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Family Plays

THE GIRL I USED TO BE

Drama by
KT CURRAN



THE GIRL I USED TO BE

The Girl I Used to Be is a disturbing look at teenage drug use is by KT Curran, director of the SOURCE Teen Theatre, a nationally acclaimed and award-winning theatre for young people in Florida. The SOURCE is a traveling theatre company that creates and performs plays on important issues for teens.

Drama. By KT Curran. Cast: 3m., 3w. At age 15, Cassidy is a promising young dance student with a world of opportunity ahead of her. But Cassidy is also being forced to deal with the sometimes unpleasant changes that come with growing up. One of her friends leaves her behind in an effort to become a cheerleader and join the popular crowd, while another friend has to come to terms with his homosexuality. Cassidy finds comfort in a new, older boyfriend who introduces her to the drug culture. Soon, things that once seemed important are forgotten, and most of her time is spent in a drug-induced haze on a couch watching cartoons with the boyfriend around whom her life now revolves. But Cassidy's escape from her past comes to a grinding halt when brutal reality forces her to face facts. *The Girl I Used to Be* is a play for high-school students based on a true story about teenage drug users. *The play is meant to be performed by teenagers, so any smoking that appears in the play can be mimed or done with fake cigarettes. The language is designed to reflect the real speech of high-risk teens involved in heavy drug use. If there are words that are offensive to some audiences, directors have the author's permission to omit certain words or phrases. The scene involving the attempted rape should be staged with the utmost sensitivity and care, only suggesting what is about to happen, and not actually showing anything that would compromise the actors or upset the audience. Minimal sets for various events in Cassidy's life. Costumes: modern clothes. Approximate running time: 35 to 40 minutes. Code: GB9.*

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KT CURRAN

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Characters

CASSIDY. A 15-17 year old girl. Cassidy is a dancer who is struggling with insecurity after losing her best friend. Her parents are going through a divorce.

KRISTIN. A 15-17 year old girl. Kristin has been Cassidy's best friend since elementary school. She desperately wants to be a part of the popular crowd and is willing to sacrifice her friendships to get there.

LINDSEY. A 15-17 year old girl. Popular, beautiful. Lindsey is a cheerleader.

JOSH. 17-19. Handsome, charming, and charismatic. He is the son of dysfunctional, wealthy parents. Josh has become a teenage drug user.

JEREMY. 15-17. Cassidy's friend. Talented, honest, and funny, Jeremy is a dancer struggling with his sexual orientation.

DOUG. 17-19. Doug is a friend of Josh's. He is a heavy drug user.

Setting

The play takes place in various settings in Cassidy's life:
the school gym, the dance studio, the park,
Josh's bedroom, and a hospital.

Time

The Girl I Used to Be covers a period of two years
in the life of teenager, Cassidy Bowman

Originally performed by the SOURCE Teen Theatre in Sarasota, FL for a tour of Sarasota County Public High Schools with the following cast:

Cassidy	Cathy Leone
Kristin	Dacia Giordano
Lindsey	Holly Warren
Josh	Andrew Mahadevan
Jeremy	Brian Pettit
Doug	Justin Chinnis

AUTHOR'S NOTE

The Girl I Used to Be is a play for high school students, based on a true story about teenage drug users. The play is meant to be performed by teenagers and so any smoking that appears in the play can be mimed, or done with fake cigarettes. The language is designed to reflect the real speech of high risk teens involved in heavy drug use. If there are words that are offensive to some audiences, directors have the author's permission to omit certain words or phrases. The scene involving the attempted rape should be staged with the utmost sensitivity and care, only suggesting what is about to happen, not actually showing anything that would compromise the actors or upset the audience.

Dedicated to the beautiful and talented Jillian Jaffe

[JOSH stares at her for a long moment and then turns and walks away.]

Scene Eleven

[The dance studio. Six months later. CASSIDY enters. She is in dance clothes. She puts down her bag and starts to stretch out. JEREMY enters. He watches her for a moment.]

JEREMY. It's the strangest thing. You look just like a girl I used to know. Her name was Cassidy.

CASSIDY. You have every right to be a jerk. But I'm back in the class, Jeremy. My mom talked to Mark, and I'm back. I'm gonna dance every day and all summer and he thinks maybe I still have time to get in shape for the college auditions in the fall.

JEREMY. What about Josh?

CASSIDY. I haven't talked to him in six months.

JEREMY. You've been Josh-free for six months, and you haven't even called me?

CASSIDY. *[During the following speech she is putting on her dance shoes.]* When we first broke up, I could hardly even come out of my room. It was my mom, finally, who kind of got me going again. And wanting to dance... And you know Jeremy, it's taken... It's taken all that time for me to finally clear all the drugs out of my head and feel halfway normal again. Even after all this time I still get calls from people wanting to know where they can find Josh...wanting to buy some pot or X... No matter how many times I tell people I don't do drugs anymore, they keep shoving them in my face, asking me to roll or drop some acid... I went to this party, and I saw this young girl with her eyes rolling back in her head, stoned out of her mind, and it was like looking at the girl I used to be. I don't want to be that girl, Jeremy. I want to dance. I want to go to New York. With you.

JEREMY. I'm gonna cry. *[They laugh. CASSIDY gets up and begins to dance. As she is twirling about the room she suddenly notices Josh standing in the doorway.]*

CASSIDY. Josh.

JOSH. Big surprise.

CASSIDY. What are you doing here?

JOSH. I need to talk to you.

CASSIDY. *[pause]* Okay.

JEREMY. *[Pause. CASSIDY looks at Jeremy.]* I'll be right outside. *[He exits.]*

THE GIRL I USED TO BE

[MUSIC up. LIGHTS rise on an HIV clinic. Over a loud speaker we hear the number 3329 called CASSIDY BOWMAN, a pretty seventeen year old girl, slowly enters, looking nervously. She walks to a chair center stage and sits.]

CASSIDY. Hi. My name is—oh, I guess I shouldn't tell you my name. This is anonymous, right? Well, anyway..I need an HIV test. I...I heard this boy I...used to be with..I mean, I was...in love with...well, he told me...he told me he was infected with HIV. *[She starts to cry and has difficulty continuing.]* But all that happened a long time ago...him and me...and I've changed. I mean, I probably don't even have it, right? But when I heard about it I guess I got scared...real scared...so I... Well, here I am. *[slowly thoughtful]* Sometimes...when I think of the girl I used to be...I can hardly believe I'm the same person. I think back on that time...all the drugs...sex...as if it was a dream. *[She takes a deep breath.]* I guess I should just start at the beginning.

Scene One

[A high school gym. MUSIC up as two CHEERLEADERS and energetically begin doing a cheer. CASSIDY sits and watches them.]

KRISTIN AND LINDSEY. *[doing a cheer]* If you want to win that game—you have to cheer with all your might. We say go. You say fight!

[CASSIDY claps and runs over to them.]

CASSIDY. Kristin! That was great!

KRISTIN. You really think so?

CASSIDY. You look fantastic.

LINDSEY. Of course she does. I taught her.

CASSIDY. Yeah...the cheerleading stuff was all perfect...but you know that part where you do the jump? I think it might work better if—

LINDSEY. Cassidy. *[pause]* It is Cassidy, right? It's not that I want to sound stuck up or anything, but I'm like, practically a professional cheerleader, okay? I don't think you should be telling us how to do our cheers.

CASSIDY. I'm not...I mean...I've been in dance since I was three years old.

LINDSEY. Well, gee, I wonder why the cheerleading committee didn't pick you then?

CASSIDY. Maybe 'cause I don't have long, blond hair and look like a Barbie Doll.

LINDSEY. Excuse me?

KRISTIN. *[to Cassidy]* Don't be jealous.

CASSIDY. I'm not jealous.

LINDSEY. Of course not. *[to Kristen]* I'll be outside. *[She exits.]*

KRISTIN. Are you trying to ruin my whole life? Lindsey is like the most popular girl in school. Without her help, I'll never make it on the team. Can't you just be nice to her?

CASSIDY. I don't see how you can even stand to be around her. I mean, which part of her is the most fake—her bleached blonde hair or her big, white teeth?

KRISTIN. I like her.

CASSIDY. You hate her. You've hated her ever since fourth grade. We both have.

KRISTIN. People can change.

CASSIDY. *[Pause. She looks at Kristin.]* Yeah. They sure can.

LINDSEY. *[calling from outside]* Kristin, I'm sorry to break this up, but we've really got to get to practice. We're gonna be late.

KRISTIN. Okay. *[to Cassidy]* Don't look at me like that.

LINDSEY. Come on, Kristin.

KRISTIN. *[to Cassidy]* I've got to go.

CASSIDY. Okay then, go. I'll talk to you after school.

KRISTIN. No, I...I'm going to the mall with Lindsey. But I'll call you later, okay? *[Pause. CASSIDY doesn't answer.]* Okay? *[She exits.]*

[CASSIDY stares after her and then slowly sits down. JOSH, a seventeen year old boy, enters. CASSIDY doesn't notice him until he speaks.]

JOSH. Hi, princess.

CASSIDY. You talking to me?

JOSH. Yeah, I'm talking to you. Did you see a guy come though here? Dark hair. Kind of ugly?

CASSIDY. No.

JOSH. He was supposed to meet me behind the gym. *[pause]* What are you doing in here all by yourself? *[She shrugs.]* You look like somebody just stole your puppy or something. That's not a tear I see in your eye, is it?

CASSIDY. No.

JOSH. Some stupid guy break your heart?

CASSIDY. No. It's...it's my friend Kristin. She...well, she's made friends with this cheerleader and all of a sudden it's like I don't even exist anymore.

JOSH. That sucks.

CASSIDY. Yeah.

JOSH. Somethin' about cheerleaders. All that jumpin' up and down must knock loose a few of their brain cells. *[CASSIDY smiles.]* Hey, I made you smile. *[pause]* What's your name?

CASSIDY. Cassidy.

JOSH. Cassidy. *[pause]* Cool. I like that. *[He takes out a PACK OF CIGARETTES.]* You want one?

CASSIDY. You can't smoke in here.

JOSH. Why not? You got to live dangerously sometimes. *[He lights a cigarette and hands it to her. She takes a puff of the cigarette and coughs a little.]* Don't tell me you never smoked a cigarette before.

CASSIDY. I... No, I haven't. *[He laughs.]* Don't laugh.

JOSH. I'm not laughing. I think it's cute.

CASSIDY. *[handing him back the cigarette]* I don't like it much.

JOSH. Don't worry. It gets better. *[pause]* How old are you? *[Pause. CASSIDY doesn't answer.]* Wait. Let me guess. Uhhh...Seventeen?

CASSIDY. *[laughs]* No.

JOSH. Sixteen. *[She shakes her head.]* Alright, how old are you?

CASSIDY. Promise you won't laugh?

JOSH. I promise.

CASSIDY. Fifteen.

JOSH. Damn.

CASSIDY. I'll be sixteen next month. *[pause]* Now you're gonna walk away, I bet.

JOSH. I will if I'm smart.

CASSIDY. What does that mean?

JOSH. Nothing.

CASSIDY. Why are you staring at me like that?

JOSH. You look a lot older than fifteen. *[He stares at her for a moment.]* Well, I...got to get going. I got some people to meet.

CASSIDY. Okay.

JOSH. *[He starts to walk away and then stops.]* Hey, Cassidy.

CASSIDY. Yeah?

JOSH. Don't let the bimbos get you down. *[He exits. CASSIDY watches*

him walk away.]

CASSIDY. *[to audience]* It was like my whole life started with the day I met Josh. *[MUSIC up.]*

Scene Two

[The school cafeteria. KRISTIN and LINDSEY enter talking and sit down.]

LINDSEY. So I was at the mall, okay? And I was looking for a new shirt to go with my black skirt.

KRISTIN. *[opening her lunch bag]* Yeah.

LINDSEY. I go in Contempo hoping to find something at least halfway decent, and there's this new guy working there. He's so cool. He's like, from Jamaica or something.

KRISTIN. Wait, wait, I saw that guy last week. The one with his hair in all the braids?

LINDSEY. Yeah, but let me tell you. He unlocks the...you know...dressing room door, and all of a sudden we're like alone together in this tiny, little hot dressing room with these, like mirrors all around us. And he's standing there like he has no intention of leaving. So I start slowly unbuttoning my shirt.

KRISTIN. You did not.

LINDSEY. I sure as hell did. And he turned bright red. I mean he was breaking out in hives. I almost peed in my pants.

KRISTIN. I can't believe you. *[opening her sandwich]*

LINDSEY. You're not actually going to eat that, are you?

KRISTIN. What do you mean?

LINDSEY. I don't know. I never eat lunch. Hey. There's a cute guy over at the coke machine. Thirsty?

KRISTIN. I have to wait for Cassidy.

LINDSEY. I am not gonna have her hanging around all the time, Kristin. I don't know what it is. I just don't like her.

[CASSIDY enters]

KRISTIN. Shut up. There she is.

LINDSEY. Great.

CASSIDY. Hi guys. *[She starts to sit down.]*

LINDSEY. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm like, kind of saving that seat for somebody.

CASSIDY. You didn't save a seat for me, Kristin?

[KRISTIN stares at her for a moment, not knowing what to say. JOSH enters.]

JOSH. *[lightly]* Hey Cassidy.

CASSIDY. Josh. *[KRISTIN and LINDSEY look at Cassidy in surprise.]*

JOSH. What's up?

CASSIDY. Not much.

LINDSEY. Hi, Josh.

JOSH. *[looking at Lindsey]* Do I know you? *[LINDSEY gives him a dirty look. He turns back to Cassidy.]* So anyway...I was thinking about you today.

CASSIDY. You were?

JOSH. You still smiling, Princess?

CASSIDY. *[smiles]* Yeah.

JOSH. Well, I'll see you around, okay? *[CASSIDY nods. He walks away.]*

KRISTIN. *[watching him go]* That was Josh Madison. How do you know Josh Madison? He's like a senior.

CASSIDY. Well...we talk...sometimes.

KRISTIN. You talk sometimes. He's probably the coolest guy in the whole school. Why didn't you tell me?

LINDSEY. You could have at least introduced us.

CASSIDY. I'm sorry. I—

LINDSEY. Well, sit down. Sit down. Tell us everything.

CASSIDY. I thought you were saving—

LINDSEY. Forget about it. Sit. *[CASSIDY sits.]*

KRISTIN. So?

CASSIDY. There's not much to tell.

LINDSEY. Oh yeah? So what's with him calling you princess?

CASSIDY. I don't know. He's nice.

LINDSEY. Nice? He's a total player. I saw him at a party last weekend. His eyes were like, all over me. But I bet that guy is good.

CASSIDY. Good?

LINDSEY. Hello?

KRISTIN. She means in bed. Where'd you meet him anyway?

CASSIDY. I don't know... We smoked a cigarette together.

KIRSTIN. Since when do you smoke?

CASSIDY. Since I met Josh, I guess. *[She walks towards the audience and speaks.]* Since I met Josh.

Scene Three

[JOSH enters and paces around impatiently as if he is waiting for someone. He sits down and lights a cigarette. DOUG, a seventeen year old boy enters. He looks around and then sits next to Josh.]

DOUG. Hey dude, wassup.

JOSH. Where the hell have you been?

DOUG. I had to get some money, man.

JOSH. Wait 'til you try this stuff. It's good weed.

DOUG. So hook me up.

JOSH. Sixty bucks.

DOUG. First I want to sample the merchandise.

JOSH. That's cool. *[He takes out a bag of pot and rolls a joint while he's talking.]* You'll like this stuff. It's a really mellow high, dude. I mean, I pack one bowl and I'm walking back to my car, okay? I see this lady in her little uniform giving me a parking ticket and I'm like, that's cool. Nooo problem. *[He finishes rolling the joint and lights it.]*

DOUG. Hey, give me some. I'm paying for it.

JOSH. *[handing him the joint]* So try it out.

DOUG. *[They smoke for a moment.]* Not bad. I could get used to this. *[pause]* Hey, man I wanted to ask you about somethin'—

JOSH. Yeah?

DOUG. Can you get me some of those...you know...roofies?

JOSH. Roofies? What do you want that crap for?

DOUG. I got this chick I'm into who needs a little helping along.

JOSH. That's screwed up, dude.

DOUG. I'll pay extra.

JOSH. I don't know, man.

DOUG. Come on. What are friends for?

JOSH. I'll see what I can do.

DOUG. Alright then.

JOSH. *[pause]* So you like my weed?

DOUG. Mighty fine. Mighty fine.

JOSH. Glad you approve. So where's my sixty bucks?

DOUG. You're heartless, man. *[He hands him the money.]*

JOSH. I got to make a living, don't I? *[CASSIDY enters.]*

CASSIDY. Hey Josh.

JOSH. Cassidy. *[quickly putting the money away]* What are you doing

around here?

CASSIDY. I was cutting through the park on the way to dance class.

DOUG. You better watch out little girl. There might be all kinds of bad guys lurking around.

JOSH. Hey, Doug, don't you have some place you have to be?

DOUG. Keep away from the jailbait, dude. [*He exits.*]

CASSIDY. Who was that guy?

JOSH. Some loser.

CASSIDY. Is he a friend of yours?

JOSH. Not really. [*He changes the subject.*] So you're going to dance class? Like what? Ballet and stuff?

CASSIDY. Yeah. Ballet and jazz. I...love to dance. It's the one place I can really feel like myself.

JOSH. Dance for me.

CASSIDY. Are you crazy?

JOSH. No, really. I'd love to see you dance.

CASSIDY. Maybe someday I will.

JOSH. Hey. I got an idea.

CASSIDY. What?

JOSH. Skip dance class. Just for today.

CASSIDY. What? Why?

JOSH. Hang out with me for a while.

CASSIDY. But—

JOSH. It won't kill you to miss one class.

CASSIDY. We've got a competition coming up.

JOSH. It's a beautiful day. You really want to be inside some stuffy old dance studio?

CASSIDY. I don't know.

JOSH. Come here. Look at that sky, Cassidy. I mean, it's incredible. Look at the way the leaves look in the light.

CASSIDY. [*looking at the sky*] I used to love to look up at the clouds.

JOSH. I still do. [*looking at the sky*] I can see all kinds of things. Look at that one over there. It looks like a dragon.

CASSIDY. Where?

JOSH. [*lost in the clouds and the pot he just smoked*] Wow. That is really intense.

CASSIDY. I can't see it.

JOSH. Hey, Cassidy, you want to get high?

CASSIDY. [*stunned*] Uh...

JOSH. Man, I forget you're only fifteen.