

YOU DO LOVE ME, DON'T YOU – half script pages 5 to 4 from the end

Scene: The sitting room/lounge of an ordinary middle class home. The front door is downstage right and the area of the doorstep immediately outside the front door is visible to the audience. There is a telephone on a telephone table just upstage inside the front door, a single couch stage left next to a snacks table with wine, glasses, a bread board with a large bread knife and flowers etc. on it, a single couch directly opposite that one with a small table next to it for drinks and a main sofa between them. Imaginary doors to the downstairs bathroom and kitchen are the upstage wings right and left. There is a window upstage left.

Characters:

Leon: In his twenties, young, fresh faced, comes across as slightly insecure. This is the main character and can just as easily be played by a female, with the sex of the two main roles reversing. Dressed in white

Peta-Ann: Also in her twenties - girlfriend (boyfriend) of Leon. Generally a happy person, dedicated girlfriend.

Alison: Peta's sister, late teens, a bit of a know it all. Can also be played by a male

Robert: Peta's dad. Jolly. Plumber - tends to make "plumber jokes" a lot

Glenda: Peta's mom - trying to be upper middle class in spite of her husband

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(Robert enters from the kitchen. He is dressed in a smart casual way)

Robert: You must be Leon. Nice to meet you! (puts out his hand to shake Leon's and they shake hands)

Leon: Yes.

Robert: Did you get a drink?

Leon: Peta got me some wine

Robert: Oh, did she, good girl. Call me uncultured - well my wife frequently does, but I'd choose a beer anytime.

Leon; Each to his own.

Robert: Oh - was that the phone I heard?

Leon: It was. I hope you don't mind that I took the liberty of answering it.
There was nobody else here.

Robert: Oh? Course not. Who was it?

Leon: Your brother Jack. He's been... unavoidably detained. (looks up and to left)
Um, car trouble - running late, may not be able to make it. Sends his apologies.

Robert: Damn. (Gets himself a beer and opens it whilst talking)
He was supposed to bring over this new contraption he got for unblocking drains.
Works like a bomb, he says. Tree roots, newspaper, plastic packets, anything - it can
deal with it. It's got this rotating blade you see, with a cover thing that only works on
the inside of drains, clearing a path through all the sh--, well anyway the best part
about it is that it doesn't screw with the pipes like some of the cheap crappy tools out
there. Oh, talking about screwing - he calls it "the screwer" well, cause it looks like a
giant (rude hand gesture) , haha.-

Leon; Yes, I think I know exactly what you are talking about.

Robert: The only problem is that people kind of misunderstand when you say you want to
come over and screw with their drains!!! (laughs at his own joke) Oh, we're both
plumbers, you see, Jack and myself. Family business.

Leon: Yes, Peta-Ann told me.

Robert: It's a damn shame you're going to miss Jack - he's usually the life and soul of
the party. You'll probably be bored stiff now without him.

Leon: I am sure everyone will miss him.

Robert: Well, who's to say that he won't turn up later hey? I'll tell Glenda to keep a plate
warm for him. Glenda (shouts) - food - we need food for Jack!

(enter Alison)

Alison: Daddy, don't shout, you know mum hates it when you shout.

Robert: (to Leon) Sorry, I don't have any manners, really. Wife's been trying to
train me for years.

Alison: Would you like me to tell mum something for you?

Robert: Food - we need a plate of food for uncle Jack in case he turns up.

Alison: He's not coming? Oh, thank God.

Robert: Alison!!

Alison: I can't stand him. You know that. You know how he gets at parties, dad.

Robert: (Annoyed with her as she is coming across as very rude) You know what, I'll just tell your mother myself, shall I. Save you the bother. (To Leon) Please excuse me. (exits, leaving his beer open on the drinks table)

Leon; Alison, I assume?

Alison: Peta told you?

Leon; Yes

Alison: Oh, right. (awkward silence)

Leon: Lovely house.

Alison: It's okay, if you like lots of China, I suppose.

Leon: Yes.

Alison: Leon, right?

Leon: Yup.

Alison: So, um, like where did you and Peta meet?

Leon: Oh, on the train.

Alison: Oh? I didn't know Peta took the train.

Leon: Really.(bored)

Alison; Mum doesn't like her to, you see, since those girls went missing on the train last year.

Leon; I didn't -...

Alison: My mother was hysterical when she found out that Peta took the same train where it all happened. Told Peta she had to take the bus till she was like, forty.

Leon; To be honest, I don't pay much attention to that sort of thing. But she's not in any danger when she's with me. You see, she loves me.

Alison: Well, okay...but don't tell mum - Peta's supposed to be catching the bus. If you're with her, I suppose it's fine.

Leon; Don't worry, I never tell.

Alison: Well, I suppose that's a good thing. (awkward silence) Um, excuse me for a minute - I really have to pee. (exits into bathroom)

(enter Peta)

Peta: Dinner's almost ready, sorry for the delay. My dad's finally seen reason and admitted

that the pork will not return to the land of the living!

Leon: Good.

Peta: Sorry, you've been left alone here, haven't you?

Leon; Not at all. I had the pleasure of your sister's company.

Peta: Alison?

Leon; You have another sister?

Peta: No, it's just that I didn't know she'd be here. She was supposed to go camping this weekend.

Leon: How fortunate for you.

Peta: I know, right? It's like I never see her nowadays - what with me being at varsity and her still at school. I mean she's a few years younger than me, so we don't have that much in common at the moment, but I'm really hoping that when she comes to stay with me when we're both at university next year we'll get closer.

Leon; So you love her?

Peta: What a strange question! Of course I love her, she's my sister, even though she can be a bit of a pain sometimes, you know!!

(bathroom door opens and Alison exits)

Alison: I heard that!

Peta: Oops. (laughs)

Alison: Well you're not the only one who is painful, you know, sorry, know it ALL.

Leon: (To Peta) I didn't know Alison was coming to live with us.

Alison: You two are living together?? After, like 8 weeks. Busted!! Oh, mom's going to die!!

Peta: Well, technically my folks pay for the place and also - staying over now and then doesn't really qualify as living together!! (uncomfortable)

Leon; Oh. I assumed. My fault. (turns away to window holding wineglass)

Peta: (To Alison) If you breathe a word of this to mom, or dad, you're dead!!

Alison: Don't worry, I'll think of something you can do for me to seal my ever ready lips.

Peta: Alison, Leon and I are not living together!! (Leon in the background shifts uncomfortably)

Alison: Hey, Leon - you know Peta's last boyfriend - mom didn't like him at all. She made Peta break up with him. (Leon drops his wine glass in the background)

Peta: That was because he rode a motorbike. (sees the wine has dropped) Get a cloth, won't you, Alison.

Alison: And riding your new man is just so much better than that!

Peta: Alison!!

Alison: Whatever.....you know that new I-phone, don't you think that it's just perfect for me?

Peta: It's a couple of thousand, Alison.

Alison: Not on contract! (exits dramatically)

Peta: AAargh! She drives me crazy!!

Leon: I see.

Peta: You don't really, do you? I mean you've never had a sister.

Leon; No, it was just me and mother...

Peta: Oh....?

Leon: She died.

Peta: Oh, I'm so sorry, Leon. I didn't know.

Leon: How could you know? I never tell.

Peta: Sorry?

Leon: I hadn't told you. I love you Peta. (holds her hands and stares at her intently) You do love me, don't you, Peta?

Peta: I love you! (gives him a kiss)

Leon: Stay with me always? (very intense)

Peta; Of course!! Oh, Leon, I know we've only been going out for 8 weeks, but I've never met anyone like you, ever!! You, you're-

Leon: Perfect?

Peta: Yes, well for me you are. A perfect gentleman. Your mother taught you well. (Leon's face tightens) Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to say - does it bother you to talk about it?

Leon: No, not really. (they sit)

Peta: Do you mind me asking what happened?

Leon: She died. On a train.

Peta: Poor you. Did you love her very much?

Leon: We were never apart.

Peta: Oh, I'm sorry.(leans in to hug him)

Leon: It's not your fault.(holding her close)

Peta; I didn't mean it like -

(enter Robert and Glenda. They are carrying bowls of chips and peanuts. As they enter they startle Leon and Peta and they jump up quickly from the sofa. It is at this point in the play that the tension should start to build)

Robert: Guilty as charged!!

Peta: Dad!!!!

Glenda: We thought that you two might be getting hungry seeing as we had to start the roast from scratch.

Peta: We are, thanks! (Peta takes bowl of peanuts from her dad and sits down. While they are talking Leon takes the bowl of peanuts, eats a few and then, still holding the bowl stands up and looks out the window. What he is doing should not be apparent to the audience. Glenda eats the other bowl of peanuts)

Robert: (Sits down on a single chair) Glenda, get us a beer, love?

Glenda: (moves to table with beer, wine and glasses Gives Robert his open beer) Wine, Peta? Leon?

Peta: Thanks, mom. (Leon shakes his head)

Glenda: (pouring and delivering drinks) So, how's school?

Peta: Good, thanks.

Robert: How did the exams go?

Peta: Fine - I think, I mean there's always that one subject that gets you. Although I'm pretty sure I passed that one, so the others should be fine.

(enter Alison and plops down on the sofa)

Robert: How's the flat - any problems there?

Alison: Oh yes, the flat! Wasn't there something you wanted to tell mummy about the flat, Peta-Ann?

Peta: Alison! It's, the, the plumbing - dad - when we go back I wish you'd look at it for me!

Robert: Will do! Hey - I'll bring that new machine of Uncle Jacks!

Alison: I can see a lot of screwing taking place there in the future!

Glenda and Peta: Alison!!

Glenda: Your language, young lady.

Alison: Sorry, mum. (at Peta mouths the words "I-fone")

Robert: Well, Jack does call it it the...

Glenda: "Robert!"

Robert: Oh, Leon doesn't mind, do you Leon?

Leon; (turns to face the audience) Oh, no.(turns away again)

Alison:(finishes bowl of chips) You're out of chips. Can I go get some more?

Glenda: Don't ruin your lunch, dear.

Alison: I won't!! Peta - you'll help me? (hinting)

Peta: Fine. (annoyed, gets up and they both leave)

Alison: (offstage shouting) Dad - there's smoke coming out of the kitchen. Again!!!

Robert: Bugger!! (jumps up and exits towards the kitchen, leaving his beer on a table) At this rate we're going to get KFC for Sunday lunch.

Glenda: (To Leon) Sorry there must be trouble with my oven. This doesn't usually happen.

(Leon turns away from the window and still carrying the peanuts, comes back to sit facing Glenda and looks at her intently)

Glenda: So, er, Leon, what do you do? Are you a student as well?

Leon: No, I'm not.

Glenda: So what is it that you do?

Leon: Oh, this and that. Peanut? (offers her one from the bowl he has been holding)

Glenda: (takes a peanut from the bowl) Thank - you. Love these things - finished mine ages ago.

Leon: I noticed.

Glenda: (eats the peanut)

Leon: Have another.

Glenda: Thank-you. (takes a handful of peanuts in her hand and eats them one by one. Leon leans forward and watches her intently) So, if you don't mind me asking, what is "This and that?" I'd like to know more about the man my daughter swears is "Mr Right." (she coughs)

Leon: Stuck in your throat? They tend to do that. (Glenda coughs again) Maybe you need some water. (Glenda coughs more violently and starts to choke.) No, I don't think water will help, really. (Glenda makes motions that she is choking) No, in reply to your question about what I do? I ride trains until I find what I am looking for. And this time I think I've found it. It's love, really. True love. (Glenda collapses out of her chair onto the floor) And I would hate it if something were to come between us. I mean, it's perfect. (Glenda stops moving and Leon watches her impartially) Those other girls, they were nothing compared to Peta. (He walks over and takes her pulse. He then picks up the body or drags it into the bathroom. He then locks the door. He then pours himself another glass of red wine and sits down to enjoy it but accidentally spills some on his white shirt)

(enter Robert)

Robert: Glenda! (sees only Leon sitting there) Oh, where'd Glenda go?

Leon: She's with Uncle Jack.

Robert: Oh - he's outside?

Leon: Er....he was.

Robert: Great. Hope he brought his "screwdriver." Looking forward to showing it to you - think you'll find it quite interesting.

(enter Alison)

Alison: Oh, dad, you know not everyone wants to know how you screw.

Robert: Alison!! (To Leon) Please excuse her, she's seventeen...you know how it is. Alison - we'll have no more of your comments especially when Uncle Jack gets inside.

Alison: Oh, why not, it's not as if he'd notice anyway.

Robert: One more word from you, young lady, and you're grounded.

Alison: I thought I was already grounded. You stopped me from going to camp, remember?

Robert: All too well. Alright then, grounded for longer.

Alison: Fine. My life is over anyway. Don't you think so, Leon?

Leon: Perhaps.

Alison: Those peanuts? You finished with them? (tries to pick up the poisoned peanuts. Leon is standing close to her)

Leon: Not yet! (dashes them out of her hands)

Alison: Hey! What was that?

Leon: Sorry - clumsy of me.

Robert: So our daughter is dating a clutz, haha. Glad to know you're not perfect, hahaha!!!

Alison: Oh, you also poured wine all over yourself.

Leon: Thanks for that.

Robert: You did! Alison - be a sweetie and get some club soda and a cloth from the kitchen?

Alison: Fine. (exits leaving Leon and Robert alone)

Robert: Excuse me - I should go see where Glenda and Jack have gotten to.

Leon: (nods affirmation. Robert exits through front door, lights are down so you can't see him outside. Leon waits until Robert has closed the door and then quickly gets up to prepare. He walks towards the table with the beer on it. He removes a small vial from his inside pocket and is about to put the contents of it into the beer when Peta and Alison enter. He casually slips the vial back into his pocket and pretends to be getting more wine. Peta has club soda and a dishcloth)

Peta: I brought you some club soda so that doesn't stain, Leon. (takes the cloth and club soda)

Leon: Thank - you, my love. (starts to clean his shirt)

Peta: Anytime, my angel.

Alison: Oh, please. (exaggerated)

Peta: Where's mom and dad?

Leon: All outside, I believe

Alison: Uncle Jack's here, apparently.

Peta: Oh? Well that'll make dad happy, at least.

Alison: This time, let's put the wine on the other side of the table. Away from him.

Peta: Remember last Christmas?

Alison: Ugh, how could I forget?

Leon: The stain doesn't seem to be coming out.

Peta: (tries herself) Maybe you left it too long?

Leon: Perhaps. Perhaps it wasn't meant to come out.

Peta: Well at least I know what to give you for Christmas. A shirt! (Leon takes the towel away from her and starts to twist it in a cord almost absent mindedly. He sits down and continues to play with the towel)

Alison: You know what - I am going to go rearrange the dining room table right now. With the booze AWAY from uncle Jack.

Peta: Cool. (sits down next to Leon)

(exit Alison)

Leon: Peta, you do love me don't you? (soft voice, twisting the towel)

Peta: Of course I do. (turns away to get her glass of wine which has been left on the table. Leon is behind her twisting the towel. The audience must think he is going to try to strangle her)

Leon: Will you promise to love me forever? (looks down at his hands and the towel while he is twisting)

Peta: (turns towards him, and he lowers the towel) As if anything could come between us.

Leon: I won't let anyone come between us. I love you too much. (lays the towel down on his lap)

Peta: And I you. Leon, now that you've met my folks, I feel that we've taken the next step in a way. I'm glad you met them. Especially my mom - we're very close. Do you like her?

Leon; Just the way she is.

Peta: Oh, that's just the nicest thing to say! Oh - that reminds me - there was something she asked me to do with the table and I forgot. Do you mind if I go quickly do that before they all come in? They're taking their time though. Uncle Jack must have brought that contraption with.

Leon: Of course, my love.

(exit Peta. Leon gets up and quickly unlocks the door to the bathroom. He has the towel hanging out

of his pocket. He is still standing there when Robert comes back in)

Robert: There's nobody there. I thought you said Glenda and Jack were outside.

Leon: My mistake. She's in the loo.

Robert: So Jack isn't here?

Leon: No, I believe he's in his car.

Robert: Strange - I could have sworn you said he was here.

Leon: No I didn't. I said they were together.

Robert: Glenda and Jack?? But...I don't underst....(confused)

Leon: Don't worry - it'll all become clear very shortly (laughs softly)

Robert: (laughs nervously) Um, okay, (uncomfortable silence) So, er, Leon, tell me about yourself?

Leon: There's not a lot to tell, really.

Robert: I'm sure there is.

Leon: I really love Peta-Ann.

Robert: Huh? Oh. So soon? After how many weeks?

Leon: Eight. Sometimes you just know.

Robert: You haven't come here to ask my permission for her hand,ahaha...

Leon: No, that won't be necessary.

Robert: Are you implying that...- ? Because Mrs Browning and I are very traditional. We believe in marriage, as an institution.

Leon; Really....

Robert: One thing Mrs Browning and I have learned is that it's so important to get to know the person you want to spend the rest of your life with, I mean really know them, through and through. That's the key to a successful relationship, my boy.

Leon: For some.

Robert: No, I pretty much believe that that's the fundamental cornerstone.

Leon: Mr Browning, you say that with such conviction and yet...

Robert: And yet?

Leon: And yet, can you honestly say that you your wife knows everything do, each and every little thing? you

Robert: Well, maybe not in some cases, but that's not the point.

Leon: I believe it is. Don't you think that there's some things just better left unsaid, sir?

Robert: Look, Leon, the point I was trying to make was that perhaps you and Peta are taking this a little fast. Here's Peta going on and telling her mother that you're the only guy she'll ever want to be with etcetera etcetera, and to be honest with you, we got a little concerned. And that's why we invited you over here.

Leon: I see.

Robert: Sorry to come out and say it like that, but you do understand?

Leon: Completely.

Robert: I'm not saying that we don't like you, Leon.

Leon: No.

Robert: It's just that, it's just that, well maybe what I was trying to say in my way is that we should all get to know each other better before you and Peta get serious.

Leon: You said that you said that, but you didn't really mean it that way at all, now did you Robert?

Robert: (uncomfortable) No, you misunderstood me, Leon. (stands up) I'll just get Glenda - she'll sort it out - always knows what to say, you know women?

Leon: Peta - Ann - she loves me, you know. (gets up)

Robert: I'm not saying that she doesn't -

Leon: I want to be with her always.

Robert: Glenda! Leon - where did you say Glenda was, again?

Leon: In there. (points at the toilet door)

Robert: In there? All this time? How long has she been in there?

Leon: (Looks at watch and then up at Robert) About twenty three minutes now.

Robert: Strange. That's not like her. (knocks) Especially in the guest toilet!! She's very particular about these things, you know. (knocks) Glenda? Glenda!!!

Leon: Maybe you should have a look. (gets up and stands behind Robert)

Robert: (knocks) Glenda?? Glenda!! Glenda, are you okay? You sure she's in there?

Leon: Dead sure.

Robert: Glenda, honey, I hope you don't mind but I just want to check you're alright so I'm coming in! (opens door, sees her lying there) Oh my God, Glenda!! (bends down over Glenda's body with Leon behind him) Leon - call an ambulance, 911 something!! Something's happened to Glenda - Glenda my love!! I think she's dead - Oh my G...(Leon has the towel around his neck and Robert tries vainly to get it off. It can either be done with a screen with a light behind so we can see the shadows through the screen or just Leon bending over Robert)

Leon: (As he is strangling) You know, Robert, or should I call you Mr Browning? How about Sir? Oh well, I suppose we know each other quite well enough to do away with the formalities at this point, don't you think? To be honest, though, I just can't see a future for us with you in it, really. Or your brother Jack. I left him in his car this morning with the engine running - clear case of suicide of course. You see, I love your daughter Peta and she loves me. I just can't have you around to take that love away from me. So basically, you're the one that's screwed, now, Robert. (enter Alison and stands there horrified as she watches her father drop prone to the floor and Leon stand up after. She puts her hands over her mouth to stop herself from screaming. She stands frozen in shock. Leon gets up slowly and turns around and sees her there watching him. He starts toward her. She screams.) I can't have you tell Peta, Alison. That would ruin everything.

Alison: Don't come near me! I'll scream and Peta will come, I swear.