

Scene 4  
GETTING IT BACK

*Music fades.*

*We hear someone – Gayle – pounding on a door.*

GAYLE

**Lendall! (More pounding.) Lendall! (More pounding.) Lendall!**

*(Lights up on the living room of a small home in Almost, Maine. It is furnished with a comfortable chair and an end table. Lendall has been woken up. Maybe he was asleep in bed; maybe he was asleep in the chair. Either way, he's up now. He turns on the light, and goes to answer the door.*

*Gayle continues to pound on the door.)*

LENDALL

Okay! Gayle! Shhh! I'm comin', I'm comin'!

GAYLE

Lendall!

LENDALL

Hey, hey, hey! Shh, come on, I'm comin'! *(He exits stage left to answer the door.)*

GAYLE

*(Entering; blowing by him.)* Lendall –

LENDALL

*(Returning.)* What's the matter?, what's goin' on?

*(Beat.*

*Gayle is stewing.)*

What?

GAYLE

*(she's been in a bit of a state, but she collects herself.)* I want it back.

What? LENDALL

I want it back. GAYLE

What? LENDALL

All the love I gave to you?, I want it back. GAYLE

What? LENDALL

*Now.* GAYLE

*(Little beat.)* I don't understand – LENDALL

I've got yours in the car. GAYLE

What? LENDALL

All the love you gave to me?, I've got it in the car. GAYLE

What are you talkin' about? LENDALL

GAYLE

I don't want it anymore.

LENDALL

Why?

GAYLE

I've made a decision: We're done.

LENDALL

What?! –

GAYLE

We're done. I've decided. And, so, I've brought all the love you gave to me back to you. It's the right thing to do.

LENDALL

*(Bewildered.)* Um, I –

GAYLE

It's in the car.

LENDALL

You said.

*(Beat.*

*He's kind of paralyzed trying to figure this out.)*

GAYLE

*(Waiting for him to take some action and go get the love.)* I can get it for you, or . . . you can get it.

LENDALL

Well, I don't want it back. I don't need it –

GAYLE

Well, *I* don't want it! What am I supposed to do with all of it, now that I don't want it?

LENDALL

Well, I don't know . . .

GAYLE

Well, under the circumstances // , it doesn't seem right for me to keep it, so I'm gonna give it back. *(She leaves.)*

LENDALL

Under what circumstances? *(Calling to her.)* Gayle – what are -- ? I don't understand what -- . . . What are you doing?

GAYLE

*(From off.)* I told you. I'm getting all the love you gave to me, and I'm giving it back to you.

LENDALL

*(Calling to her.)* Well, I'm not sure I want it – whoa! Need help?

GAYLE

Nope. I got it. It's not heavy.

*(She returns with an ENORMOUS bunch of HUGE red bags full of love. The bags should be filled with clothes or towels [for a little bit of weight and stability] and foam or pillow stuffing [for shape, and to keep them soundless]. She dumps the bags on the floor.)*

Here you go.

LENDALL

*(Truly puzzled, referring to the bags of love.)* And this is . . . ?

GAYLE

*(Exiting.)* All the love you gave me, yeah.

LENDALL

Wow.  
(*Beat.*)  
That's a *lot*.

GAYLE

(*Returning with more bags of love.*) Yeah. (*She exits.*)

LENDALL

Whole lot.

GAYLE

Yeah. (*She returns with even more bags of love. There is now a GIGANTIC pile of love in Lendall's living room.*)

LENDALL

Wow. What the heck am I gonna do with all this? I mean . . . I don't know if I have room.

GAYLE

(*Upset.*) I'm sure you'll find a place for it (*i.e., another woman.*) . . . And now, I think it's only fair for you to give me mine back because . . . I want it back.

(*Beat.*)

All the love I gave to you?

LENDALL

Yeah?

GAYLE

I want it back.

(*Beat.*)

So go get it.

(*Lendall doesn't move. He's probably trying to figure out what is happening and why it's happening.*)

Lendall, go get it.

(*Lendall still doesn't move.*)

Please.  
*(Lendall still doesn't move.)*  
Now!!!

LENDALL

*(A little shaken; a little at a loss.)* Okay. *(He exits. Gayle sits in the chair and waits. She's still in a state.)*

*Long beat.*

*Lendall returns . . . with a teeny-tiny little bag – a little red pouch – and places it on a little table next to the chair. They look at the little bag. The little bag should be between Lendall and Gayle. And Gayle should be between the many bags of love and the little bag of love.)*

GAYLE

What is that?

LENDALL

*(It's obvious – it's exactly what she asked for.)* It's all the love you gave me.

GAYLE

That's -- . . .? That is *not* --. There is no way -- . . . That is *not* --. *(Mortified.)* Is that all I gave you?

LENDALL

It's all I could find . . .

GAYLE

Oh. Okay. *(Taking in the little bag . . . and then all the big bags.)* Okay. *(And she's crying.)*

LENDALL

Gayle . . . what's goin' on here?

GAYLE

I told you: We're done.

LENDALL

Why do you keep saying that?

GAYLE

Because -- . (*This is hard to say, but has to be said.*) Because when I asked you if you ever thought we were gonna get married – remember when I asked you that?

(*Lendall doesn't seem to want to remember.*)

In December? . . . It was snowing?

LENDALL

(*But he remembers.*) Yeah.

GAYLE

Yeah, well, when I asked you . . . *that*, you got so . . . *quiet*. And everybody said that that right there // shoulda told me everything.

LENDALL

Everybody *who*?

GAYLE

Everybody!

LENDALL

Who?

GAYLE

. . . Marvalyn >

LENDALL

*Marvalyn?!? Marvalyn said that, like she's an expert?*

GAYLE

said – yes, Marvalyn, yes, said that how quiet you got was all I needed to know, and she's right: You don't love me.