

LIFE, LOVE AND OBSESSION

A play in two acts

By

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Cast of Characters

MAXINE SQUIRE: 69 - Attractive, strong, intelligent, wise, fun, active, retired Mother of Lori. Happily married wife of Ryan.

RYAN ALLEN SQUIRE: 57 - Very attractive, salt, and pepper hair. Tall, well built, well dressed. A novelist and poet, ecstatic that he married Maxine. Happens to be blind.

LORI: 46 - The daughter of MAXINE. Unmarried, but always open. Feisty, smart, and loyal. As the text voice, it is a stilted voice like SIRI or CORTANA. Pre-recorded.

TEXT VOICE:

LESLIE: 45 - Extremely attractive. Driven, successful and headstrong.

Scene

A high-end great room overlooking the ocean in Santa Monica.

Time

The present.

SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1	Interior great room	Early morning
Scene 2	Interior great room	That evening
Scene 3	Interior great room	That night

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Scene 1	Interior great room	Same night, same time
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Set vision

The interior of a nice home overlooking the ocean in Santa Monica. The great room has a kitchen off stage left with an L-shaped breakfast counter extending into the room with four stools. A breakfast nook and chairs are stage-right. The front door and hall extend five feet into the room stage right with the coat rack against the desk upstage of the door. The breakfast nook is the farthest stage right. A burglar alarm and their wedding picture hang by the front door. The hallway to the bedrooms is upper stage right. The back-left wall has a sliding glass door to the balcony. The living room has a comfortable couch and two large easy chairs. The couch is askew. All the other furniture is neatly placed away from any edge. There is a landline phone on a hall table. Artwork and statues pepper the house.

ACT I

Scene 1

SETTING: Morning. Interior of the Squire's home. On the kitchen counter is RYAN'S cell, and his shoulder bag. The coatrack leans against the desk.

AT RISE: RYAN, wearing a gray shirt, is in the kitchen making a breakfast tray for MAXINE. He is putting the finishing touches on the meal. He is humming as MAXINE enters from their bedroom. She is dressed but her hair is uncombed. She hears RYAN humming and tiptoes up behind him. She hugs his waist.

MAXINE

Guess who.

RYAN

Jenny?

MAXINE

(kisses his ear)

Guess again.

RYAN

Tamara? Ashley? Tiffany? Hortense?

MAXINE

Hortense! That home wrecker?

(MAXINE turns RYAN to her
and gently grabs his butt.)

RYAN

Oh, that's right, it's Friday. You can't be Hortense; she's my Tuesday and Thursday babe.

(MAXINE kisses RYAN.)

RYAN

Oh, Maxine! What is that perfume?

MAXINE

Obsession.

RYAN

Obsession has never smelled so amazing.

MAXINE

Your other girlfriends don't have my sensuous chemistry.

RYAN

Obsession is my new favorite perfume. You can wear that anytime!

(turning to the tray)

You spoiled my surprise. I was making you breakfast in bed.

MAXINE

That's lovely but I'm not that hungry. Maybe Hortense is still asleep. You could surprise her.

RYAN

Oh, I fed her hours ago! How are you feeling?

MAXINE

Like I'm wearing an iron bra and a corset I can't loosen. It's always worse after the fill. I'm better today.

RYAN

Do you want some ice or a pain pill?

MAXINE

No, Toodie, I need to stay sharp.

RYAN

I don't like the idea of you living in pain all these months for me.

MAXINE

It's almost over! Just one more fill and then the breast implants. I for one will be glad to get rid of these tissue expanders and finally have the real deal.

RYAN

Maxine, reconstructive surgery has never been important to me. With or without breasts you're beautiful.

MAXINE

I want to give you this gift. Besides, I won't mind feeling like a whole woman for the first time in sixteen years. A little discomfort is a small price to pay.

(MAXINE goes to the breakfast nook and sits. RYAN brings over breakfast and sets the food in front of her. He goes back for juice limping.)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Ryan, are you limping?

RYAN

Yes.

(He sits as MAXINE prepares to eat.)

MAXINE

What happened?

RYAN

There was some kind of oil on the floor. I should try out for the Olympics! My falls are quite spectacular.

MAXINE

You fell! I'm sorry! How did oil get there?

RYAN

Maybe you spilled something last night.

MAXINE

I'm sure I didn't. Let me rub some Tiger balm on it.

RYAN

I'm going to the gym before the park. I'll let the whirlpool massage it out. We both will need to be more careful.

MAXINE

Ryan, I'm sure I didn't spill anything!

RYAN

Maybe it was from the stir fry.

MAXINE

That was two days ago! I hope I'm a better housecleaner... Are you sure I can't at least give you a massage?

RYAN

I'll be fine. Please enjoy your breakfast.

MAXINE

Aren't you joining me?

RYAN

I ate with Hortense earlier.

MAXINE

(prays)

Lord, thank You for blessing our family. We thank You for wholeness and healing and Your greatest gift - love. Thank You for blessing this wonderful food. Let it nourish me keeping me healthy, happy, and strong in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

RYAN

Amen. What are you looking forward to doing once you're back to normal?

MAXINE

Hugging the stuffing out of you, getting something off the top shelf, and combing my hair again!

RYAN

Hey! I'm getting pretty good at fixing your hair!

MAXINE

You are! Still...

RYAN

I'll fix it right after breakfast.

(MAXINE eats. A TEXT whistle from RYAN'S cell breaks the mood. RYAN gets his cell.)

RYAN (CONT'D)

It could be Craig. I'm waiting for his critique on my latest chapters.

(RYAN engages the speech function for the message.)

TEXT VOICE (V.O.)

Hello lover, I'm so looking forward to seeing you again. My body is quivering...

(RYAN clicks off the phone. He blocks the sender.)

MAXINE

(nonchalantly as she eats)

Hortense sounds warm for your form.

RYAN

Anna again. She must've bought another phone. I keep blocking her.

MAXINE

The calls would stop if you would just change your number.

RYAN

Maxine, we've been over this. There are too many people to contact. Agents, studio personnel, managers, friends, family, not to mention I have my poetry book out at several publishers. The studio warned us this could happen once I hit the talk show circuit. I wish Anna would get a life.

MAXINE

She's trying to have mine.

RYAN

You, Maxine, are irreplaceable.

MAXINE

I bet you say that to all your wives.

RYAN

Just the ones with an 'X' in their name.

MAXINE

Anna is obsessed with you.

RYAN

She wants attention. I don't give her any. She'll get bored soon.

MAXINE

Not soon enough.

RYAN

Your insecurities are showing.

MAXINE

Darn! I thought my slip would cover those!

RYAN

(laughs)

Cute! What are you doing today?

MAXINE

The Foundation. I miss my volunteer work. Truth be told I miss Danny. I hope he's getting used to his new legs.

RYAN

Take it slow. Those kids could hurt you with their hugs.

MAXINE

I'll be careful. Oh, don't forget Lori and her new friend are coming over for dinner tonight.

(RYAN reaches knowingly
for his recorder. He feels
around on the counter.)

RYAN

What time?

MAXINE

Six-thirty. It's just dinner. They're going clubbing afterward, so the night is ours!

RYAN

Clubbing? Lori? At forty-six? Do they even call it that?

MAXINE

Dancing in a nightclub with cocktails and single men. What would you call it?

RYAN

Husband hunting. They should wear fur bikinis and carry clubs.

MAXINE

(laughs)

Behave! I think this is her friend's idea.

RYAN

Who is she anyway?

MAXINE

A big new client, Leslie something. They're both single and hit it off. I guess Lori is hoping for a friend and a husband payday.

RYAN

I wish Lori would land a good man. She deserves the best!

MAXINE

Second best.

RYAN

(searching around the kitchen)

Did you see my recorder?

MAXINE

(without looking)

On the counter.

(RYAN sweeps the counter. He feels around on the floor.)

RYAN

Did it fall?

MAXINE

It's not on the floor. Where'd you leave it last?

RYAN

On the counter. I've got six days' worth of work on it.

MAXINE

Maybe you left it by your chair.

RYAN

I always leave it in the same place! Where is it?

(MAXINE and RYAN both look around. RYAN moves into the living room and bumps into the couch and almost falls.)

RYAN (CONT'D)

Ouch! Maxine, why did you move the couch?

MAXINE

I wouldn't move anything without telling you.

(MAXINE looks around in the living room. RYAN nudges the couch back. MAXINE sees the recorder on a low bookshelf.)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Found it!

RYAN

Where?

MAXINE

On the bookshelf nearest the kitchen.

RYAN

How did it get there?

MAXINE

Maybe you were distracted and just...

RYAN

Maxine, I'm blind. I can't afford to get distracted.

MAXINE

Maybe sleepwalking? You have a lot on your plate!

RYAN

That's possible. I did it as a kid. I did all kinds of weird things in my sleep. I even went outside and did sprints in the buff.

MAXINE

I'll have to start chaining you to the bed!
(gently places it in RYAN'S hand.)

That was a joke.

RYAN

What would I do without you?

MAXINE

I pray you never find out.

(looks longingly at him)

Would you please comb my hair? I want to look my best for the kids.

RYAN

Of course.

(MAXINE opens a drawer. She takes out a mirror and brush as RYAN feels around for the brush.)

MAXINE

Nine-o'clock plus one.

(RYAN reaches out to nine o'clock and adds a foot finding the hairbrush.)

RYAN

(French accent)

What will it be today? Messy updo? Ponytail? Topknot? Or, I could give you the ever-popular French braid.

MAXINE

I always leave it up to Mister Ryan. What do you say to a picnic lunch?

RYAN

Becky is meeting me in the park to go over some changes in the script.

MAXINE

Becky?

(laughs)

Oh, the pretty one who thought I was your mother.

RYAN

Your slip is showing.

MAXINE

You didn't tell me about the meeting. I can change things up and meet you there. What time? I'll bring enough food for the three of us.

RYAN

You don't need to be there today. Nadine is coming and she's bringing lunch.

MAXINE

Well, if you don't need me. I couldn't ask for a better chaperon than your sister!

RYAN

Nadine's taking notes you nut! The studio is pushing hard for the rewrites and I promised Craig two chapters today for the new book. Add the meeting and it's a full day!

MAXINE

The studio sure must love you to agree to a meeting in the park!

RYAN

You know I do my best thinking there. Besides, my script my rules!

MAXINE

Thank you for breakfast. Would you clean the grill for me? We're having steak tonight.

RYAN

I'll do it before the girls get here.

MAXINE

I should be back around five.

(RYAN finishes her hair.
He holds up the mirror.)

RYAN

How's that?

MAXINE

Up a half.

(RYAN raises the mirror six
inches. MAXINE checks it out.)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Perfect as always. Thank you.
(puts the hair things away)
Don't eat too much. I want you to enjoy dinner tonight.

RYAN

Two babes at lunch two babes at dinner; I'm liking all this attention!

MAXINE

Oh, Stud-of-the-manor, I'll be here tonight too.

RYAN

The other wenches are just subjects. You're my queen!

RYAN (CONT'D)

(reaches for the coatrack)

Maxine, I know you never want me to leave, but I need my cane.

MAXINE

What?

RYAN

Please tell me when you move the furniture. Where'd you put the coatrack?

MAXINE

Well for pity sakes, what's it doing against the desk?

(RYAN finds the rack, puts on his jacket, pulls out his cane from the jacket pocket, snaps it open and it breaks.)

RYAN

It broke! Okay, Maxine, very funny. You've had your fun but the joke is over. Moving my recorder and the furniture is one thing but my cane?

MAXINE

Are you serious?!

RYAN

I get it. I've been working a lot and maybe this is your way of trying to keep me here.

MAXINE

Ryan, do you honestly believe I would do any of this?!

RYAN

Maxine, I didn't do it and if you didn't pull all of these pranks then someone's been in this house!

MAXINE

How? When? We haven't left here!

RYAN

They might still be here.

(MAXINE heads down the hall.)

RYAN (CONT'D)

Maxine, don't! We should call the police!

MAXINE

And tell them what? Some furniture has been moved?