

Love and Other Investments

John Hayes





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LOVE AND OTHER INVESTMENTS

a one act play

By John Hayes

CAST

Agnes Copeland – a tax accountant

Markey Laces – her neighbor and friend

Ellen Thomas – her mother

Don Club – her former husband

ACT 1

SCENE 1

SETTING - The living room of Agnes Copeland. The room has modern furniture, artwork and a fireplace.

AT RISE –

(An attractive forty something woman sits in a black leather swivel chair, her bare feet are on a matching stool. She wears a yellow sweatshirt emblazoned SQUID MAKE GOOD HUGGERS and a long black and red-flowered skirt. She works off a clipboard. Paper clutters the floor.)

(Music from " The Beggars Opera" plays. Knocking is heard. Agnes crumples a paper and lobs it toward a wastebasket).

Agnes: Markey, go away. *(knocking becomes louder)*

Markey: Agnes, open the damn door.

Agnes: Markey, if that's you, go away! (*knocking is louder, then stops. The door opens. Markey, a sixty-year-old well-dressed man enters.*)

Markey: You didn't answer my knock. (*Agnes wads a paper and throws it at him*)
What are you doing?

Agnes: I'm doing my taxes. That's why I didn't answer your knock.

Markey: You should have someone do your taxes for you.

Agnes: I'm a tax accountant.

Markey: I'm an attorney but I would never argue my own legal case.

Agnes: I prepare my own taxes. I thought we agreed you wouldn't use my key to let yourself in my apartment. I could have been making out.

Markey: You haven't had a man in here for seven months, not since Frank left.

Agnes: It wasn't Frank. It was Charles. He didn't leave. I kicked him out.

Markey: You had Frank for two days after Charles left. Did you forget?

Agnes: I'd forgotten about Frank. Did you have to remind me?

Markey: Frank wasn't right for you. Anyway, I need to tell you about my date tonight.

Agnes: Tell me tomorrow. I need to finish my tax return.

Markey: (*looks at watch*) It is tomorrow. You need a brandy. Turn off that awful music. (*grabs remote, turns off music and pours brandy.*)

Agnes: I like *The Beggars Opera*. So, who was your date? A new conquest or what's-her-name again? Where's my brandy?

Markey: Carol. Not again. Always. Forever more. She's gorgeous. (*hands brandy to Agnes*)

Agnes: You think any body you go out with is gorgeous. You think I'm gorgeous.

Markey: You are. If it wasn't for other women, I couldn't resist you.

Agnes: Where did you take her?

Markey: We saw *'night, Mother*.

Agnes: You hate that play.

Markey: Carol wanted to see it.

Agnes: You shouldn't let women boss you around.

Markey: I'm in love. Carol has red hair. A woven sunset red.

Agnes: Is she the one with green eyes?

Markey: Her eyes are heavenly blue. And svelte. Tall and svelte.

Agnes: I guess svelte eyes are better than those bug eyes like Harriet had. I'm taking you to the ballet next Sunday, *Romeo and Juliet*. A grateful client gave me tickets yesterday.

Markey: I can't go. I'm taking Carol to the zoo next Sunday.

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