

Three Little Words

By Jamesine Cundell Walker

This is a suite of short plays, all on various themes related to love. They all have a comic element, but also raise some interesting issues on the general topic of love and affection. These plays are suitable for community groups as there is negligible set and there is a wide range of casting opportunities, including doubling.

Characters

Snakes and Ladders

Malcolm: a man in early middle age.

Karen: a woman in her forties.

Nice Out, Isn't it?

Ken: an enthusiastic elderly man.

Brian: a disillusioned elderly man.

Magic Marge

Mrs Simpson: an elderly lady.

Blackbird

Florence: a young woman aged nineteen, just about to start university.

Rosie: mother of Florence aged early fifties.

The Donor

Graham: a man in late middle age, divorced, disillusioned.

Cassie: a woman in her mid-forties Graham's ex-wife.

Kippers Can't Swim

Gladys: an elderly lady.

Alex: aged seventeen.

50/50

Jo: a woman in her late 30s.

Danni: a woman in her early 40s.

Two little words

Ken: an enthusiastic elderly man.

Malcolm: a man in early middle age.

Rosie: mother of Florence, older sister of Karen aged early fifties.

Florence: a young woman aged twenty, a university student.

A note on doubling the cast

This play can be done with a large mixed cast, but it is also possible for the following actors to double.

Actor 1	Malcom and Graham
Actor 2	Karen, Cassie, Jo
Actor 3	Gladys and Mrs Simpson
Actor 4	Florence and Alex
Actor 5	Rosie and Danni
Actor 6	Ken
Actor 7	Brian

Snakes and Ladders

Characters

Malcolm: A man in early middle age of any ethnicity.

Karen: A woman in her forties. Malcolm is her boss.

Setting

Malcolm and Karen are trapped in some kind of storeroom. There is a high step ladder in there and some other detritus, including several empty cardboard boxes. The lighting is rather subdued throughout and it is eerily quiet (and warm).

(Malcolm is up a stepladder on the side of the stage as though looking out through a high window. Karen is standing at the base, holding the ladder. It is Friday lunchtime at 1.37pm. All banging is mimed and a sound effect is used, but this should not limit the vigour of the actor's actions.)

Malcolm: I can't see anyone at all, and it's one thirty-seven already.

Karen: Well bang on the bloody window.

Malcolm: Look, what is the point of banging on the window when there's no one around. And I'm going to get a nose bleed if I stay up here much longer.

Karen: **(muttering)** Wimp.

(She lets go of the ladder and sits on the floor)

Malcolm: Don't let go! It's high this thing.

Karen: Oh, for God's sake.

Malcolm: I'm sorry.

(Pause)

Karen: I can't believe I'm here.

Malcolm: I'm sorry, I thought this was a great find.

Karen: **(sarcastically)** Oh yes, really cosy!

Malcolm: What do you mean?

Karen: For God's sake Malcolm. I don't mean *here*, like physically here, I mean I can't believe where I find myself, you know, in life.

Malcolm: Well, it's Friday.

Karen: Oh, I know it's Friday.