

I Want to Hold Your Hand
 (from the new anthology of “Silly Love Songs for Teens”
 Based on The Beatles song titles.)

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CAST: 2 (1 male, a female)

Casey (male) mid-teens – wants to hold Melanie’s hand

Melanie (female) mid-teens – careful teen

SETTING: Bare stage or what you will

TIME: Today

NOTE: Pronouns and genders may be changed to suit director’s needs

(Lights up on two awkward teens. They are interested in each other. They are fairly close to each other whether sitting or standing. And this is important: they are both innocents.)

CASEY

Mel?

MELANIE

Casey?

CASEY

Could I ... I mean ... would it be all right ... I really... I’d like to ... hold your hand.

(MELANIE takes a few steps away from CASEY but holds out her hand. But she’s just out of reach.)

MELANIE

All right.

CASEY

Can you come closer? I can’t reach you.

MELANIE

I can’t. Because of the Holy Ghost. He takes up a lot of space.

CASEY

Do you seriously see the Holy Ghost here?

MELANIE

No. But I know he appears when two people like each other.

CASEY
You like me?

MELANIE
Yes.

CASEY
.... Cause I like you, too. Sooooo.... Can you come a little closer?

MELANIE
I want to. But I can't. Sister Mary Angelina says that when two people like each a lot/

CASEY
/A lot?

MELANIE
A lot... they need to leave room for the Holy Ghost.

CASEY
Have you seen the Holy Ghost?

MELANIE
Not exactly.

CASEY
Because I have. And I can assure you, he is not that big. In fact – he fits on my shoulder.

MELANIE
Is he there now?

CASEY
Let me check. (Beat.) Why yes, he is. He is trying to guide me.

MELANIE
I wish he would guide me.

CASEY
I think he will. Just close your eyes and feel the warmth on your shoulder.

(SHE does so.)

And now feel him nudging you closer.

(SHE leans closer but stays in place.)

CASEY (cont'd)

Even closer.

(SHE leans even closer. But stays in place.)

The Holy Ghost is on the tip of your fingers. Hold your hand out. Please.

(SHE holds her hand a little out.)

Even further out.

(SHE does so.)

Now, the Holy Ghost is going to hold one hand in mine and one hand in yours. Keep your eyes closed and don't be frightened.

MELANIE

I'm not.

CASEY

Stretch out your fingers.

(MELANIE does so and stands there with her hand outstretched. CASEY comes closer with his fingers outstretched. And very slowly, their fingertips touch. It's electric.)

MELANIE and CASEY

Oh!

BLACKOUT and END OF PLAY