



Arts Engagement
and Education

GAYLE

"I told you we're done."

From *Almost, Maine*

By John Cariani www.almostmaine.com

Gender: Female/Feminine Presenting

Style: Contemporary Dramatic

Age Range: 20s-30s

Link to Buy Script: www.amazon.com

Play Synopsis

Playful and surreal experiences occur on one deeply cold and magical Midwinter Night. The citizens of Almost, Maine -- not organized enough for a town, too populated for a wilderness -- experience the life-altering power of the human heart. Relationships end, begin, or change beyond recognition, as strangers become friends, friends become lovers, and lovers turn into strangers. Propelled by the mystical energy of the aurora borealis and populated with characters who are humorous, plain-spoken, thoughtful, and sincere, *Almost, Maine* is a series of loosely connected tales about love, each with a compelling couple at its center, each with its own touch of sorcery.

At this moment

Gayle shows up to her longtime boyfriend Lendall's house banging on his door, waking him out of his sleep. (Gayle is frustrated that he has not committed to her after being together for 11 years.)

When he opens the door, she tells him that she needs all of the love back that she has given to him.

A totally confused Lendall does not comprehend. She then makes a couple of trips back and forth from her car to his house bringing in loads of things that belong to him.

She explained to him that when she asked if they were going to get married, he got silent. Her friends told her that his silence implied that he didn't love her.

After giving Lendall all of his love (things back) she asks for hers. He brings out a small bag. Gayle gets angry at how small it is claiming that she must have given him more love than that!

Lendall eventually tells her it's a (engagement) ring.

Monologue(Act I Scene IV)

I told you we're done. Because -- Because when I asked you if you ever thought we were gonna get married -- remember when I asked you that? In December? It was snowing? Yeah, well, when I asked you... that, you got so... quiet. And everybody said that that right there shoulda told me everything.

Marvalyn said that how quiet you got was all I needed to know, and she's right: You don't love me. And I've been trying to fix that, I've tried to make you love me by giving you every bit of love I had, and now... I don't have any love for me left, and that's... that's not good for a person... and... that's why I want all the love I gave you back, because I wanna bring it with me. I want it back in case I need it.

Because I can't very well go around giving you love to other guys, cause that just doesn't seem right -- So

I think – I think that, since I know now that you’re not ready to do what comes next for people who have been together for quite a long time (i.e. get married), I think we’re gonna be done, and so I think the best thing we can do now is just return the love we gave each other, and call it... (Taking in the bags – the pathetic one that contains the love she gave him and the awesome several that contain the love that he gave her.) even. Oh, Jeezum Crow, is that really all the love I gave you, Lendall? I mean, I thought – I mean, what kind of person am I if this is all the love I gave y - ... No... n-nno! (Fiercely) I know I gave you more than that, Lendall, I know it! (She thinks. Collects herself. New attack.) Did you lose it? Did you lose it, Lendall? ‘Cause I know I gave you more than that, and I think you’re pulling something on me, and this is not a good time to be pulling something on me! (She looks at the little bag, takes it, and is about to leave. But curiosity stops her. She sits on the chair, opens the bag and examines what’s inside.) Lendall? What is this? What the heck is this, Lendall? This is not - Oh, Lendall, this is a ring. Is this a ring? A ring that you give to someone you’ve been with for quite a long time if you want to let them know what comes next for people who have been together for quite a long time? Oh! (Beat.) But all the love I gave to you? Where is it?

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NL6g48wTnHY>