

LIFE AND LOVE AFTER THE PURSUIT

A play on two acts

By

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Cast of Characters

MAXINE SQUIRE: 68 - Attractive, newlywed, intelligent, fun, active, retired. Mother of Lori, Grandmother of Gabe.

RYAN ALLEN SQUIRE: 56 - Very attractive, salt, and pepper hair. Tall, well built, well dressed. A novelist and poet, ecstatic that he married Maxine. Happens to be blind. Must be able to stage fight.

LORI: 45 - The daughter of MAXINE. Unmarried, but always open. Feisty and loyal.

GABE: 15 - Struggling addict. Tall, lanky, and tough. Grandson of Maxine. Must be able to stage fight.

Scene

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

Time

The present.

SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1	Interior great room	Late 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 one hour later.
Scene 2	Interior great room	Middle of the night - the same night.

ACT IScene 1SETTING:

Interior of a very nice home overlooking the ocean in Santa Monica. The great room has a kitchen off stage left with a breakfast counter extending into the room. A small breakfast nook with chairs is stage-right. The front door and hall extend five feet into the room stage right with a hall tree. This makes the breakfast nook farthest stage right. A casual blue blazer hangs on the hall tree. A sterling silver framed wedding picture hangs right 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. A coffee table is in front of the couch. Everything is neatly placed away from any edge and the floor is marked under the furniture. Nice art pieces pepper the room. A ticking clock is prominent in the room.

AT RISE:

MAXINE is standing at the kitchen counter making a sandwich. She wears nice casual clothes and comfortable shoes. She exudes strength and warmth. RYAN enters in a towel from the bedroom. His hair is damp and he is wet. He walks up behind MAXINE as she grabs a sandwich bag. RYAN slides his hands around MAXINE'S waist and kisses her neck. She smiles and stops to enjoy the moment.

RYAN

Good morning, beautiful. How did you sleep?

MAXINE

What little I got was wonderful. You slept late, it's almost eleven-thirty!

RYAN

It's all your fault! If you weren't so intoxicating...
(gently pulling MAXINE)
Come join me in the shower. I'm lonely.

(RYAN twirls MAXINE in a great dance move to face him and give her a big dip ending in a kiss. MAXINE laughs then gently breaks from RYAN.)

MAXINE

You're incorrigible. Don't you have to finish two chapters today?

RYAN

I just needed my inspiration to get me started. I'll scrub your back.

MAXINE

Lori's on her way.

RYAN

Then I'll just scrub the front.

MAXINE

You're on your own, stud. I love you.

RYAN

(playfully heads down the hall)

No, no, no! Don't try that lovey-dovey stuff. You had your chance!

(RYAN exits then dangles the towel out the door.)

RYAN (CONT'D)

See what you're missing!

(MAXINE laughs then goes back to making lunch)

RYAN (CONT'D)

(poking his head around the corner)

Are you happy to be home?

(RYAN disappears and pokes his head around when talking.)

MAXINE

It's nice to get back into a routine, but I adored being on the road with you. All the adventures and those fabulous cities. What was your favorite place?

RYAN

Hawaii!! That was amazing! You were remarkable with the interviews.

MAXINE

Ha! I stumbled my way through. I thoroughly enjoyed Hawaii.

RYAN

I'm already planning our trip back.

MAXINE

(remembering)

It's hard to believe our honeymoon was eleven months ago. Seychelles was spectacular. That was my favorite place. I adored that little cabana right on the private beach. That was the most extraordinary and unique place I have ever been! I want to go back. Maybe our second honeymoon?

(RYAN enters, dressed in designer jeans and boots as he buttons up his shirt.)

RYAN

Your wish is my command! The outdoor shower made it all worthwhile.

(RYAN slips behind MAXINE and hugs her.)

RYAN (CONT'D)

We didn't take nearly enough showers for my money.

MAXINE

Are you kidding? I'm still pruny. We're not normal! Aren't we supposed to fight or get tired of being together or something?

RYAN

I will never tire of you!
(kneels)
Marry me.

MAXINE

All over again. And again, and again!

(RYAN kisses MAXINE.)

RYAN

"Can you hear the sound of love?
Does it come from up above?
Or does it bubble from the sea
bursting open singing free.

When you close your eyes at night
do you hear your soul recite
the sound of love you hear inside
once your heart is opened wide?

I can hear the sound of love
Given me from God above.
It sings the name of my Queen
My love, my life, my Maxine."

MAXINE

Oh, Toodie! That was beautiful!

RYAN

Just like my bride.

(She stares lovingly at
RYAN gives him a quick
kiss and slowly breaks free
as she returns to bagging
the sandwich.)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I made you some lunch.

(MAXINE puts the sandwich
in RYAN'S shoulder bag
and sets it on the counter.)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Three o'clock next to your recorder.

RYAN

What time does Gabe's plane get in?

MAXINE

Four. By the time he gets his bags, he should be here
around six. I am so excited, I can hardly wait!

RYAN

I'm looking forward to meeting our grandson!

MAXINE

You will love Gabe. He's a very bright kid, just a bit
misguided at the moment. Stan said Gabe is quite the
handful right now, but then again Stan always exaggerates!

RYAN

Getting away from his friends and into a new environment will give us the upper hand... at least for a while.

MAXINE

Stan went through a rebellious stage when he was a boy. I think that's why he called me. I wouldn't let Stan get away with anything. I love a challenge and Gabe is shaping up to be a big one what with his drug experimentation.

RYAN

If Stan is sending Gabe to us, it must mean your son can't handle him. He must be a handful! Do you know what kind of drugs?

MAXINE

I assume Marijuana.

RYAN

I hope weed is his only issue. I know we can help with that, but if he's doing harder drugs he could be more than we can handle.

MAXINE

Stan would have told me... At least I think... no, I'm sure he would! He and Janet both know me well enough to know I will pull the plug on this if Gabe gets out of hand.

RYAN

I hope you mean that.

MAXINE

Oh, Ryan, I can hardly wait for you to meet Gabe! He's so funny and bright! He was always such a smart young man! When he was in the fourth grade he took apart my old wind-up alarm clock. Every part down to a bag of gears and screws then put it back together. It worked better than before!

RYAN

In the fourth grade? He must be smart! I can't wait to meet my Grandson! I finally get to be a Grandfather! I've wanted to be a Grandfather for the longest time! I can take him fishing and help him with homework and show him how to kayak and just do manly things.

(Wistful beat)

MAXINE

Matt and your grandson are missing out. There's time to re-connect with Matt. We'll make that our top priority after Gabe leaves. Gabe will be blessed to have you in his life!

MAXINE (CONT'D)

You are going to be the best Grandfather!

RYAN

You and I will make a great team.

(RYAN envelopes MAXINE'S
waist facing her.)

RYAN (CONT'D)

That perfume is intoxicating. What is it?

MAXINE

Love Forever.

RYAN

I will! Our lives are about to change for at least a month.
Are you sure we can't play hooky just one more hour?

(The doorbell RINGS
breaking the embrace.)

RYAN (CONT'D)

And our glorious fairy tale life is officially on hold.

MAXINE

(kisses RYAN)

I love you, Ryan Allen Squire.

RYAN

I love you, Maxine I-hate-my-middle-name Squire.

(MAXINE opens the door as
LORI enters.)

LORI

Hi mom. Wow! You look amazing!

MAXINE

(hugging LORI)

Oh, Lori, I missed you!

LORI

(assessing MAXINE)

You look younger! Married life sure agrees with you.

(LORI gives RYAN a big hug.)

LORI (CONT'D)

Hi Ryan, you look handsome as ever. It looks like you're
taking good care of mom.

RYAN

Hello Princess. I can't take the credit. That's all Maxine's doing.

LORI

An eleven-month honeymoon? That has to be a record!

RYAN

Every day is a honeymoon with my Queen!

(RYAN grabs his recorder
and shoulder bag.)

LORI

Are you off to the park?

RYAN

Two chapters and a jingle today.

LORI

What's the jingle for?

RYAN

Mighty Man.

LORI

So mom keeps telling me. What's the jingle for?

RYAN

Love you too, Princess.
(donning the blazer)
I'll be back before Gabe arrives.

MAXINE

Just a minute.

(MAXINE grabs a water
bottle taking it to RYAN.)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

It's going to be hot today.

(MAXINE adjusts his blazer.
MAXINE puts the water in his
shoulder bag. RYAN pulls his
cane from the blazer pocket,
snapping it open.)

RYAN

Whatever did I do without you, Mrs. Squire?

(RYAN kisses MAXINE.)

RYAN (CONT'D)

Farewell, me ladies. I'm off to battle with word dragons.

(Using his cane like a sword, RYAN exits. LORI and MAXINE laugh.)

LORI

I am so jealous!

MAXINE

You had your chance. You pushed him on me, remember?

LORI

Does Ryan dress like that just to go to the park?

MAXINE

Every day.

LORI

Such a class act! It sure looks like you both are still living on cloud nine.

MAXINE

I loved your father dearly, but Ryan brings a whole new meaning to the word!

LORI

Any regrets?

MAXINE

Only that I hadn't met him sooner. We're on a perpetual honeymoon. He leaves love notes on my pillow, brings me flowers, and surprises me with ice cream and little gifts. Ryan treats me as if I am the only woman on the planet!

LORI

And to think you almost let him get away! Any issues with his blindness?

(MAXINE goes to the kitchen as LORI walks around the house peeking in all the rooms. LORI walks to the living room sliding door looking out.)

MAXINE

As long as I don't move the furniture or leave things out that could trip him, the blindness is an afterthought. He never lets it slow him down.

LORI

What a view!

MAXINE

I spend a lot of time out there. Coffee?

LORI

I'm coffee'd out. I'll take a water though.
(joins MAXINE in the
kitchen)

I missed you! I also adore this new house! That ocean view
is spectacular. This place must have cost a fortune!

MAXINE

Ryan's book tour was a big success.

LORI

Finding a house so close to his park was quite a coup!

MAXINE

That was my number one must-have. Ryan does his best
writing in our special park.

LORI

I wish you would've let me come over sooner. I could have
helped you unpack!

MAXINE

Ryan needed to do it. He wouldn't even let me help. He
memorizes everything so he doesn't need the cane at home.

LORI

Are you glad to be home?

MAXINE

I'd be happy in a cardboard box if Ryan was by my side. I
want you to be happy. You spend too much time alone.

LORI

I go out! Why just last week I went to lunch with Annie and
Jackie.

MAXINE

You know what I mean. You need to get involved in
something. Volunteer somewhere; join a gym or a book club.

LORI

(changing the subject)

So, mom, how did Stan ever talk you into taking Gabe?

MAXINE

Stan's never asked me for anything. How could I refuse?

LORI

You were awfully quick to take Gabe in. You know what you're getting into, right?

MAXINE

Why don't you fill me in? I know he's been in trouble. Stan said Gabe's been experimenting with drugs.

LORI

Experimenting? Is that what Stan told you? Oh, Mom! Gabe's been high for months!

MAXINE

High for months? Gabe? Why didn't Stan tell me?

LORI

Stan always did run from trouble. Telling you he failed? That wasn't going to happen.

MAXINE

High! I can't get my head around that. Gabe was always such a wide-eyed, respectful, loving little man.

LORI

That changed with the drugs. Stan is at a loss. Gabe got hooked on amphetamines and when he isn't high, he lashes out at anyone or anything that gets in his way.

MAXINE

You're being melodramatic.

LORI

Mom, he stole money from Stan, got expelled, and threatened a teacher! He ditches school and he's angry. Violently angry! That kid is trouble with a capital R.U.N!

MAXINE

You should have called me! Gabe and I have always had a special connection. I would have helped! I was as close as a phone.

LORI

Stan was embarrassed. He thought he could handle him. Janet thought staying with you and Ryan was their last hope. It would get him away from his friends and bad influences.

MAXINE

Nothing like a little pressure! Stan said Gabe was a handful, but I had no idea of the severity of this!

LORI

Like I said, RUN and don't look back!