



# SHOW ME YOU LOVE ME

by Robert Simms



## Cast

**WALTER**.....Man about seventy, a grandfather  
**EVELYN**..... Woman about seventy, a grandmother  
**BOB**..... Man about forty-five, Walter's son  
**CATHY**..... Woman about forty-five, Bob's wife

*(The four characters are sitting as if in a small living room. WALTER is reading a paper, as is BOB. EVELYN is working on some project, perhaps needlepoint, while CATHY is just sitting and musing.)*

**BOB:** Dad, are you through with the business section?

**WALTER:** Haven't started it.

**BOB:** When do you think you will?

**WALTER:** Don't read it.

**BOB:** Then, can I have it?

**WALTER:** Yep. *(Holds it up slightly. Bob has to get up and reach over to take it.)*

**CATHY:** Daddy Walter, you're so talkative! Evelyn, did he ever talk when he was courting you?

**EVELYN:** Oh, yes, he'd talk about anything if it would get me to ride with him. He had an old '38 Dodge we used to...

**WALTER:** '39.

**CATHY:** I bet he told you he loved you just about every day.

**EVELYN:** *(After a pause)* No, actually, he didn't.

**CATHY:** *(Lightheartedly, but strongly hinting to Bob.)* All you men are that way.

**BOB:** Who are you talking about?

**CATHY:** You. You're a man, aren't you?

**BOB:** Are you saying I never tell you I love you?

**CATHY:** Well, you don't.

**BOB:** I do, too.

**CATHY:** When?

**BOB:** *(A bit flustered, tries to think quickly of the last time)* Last week.

**CATHY:** When last week?

**BOB:** Monday night when I called you from Cincinnati.

**CATHY:** Oh, on the phone from a hotel room. Everybody does that.

**BOB:** Oh, so it doesn't count?

**CATHY:** It's not the same.

**BOB:** As what?

**CATHY:** As telling me when we're together.

**EVELYN:** Oh, you two sound like ducks—quack, quack.

**CATHY:** You said Walter didn't tell you he loves you.

**EVELYN:** I said he didn't tell me a lot when we were courting. But he tells me every day.

**CATHY:** *(To BOB)* There, see? He tells her every day.

**BOB:** *(Insincerely, to end the exchange)* Okay, so I'll tell you every day from now on. *(To Walter)* Finished with the Sports?

**WALTER:** Nope.

**EVELYN:** I didn't say he says the words, "I love you" every day. I said he tells me.

**CATHY:** *(Waiting for the explanation. Then somewhat facetiously...)* What, he uses sign language?

**EVELYN:** No, I mean he shows me. He makes the coffee every day—I never did make good coffee. He warms my car up for me on cold days, goes to the store at the drop of a hat if I need something, keeps my car clean, washes dishes and clothes about as often as I do, and always asks me after breakfast if there's anything he can do for me today.

**CATHY:** *(Glances at Bob as she answers EVELYN)* He does all that?

**EVELYN:** Mm hmm.

**CATHY:** Are you sure Bob is his son?

**BOB:** Hey, what is this about?

**CATHY:** It's just a friendly discussion about how men don't talk about their feelings.

**BOB:** Sounds to me like my mother just told you that wasn't the most important thing.

**CATHY:** Does that mean you're going to start making me breakfast and washing the dishes and doing laundry?

**BOB:** *(Starts to stall)* I ...Look, that's ...

**EVELYN:** I didn't say I didn't wish Walter wouldn't say the words sometimes. *(Looks at Walter as if expecting reply)*

**CATHY:** There, you see?

**BOB:** Okay, which do you want? You want me to say, "I love you," three times a day, or you want me to wait on you hand and foot?

**CATHY:** Both. But just once a day would do, and no hand and foot. Just do nice things.

**BOB:** I already do.

**CATHY:** Which?

**BOB:** Nice things! Dad, do you want to help me out, here?

**WALTER:** *(Slightly holds out the Sports section)* Sports?

**CATHY:** *(Smiling at Bob as if to suggest there is no way for him to wriggle out)* Like I said, you men are all the same.

**EVELYN:** No, I don't think that's so. Men leave their wives every day for other women; but your husband and his father aren't like that. I've known plenty of women in my lifetime whose husbands yelled at them and beat them; and Walter and Bob are not like that.

**CATHY:** Well of course, but...

**EVELYN:** And I've watched you two over the years. Bob loves you: I've seen it in a thousand ways.

**BOB:** Thank you, mother. *(He looks at Cathy as if to say, 'So, there!')*

**EVELYN:** Not that he couldn't do more. *(Cathy returns Bob's look in the same way)* Now if I could only get the talkative one here to say, "I love you," once in a while, all would be right with the world.

**WALTER:** *(From behind the paper)* I did.

**EVELYN:** I must have missed it.

**WALTER:** Last time was '57.

**EVELYN:** Well, Walter, that was nearly fifty years ago. I'd like to hear it again.

**WALTER:** *(Drops the paper enough to peer over it to speak to EVELYN)* Why? Nothing's changed. If it does, I'll let you know.

*(BOB, about to laugh, slowly raises his paper in front of him. EVELYN shakes her head and goes back to her project. CATHY breathes out in frustration, and sits and stares at the whole group.)*

END