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Dramatic Publishing

Let Me Count the Ways

by
Jay D. Hannagan

From...

35 in 10

Thirty-Five Ten-Minute Plays

Compiled and Edited

KENT R. BROWN



Dramatic Publishing

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LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

By
Jay D. Hanagan

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Let Me Count the Ways was originally produced in 2002 by Gatesinger Company, Ltd. in Pultneyville, N.Y. It was directed by Jay D. Hanagan, and featured Sara Blankenberg, Andrew Meyer and Mike Mulberry.

CHARACTERS

SHE: A woman.

HE: A man.

FATHER: A father.

SETTING: A living room/bare stage.

TIME: The present. Evening.

LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

AT THE CURTAIN : *SHE and HE about to embrace and kiss...if they're lucky.*

SHE. I love you.

HE. I love you.

SHE. Kiss me. (*HE immediately leans in and SHE just as immediately—*) Wait!

HE. What?!

SHE. My father. He will hear.

HE. I'll be quiet.

SHE. I love you.

HE. And I love you.

SHE. Kiss me. (*HE leans in.*) Wait!

HE. I'll be *very* quiet. (*Leans in.*)

SHE. Do you say you love me because you love me, or do you say you love me so that you may kiss me.

HE. Yes.

SHE. "Yes" to what?

HE. "Yes" to whatever it is that will allow me to kiss you.

SHE (*turns*). So you admit you do not love me.

HE. I admit nothing of the sort!

SHE (*turns back*). But you do not deny it!

HE. I deny nothing of the sort!

SHE. You don't.

HE. And I shan't!

SHE. So you love me?!

HE. I suppose I do.

SHE. And I suppose—

HE. —I love you! Kiss me! (*Leans in.*)
SHE. Wait!
HE. Should I have said it the other way around?
SHE. *Why* do you love me?
HE. I don't know.
SHE. You don't *know*?!
HE. I mean, I know, but...but my love is far too great for mere words.
SHE. It is?
HE. I just said so, didn't I?
SHE. Kiss me! (*HE leans in.*) Wait!
HE. You will not be-*lieve* how quiet I can be!
SHE. Are you saying you are not attracted to me?
HE. Of course I'm attract—...is this a trick question?
SHE. Would you still want to kiss me were you not in love with me?
HE. Of course!
SHE. So love has nothing to do with it.
HE. Of course not.
SHE. So you would nigh be happy going about kissing whomsoever you fancied with nary a thought of love.
HE (*beat*). No.
SHE. No!?
HE (*confused*). I don't *think* so.
SHE. Well I wouldn't think so either.
HE. Love truly hurts.
SHE. Aye, it does. But wait! You hurt?
HE. Sorely.
SHE. So you love me!
HE. If this is heading where I hope it is, then "yes."
SHE. Kiss me, my love!
HE. Then yes! (*Leans in.*) Wait.