

LOVELAND

BY

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CHARACTERS

Noah, 21, a good looking amiable man

Maggie, 20, a beautiful dancer

Jack, 20, an aspiring carpenter

Joan, 21, a psychology major

SETTING

The present. A college house off-campus.

LIGHTS RISE ON THE LIVING ROOM OF 64 LOVELAND STREET. JACK, JOAN AND MAGGIE ARE SITTING IN THE LIVING ROOM. JACK IS THROWING DARTS AT A PICTURE OF LEONARDO DiCAPRIO. JOAN IS READING A PSYCHOLOGY BOOK. MAGGIE IS PRACTICING A DANCE.

Jack

Maggs, do you think you could do that a little more to the left, I don't want to puncture you.

MAGGIE MOVES LEFT WITHOUT BREAKING FROM THE DANCE

Jack

Thank you.

Joan

Where is Noah? Didn't he say he would be here at eight?

Jack

He'll be here. Something got him excited today when he was in the graveyard.

Joan

What was he doing in the graveyard?

Jack

I think it was a romantic thing. Sunset with his girlfriend amongst the dead and what not.

Joan

There is so much to be made from that. I don't even know where to begin.

Jack

Granted, he's a strange guy, but I don't think watching the sunset in a graveyard is anything to start analyzing too closely.

Joan

Of course you don't think it is, you're a type B personality.

Jack

What the Hell does that mean?

Joan

If only you knew.

NOAH ENTERS

Noah

Good, I have you all here.

Joan

Where have you been? You told us to be here at eight. What's the big news?

Noah

I've been in the library doing some research. I can't wait to tell you what I found.

Jack

Who wants a drink?

NO ONE RESPONDS

Jack

More for me.

Noah

Do you guys want to hear what I found out today?

Joan

Of course we want to hear. Don't you want to hear, Jack?

Jack

Lay it on me, baby. Lay it on!

Joan

Maggie?

MAGGIE DANCES BY NOAH AND STARTS TO INCLUDE HIM IN THE DANCE.

Noah

Forget it.

Joan

Don't be like that. Tell us. You have our undivided attention.

Noah

So, I was at the graveyard, watching the sun set...

Jack

Do you think it's because your parents gave your dog away when you were little?

Noah

And what do I see, but a gravestone marked Frederick Loveland, born 1886, died 1964. Next to his grave was his wife's, get this, Maggie Loveland. Born 1886, died 1906.

Maggie

She died when she was twenty?

Noah

It gets better. I went to the library to look this guy up. Our street is named after him.

Joan

That's nice.

Noah

It's named after him because he killed his wife and was the first person admitted to the insane asylum on the corner.

Jack

They named the street after him because he killed his wife and went insane?

Noah

This was one of the first cases of someone getting off for temporary insanity. It was in all the papers for weeks. He was a strange sort of celebrity.

Maggie

How long was he in the asylum for?

Noah

Three years, then he moved back home, where he had killed his wife.

Jack

It's not where I think?

Noah

Right here.

Jack

I fucking knew this house was haunted!

Maggie

Noah, you're joking around right.

NOAH SHAKES HIS HEAD NO

Maggie

Well that's just great. I live in a house where someone who shares my name was killed by her husband. I'm not going to have nightmares or anything.

Jack

I fucking knew this house was haunted.

SCENE 2: LATER THAT NIGHT. EVERYONE IS ASLEEP EXCEPT FOR JACK WHO IS UP IN THE KITCHEN WARMING SOME MILK. JOAN ENTERS.

Joan

Can't sleep?

Jack

Freaky dreams.

Joan

What kind?

Jack

If only you knew?

Joan

Clever, very clever.

A SCREAM IS HEARD FROM OFF STAGE. MAGGIE COMES RUNNING IN WITH A BUTCHER KNIFE FLAILING IN THE AIR.

Jack

Holy shit, Maggie. Take it easy.

HE TRIES TO GET THE KNIFE FROM HER BUT SHE IS TOO QUICK AND MANAGES TO CUT HIS HAND.

Maggie

You stay away from me you murdering bastard!

Joan

Maggie, it was just a dream. Calm down, it's over.

Maggie

It was not a dream! He tried to kill me!

Joan

Jack?

NOAH ENTERS

Noah

What is going on in here? I heard screaming and...Are you bleeding?

Jack

Yeah, I'm bleeding. Maggie sliced me with her damn knife.

MAGGIE MAKES A LUNGE FOR NOAH AND STICKS THE KNIFE INTO HIS SHOULDER. JACK GRABS HER AND GETS THE KNIFE OUT OF HER HANDS.

Maggie

Don't you see? He's Frederick! He's trying to kill me again.

SHE IS POINTING AT NOAH

Jack

That's absurd. He's Noah. Frederick doesn't even exist. It was a joke for crying out loud. We were just kidding around!

Maggie

No! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! He is Frederick Loveland! He wants to kill me! He wants to kill me again!

Noah

Maggie, think about how insane what you're saying is. I'm Noah. Your housemate, I don't want to kill you.

JACK IS STILL HOLDING HER BUT HAS LOOSENED HIS GRIP. NOAH TAKES A STEP TOWARDS HER AND SHE FREAKS OUT, BREAKING AWAY FROM JACK AND GRABBING THE KNIFE.

Joan

Put the knife down, Maggie.

Noah

Put it down.

HE TAKES A STEP TOWARDS HER AND SHE LASHES OUT AND SLICES HIS ARM. SHE THEN RUNS OUT OF THE HOUSE SCREAMING. THE THREE LEFT ON STAGE STARE AT EACH OTHER FOR A MOMENT. THE LIGHTS FADE.

SCENE 3: THREE WEEKS LATER. JOAN, JACK, AND NOAH ARE SITTING IN THE LIVING ROOM. EACH IS READING A BOOK.

Jack

I miss her.

Joan

I'm sure the doctors are taking good care of her. That's all we can hope for. I just wish they'd let us see her.

Noah

The doctors are not taking good care of her.

Joan

What?

Noah

The doctors, they don't take good care of people there. At least they didn't used to.

Jack

How do you know?

Noah

I've spent enough time there to know I should think. Three years is a long time.

Jack

You're freaking me out, man.

Noah

I'm sorry, Jack.

Joan

What do you mean you've spent enough time there? What the hell are you talking about?

Noah

It's her turn.

Jack

You better tell me what's going on with you, right now.

Noah

If only you knew.

NOAH STARTS TO LAUGH QUIETLY. JOAN AND JACK LOOK AT EACH OTHER IN BEWILDERMENT. GRADUALLY THE LAUGHTER BUILDS UNTIL IT IS A FULL ROAR. LIGHTS FADE OUT.