

Love and Other Investments

John Hayes



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ArtAge Publications

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LOVE AND OTHER INVESTMENTS

by John Hayes

CAST

AGNES COPELAND: A tax accountant.
MARKET 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 older 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, an older 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 anybody 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.

AGNES: You're allergic to animals. Did you hear what I said? *Romeo and Juliet*, ballet. I have tickets.

MARKEY: I heard. Take Bill.

AGNES: Who is Bill?

MARKEY: Carol's oldest brother.

AGNES: I don't do blind dates.

MARKEY: Bill's a great guy. You'll like him.

AGNES: Does he like ballet? Carol doesn't, does she?

MARKEY: I'm exploring new entertainment venues with Carol.

AGNES: Balls. Go home. I need to finish my taxes.

MARKEY: You should have done them earlier.

AGNES: My last limited partnership tax statement didn't arrive until late yesterday.

MARKEY: I told you to stay away from limited partnerships. They're risky and they're always late sending out their statements.

AGNES: My limited partnerships average a twenty-six per cent return on investment.

MARKEY: (*whistles*) Twenty-six per cent, really? You certain?

AGNES: Yes, I'm certain. Maybe you would like to explore that venue.

MARKEY: I haven't time. I have Carol. Our love is true. Our love is real.

AGNES: If she's such a great love why aren't you in bed with her? There's more to life than sex.

Right, taxes. Go home.

MARKEY: I haven't finished telling you about Carol.

AGNES: Okay, tell me about her again while I finish my brandy. I forget, how old is she?

MARKEY: Twenty-seven.

AGNES: That's too young for you. Is she married?

MARKEY: She's divorced.

AGNES: Has she got any children?

MARKEY: I didn't ask.

AGNES: You should ask. It's important to know. What's her brother like?

MARKEY: He's single.

AGNES: Like in never married.

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