if we stop and rest a bit?

MAN

No not at all... *(Pause)* You know I still could go back and get my car if you like?

GIRL

No... This is fine... Really it is... It's just that I've been walking for quite a while.

(MAN and GIRL sit down)

MAN

So you've said... *(Pause)* Will you still not tell me where you were coming from?

GIRL

Matthew I thought we agreed it didn't matter?

MAN

No... Yes... We did!

GIRL

After all, you're here now... Isn't that all that really counts?

MAN

Yes, I suppose you're right.

(Silence)

What an extraordinarily night... It's so quiet don't you think?

GIRL

I've never cared much for the quiet.

MAN

That's funny... You're a funny... Has anyone ever told you that?

GIRL

Yes, as a matter of fact. *(Pause)* Now that I think of it, it was as quiet as this when someone once told me that I was funny. *(Pause)* But then again it always seems quiet to me.

MAN

Oh..?

GIRL

Yes... You see I tend to be by myself a lot.

MAN

I tend to be very shy at first... But once you've had a chance to get to know me...

(Silence – The MAN and GIRL rise and once more begin walking)

GIRL

It must be very lonely for you now that your wife is gone.

MAN

Pardon?

GIRL

I can see it in your eyes.

MAN

Is that why you let me walk you home?

GIRL

Maybe... Yes...

MAN

You didn't want me to be alone?

GIRL

No.

MAN

It's not good you know, for one to be alone.

GIRL

For some reason I always seem to be alone.

MAN

You did say you like to keep to yourself.

GIRL*

And yet I always seem to hear the footsteps of someone else walking whenever I'm out... It doesn't matter whether I am in a park or walking home alone like tonight. *(Pause)* It wasn't always that way you know. *(Pause)* I've thought about it often while walking home... I mean the strangeness of it all.

MAN

Strange..?

GIRL

Yes... It seems at times as if I'd suddenly gone to sleep and when I awake everyone and everything I've known is gone.

MAN

Where do they go?

GIRL

I don't know.

MAN

Think.

GIRL

I don't know.

MAN

What is it that you do know?

GIRL

(Very sad and serious)

I should go home now... It's getting late.

MAN

Yes, I think you're right...

(Silence)

GIRL

How'd she die?

MAN

Who?

GIRL

Your wife...

(MAN holds his hands up)

GIRL

You killed her?

MAN

Yes. *(Pause)* Does that frighten you?

GIRL

No... I find it very romantic actually...

(MAN and GIRL both stop walking briefly)

I mean... You must have loved her very much to have done that to her?

MAN

I loved her very much... So much so, that it became increasingly difficult to be away from her... To have her out of my sight I mean... Can you understand that?

GIRL

Yes... I think so. *(Pause)* The day to day things that most people take for granted have always been a real challenge for me... I think that that's why you thought I was frightened earlier. Do you understand?

MAN

I believe I do.

(Silence – They continue on)

MAN con't

So then you know who I am..?

GIRL

Yes... I've always known.

MAN

And yet you've never let on until now...

GIRL

I guess deep down inside I kept hoping that things would one day be different.

MAN

Different... How?

GIRL

I don't know... The only thing I know for sure is that I wasn't ready.

MAN

I don't think anyone is really.

GIRL

That may be true... but there were so many things ahead of me that I'll never get the chance to experience.

MAN

You're right... I suppose when one is young one believes one is invincible.

GIRL

Yes, we do.

(Silence)

MAN

Shall we get on with it..?

GIRL

If we must...

MAN

I think we should... It's getting late and the weather is beginning to turn colder...

GIRL

Do you think it will ever change..? I mean be different...

MAN

Who can say... After all, I didn't realize we'd have to come back.

GIRL

No not like this...

MAN

All right then. (*Pause*) Do you remember what you're supposed to say next?

GIRL

Yes... I think so... And you?

MAN

Yes.

GIRL

Then shall we get on with it..?

MAN

Yes.

(Silence)

GIRL

I'm sorry... Before we begin... Can I ask you something?

MAN

Of course...

GIRL

Did I remind you of her..? Is that why you chose me..?

(The MAN seems reluctant to answer)

You don't have to answer if you don't want too... It's just something I've always wanted to know.

MAN

I guess you do have a right... I mean to want to know... *(Pause)*
No... You were nothing like her. She was very cold and uncaring...

GIRL

(Surprised)

Oh... Then I don't understand?

MAN

Neither do I. *(Pauses)* I mean... You were so warm and so full of life.

GIRL

(To herself)

This isn't fair...

(To MAN)

This isn't fair...

MAN

No... No one ever said it was. *(Pause)* If you really must know the truth... *(Pause)* The night I met you... It wasn't planned. It just sort of happened.

GIRL

(Defeated)

And to think, all this time I was hoping that you chose me because I was special.

MAN

Lillian, that's what we all hope for... From our family... From our friends... Especially from those we love. But in the end, the best you can hope for is that someone finds you tolerable.

(Silence)

Lillian, I am truly sorry... Really I am.

GIRL

(Finding the courage to go on)

It's nothing... *(Pause)* After all, I've resolved the fact that I don't get to live very long... *(Pause)* I suddenly feel very tired...

MAN

Shall we finish then?

GIRL

Yes... Wait...

(They both stop walking)

Do you mind if we sat here for a while...

(They are in the exact spot where the MAN first found the GIRL)

MAN

Right here..?

GIRL

Yes...

MAN

Are you sure?

GIRL

Yes... I think it's as good a place as any... Don't you?

MAN

I suppose you're right...

(Silence)

MAN con't

Would you let me hold your hand?

GIRL

(Thinking for a moment)

Only if you promise you won't hold it for very long.

MAN

Yes, I promise...

(Silence – The MAN and GIRL sit down on the ground. For a brief period of time they do nothing but gaze out into the vast nothingness that lays before them. Eventually the MAN slowly reaches out for the GIRL's hand as promised. A connection is made. The MAN and GIRL, smile. Neither of them turns to face the other and in this brief moment they are happy. The GIRL looks down at her hand which is still being held by the MAN)

GIRL

A girl walks home alone... (*Losing her courage – Pause*)

*(The MAN slowly releases the GIRL's hand as promised.
The GIRL comes to terms with the fact that she must
now move towards her destiny)*

A girl walks home alone
And in that moment she is dreaming...

MAN

(Softly)

I'm sorry...

GIRL

She is dreaming of all that will be...

MAN

I'm sorry...

GIRL

She is dreaming of all that could be...

MAN

(Moves behind the GIRL)

I'm so sorry...

GIRL

She is dreaming of the things that shall not be

MAN

I'm so sorry...

GIRL

And in spite of everything

MAN

*(Slowly begins to bring his hands to
up to her throat)*

I'm sorry...

GIRL

A girl
This girl *(Pauses)*

MAN

(Quietly sobbing)

Sorry...

GIRL

I... *(Pauses)*

It is I who walks home... Alone.

*(LIGHTS FADE OUT as MAN begins to
strangle GIRL)*

THE END