

THE GIRLS' ROOM

A Play

by Daniel S. Kehde

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Four girls meet throughout the school year in the girls' bathroom, in the mornings when it's off-limits to students. It's their secret refuge where they share stories, tease and argue with each other, but above all, support one another. When Elaine, a freshman, proudly reveals that she is dating Bud, a college guy, Alicia is horrified. Bud raped Elaine's older sister, Joanie, in eighth grade; but Elaine refused to believe her. By the end of the school year all four girls have grown, learned to deal with their anger and hurt, and are ready to leave their refuge for good. *The Girls' Room* addresses the difficult and provocative subject of date rape with sensitivity and humor.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

We have taken this play to junior highs, high schools and colleges around West Virginia for the past three years. Sadly, we have never had an audience that did not include at least two victims who sought us out for help during or immediately after the production. Hence, I do not perform this piece without a counselor and hotline information available to the students; and I would strongly suggest that you, the producer, do the same thing.

Approximate Running Time:

50 minutes

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 female)

JOANIE: A high school senior.

ALICIA: Her best friend, also a senior.

CATHY: A junior in high school.

ELAINE: Joanie's younger sister, a freshman.

PRODUCTION NOTES

There are no sets.

Costume changes should denote the change in seasons between scenes.

Each character carries a backpack with books, makeup and accessories. Joanie also carries a key on a chain around her neck. In the last scene Cathy carries a blanket, a lighter, and four cupcakes with small birthday candles.

Lighting is simple and kept to the center third of the stage.

For the scenes in the dark, a slotted gobo on a light offstage right is suggested to create the illusion of a pattern of sunlight streaking through a window and on to the stage floor.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: A girls' bathroom in a high school. The stage is empty. The VOICE OF THE ADMINISTRATION begins with only the early morning LIGHT from a window spilling on stage.)

VOICE OVER: Attention, all students. Welcome back. The administration hopes all students had a restful and meaningful summer vacation. Just a reminder: All students entering the school before homeroom must go to the cafeteria or gymnasium. No students are allowed in the hallway before the first homeroom bell. There are no exceptions. Any student caught in the hallway will get automatic detention. Just a reminder, all student bathrooms will be locked until after homeroom.

(JOANIE enters and reaches down to the key on a chain around her neck and kisses it for good luck. It is the key to the bathroom.)

VOICE OF THE ADMINISTRATION: Once again, welcome back.

(JOANIE walks into the girls' room wearing a backpack and carrying the key. She carefully puts the chain back around her neck, takes her backpack off and puts it on the floor at her feet. She, and all the OTHER GIRLS, pull various cosmetics, brushes and combs out of the pack throughout the scenes. She reaches in and gets out her comb and makeup and stands, facing the audience, as if the wall with the mirrors on them stood between her and the audience. She is intent on doing this for several beats. Finally, ALICIA enters and crosses to her. She does about the same things, removes her backpack, takes out her makeup, etc., as she speaks.)

ALICIA: I swear to God, I'm gonna quit and get my GED. I am. It's practically still dark out.

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JOANIE: Good morning, Alicia.

ALICIA: Bite me.

JOANIE: No thanks.

ALICIA: Bill Jackson hates me.

JOANIE: Mr. Jackson hates everyone.

ALICIA: No. He really hates me. God, I hate that man. His beady little eyes – and those teeth?

JOANIE: How'd you like to pucker up to those babies, huh?

ALICIA: Yuk. Is he married?

JOANIE: Of course he's married. You see his wife every day.

ALICIA: No way. Who?

JOANIE: Debbie?

ALICIA: Debbie?

JOANIE: *(Pantomiming putting food on a cafeteria tray.)*
Debbie?

ALICIA: NO WAY! Mr. Jackson is married to Debbie, the cafeteria lady?

JOANIE: Uh huh.

ALICIA: NO WAY! God! *(Grabs HER.)* Can you see them kissing? *(JOANIE laughs. ALICIA continues, alarmed.)*
They don't have any children, do they?

JOANIE: Two.

ALICIA: Aehhhhghh. Mr. Jackson and Debbie? How do you know this?

JOANIE: I get here earlier than you do. They come in the same car.

ALICIA: Carpool.

JOANIE: They kiss each other goodbye.

ALICIA: NO.

JOANIE: Yes.

(Enter ELAINE, younger, more energetic and socially awkward. She crosses to the sink beside JOANIE and begins to take off her backpack.)

JOANIE: Hey, this is the senior bathroom.

ELAINE: Up yours. *(Shoves HER.)*

JOANIE: Up yours. *(Shoves HER back.)*

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(THEY both start shoving and laughing.)

ALICIA: *(Laughs and then realizes the amount of noise THEY'RE making.)* Would you guys shut up. Hufnagel would be in here in a shot if she knew we were here.

ELAINE: We're in the bathroom!

ALICIA: *Before* the bell. You know the rules, you can't pee before homeroom. It must be nice to have a sister.

JOANIE: Terrific. *(To ELAINE.)* Where were you? I waited in front of Dad's house for ten minutes.

ELAINE: I got a ride.

JOANIE: With who?

ALICIA: Whom! Whom! Or old buttbreath Jackson and Debbie the doublewide are gonna womp you good.

JOANIE: Whom'd you get a ride with. You see, that's just not right. Whom'd you get a ride with? Nobody says that.

ALICIA: I didn't say anybody said it. God. Do you think I'd use whom? Do I look like a whom girl to you?

JOANIE: So, shrimp, who picked you up?

ELAINE: Bud Harris.

ALICIA: You can't be serious. Joanie, didn't you tell her?

ELAINE: So? It's only a ride.

JOANIE: What are you doing, Elaine?

ELAINE: He's nice.

JOANIE: He's not nice. He's dangerous.

ELAINE: So? I wasn't alone with him. Carol and Georgie were with us.

ALICIA: Oh, now there's protection. Beavis and Butthead with breasts.

JOANIE: You're not going out with him, are you?

ELAINE: *(Unconvincingly.)* No.

ALICIA: Oh, I believe that.

JOANIE: You'd better not be going out with him. Do you understand?

ELAINE: Yes.

JOANIE: No. You don't understand. You're not going out with him.

ELAINE: But...

JOANIE: Elaine.

End of Freeview

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