

The List

Romantic comedy · Monologue · 2 min · No gender marker · Young adult · Beginner

(Standing, a piece of paper in hand, facing someone we don't see.)

MOI

I made a list. Don't smile. When something is too big for me, I make lists. And you are too big for me.

MOI

One: you sing off-key, with a confidence that should be illegal.

MOI

Two: you tell the time without looking at your watch, and you get it wrong. Always. By nine minutes. I checked for months. Which means I needed to check for months.

MOI

Three: you fold the corners of book pages. I defended bookmarks all my life, and now I listen for the sound of paper when you read.

MOI

Four: you say "we" when you mean you. "We should stay." "We're good here." And the worst part is, it works: I stay, and we're good here.

(The paper shakes a little.)

MOI

This list was supposed to be called "reasons to leave". I just read it again. It's a list of reasons to stay.

MOI

So say something. Quickly. Before I make a list of your silences.

What you can do with it

Original text written for Acto. Read it, print it, work on it in class, perform it at an audition or on a self-tape: that is what it is for, and you need no permission. For a public performance or any commercial use, write to us at contact@acto.re.