

Oh, Life

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(LIGHTS UP on a bathroom where ANGIE, an attractive woman in her late twenties, sits watching LISA, an equally attractive but more conservative woman of a similar age, standing at the mirror fixing her make-up.)

ANGIE

How much longer are we going to hide in here?

LISA

We're not hiding. We are delicately avoiding.

ANGIE

Call it whatever you want but there's a shrimp buffet out there with my name on it.

LISA

Good to know seafood holds a higher priority than your best friend.

ANGIE

Then remind me why I've locked myself in this room that smells like stale soap and cheap potpourri.

LISA

Well he's about six feet tall, dark hair and rhymes with Jeffrey.

ANGIE

Come on. This is like the third party we've been to where you two play hide and seek. Only I'm pretty sure he quit the game weeks ago.

LISA

I can't let him see me like this. Not until I'm back on my feet, you know successful and happy and with some guy who has a really nice ass and preferably an English accent.

ANGIE

Hiding in someone's bathroom really helps your chances at that.

LISA

You and Brendan only broke up two months ago. How is it so easy to watch him flirting with all these girls and not want to drag your fingernails down his pasty, dry skin?

ANGIE

Considering Brendan flirted with every skank he saw *while* we were dating I'm kind of used to it. Besides, he's a jerk. And I can do better. A lot better. Actually I don't even know why I dated him in the first place.

LISA

He bought you an iPhone.

ANGIE

Oh yeah. But Jeffrey can barely afford a BlackBerry. So what are you holding onto?

LISA

He was more than just a cell phone.

ANGIE

It's not like he had some awesome car, either. Hell, he's a first grade teacher. He takes the bus to work.

LISA

He's sweet. He loves kids. I mean, how many guys do you know that can't wait to be a dad? It's adorable.

ANGIE

It's weird, Lisa. Are you sure he's not gay?

LISA

No! Trust me, he's got the lack of fashion sense to prove it.

ANGIE

Well, it's a new millennium. I'm sure there are plenty of guys out there who want kids who don't think Napoleon Dynamite was the greatest movie to ever grace film history.

LISA

So he has bad taste in movies. It's not a sin. And it was more than just him wanting kids. Jeffrey's smart and organized, and Lord knows I need someone like that in my life. Someone to remind me to fill out my tax return and manage my checkbook.

ANGIE

Please don't tell me your big plan in life is to become some petty housewife whose greatest thrills are parent teacher conferences and her Danielle Steel book club.

LISA

Of course not, but it would be nice to have a family.

ANGIE

Why? So you can change diapers twenty-four seven and become an insomniac?

LISA

No, so I can bring life into this world and teach it something. Pass down stories about my family that one day they'll pass on to their children.

ANGIE

I'd rather save some little Asian baby's life than bring my own into this world and find out in sixteen years that all I did was destroy it.

LISA

Adoption's fine. But I want to look into the eyes of something I created. Something I created with someone else. And I wanted that someone to be Jeffrey.

ANGIE

I'm sorry things didn't work out between you two. But you can't remain a hermit for the rest of your life.

LISA

Says who?

ANGIE

Me! Your best friend. Remember her?

LISA

Oh yeah the one that prefers appetizers over me.

ANGIE

That's the one. And shrimp aside, I can't let you do this to yourself. No matter how much you kick and scream we are going out into that party and we will find some cute, single guys. Screw single; I'll fight a bitch if he's cute enough. But we'll do it, and I'll be right there next to you the whole time.

LISA

Until they bring out the lobster. (Pause.) Fine. Just give me one more minute.

(LISA continues putting on her make-up as
LIGHTS FADE OUT. LIGHTS UP on the living
room where JEFFREY and BRENDAN, both in
their late twenties, stand drinks in hand.
JEFFREY'S apparel is nice and casual while
BRENDAN looks like he threw on his old gym
clothes without care.)

BRENDAN

What about that one?

(BRENDAN points offstage.)

JEFFREY

Too tall.

BRENDAN

Okay. That one.

(He points once more.)

JEFFREY

Too short.

BRENDAN

What? Fine. That one! She's a knockout.

JEFFREY

No, look. Her right arm is obviously longer than her left.

BRENDAN

How do you see that?!

JEFFREY

Face it, Brendan. It's useless.

BRENDAN

No, you're useless. Shake it off man. It's been a month. Move on.

JEFFREY

I'm not you.

BRENDAN

Apparently. Cause I totally would have tapped that second chick. The short ones come in handy, you'd be surprised.

JEFFREY

I don't want surprises, I want Lisa.

BRENDAN

Well, sometimes Jeffrey we don't get what we want.

JEFFREY

Why are we even friends? You're making me feel worse than I already do.

BRENDAN

It's not my job to baby you and tuck you in at night. You want to talk about your feelings call Dr. Phil. But if you're looking for a good time, something to get your mind off what's-her-name then I'm your man. There's a great strip joint and it's only ten minutes away. Fridays are buy one get one free and I'm in the mood for a lap dance.

JEFFREY

That's all it takes? Some half naked girl shakes her ass in my face and bam! Suddenly no more late night thoughts about the greatest love my life, no more regret?

BREDNAN

That and about a dozen shots of tequila.

JEFFREY

I want to cure a broken heart not end up in a coma.

BRENDAN

So go talk to her. If it's driving you crazy that much just figure out what went wrong. Hell, for my sanity talk to the girl.

JEFFREY

When do you expect me to do that?

BRENDAN

Um...now? She's here.

JEFFREY

Yeah, right.

BRENDAN

Who else would drag Angie into a bathroom at the speed of light? And I'm sorry but that's one thing I will never get about girls. They think it's gross when we don't wash our hands. At least I'm not trying to have a conversation with someone while they're wiping their ass.

JEFFREY

Would you focus on the situation at hand please?

BRENDAN

Oh, sorry. I forgot you were the center of the universe. Please continue your majesty.

JEFFREY

What do I do? What do I say?

BRENDAN

Whatever you want. Just don't cry. Girls aren't into that. Well, some of them are. But you got to be careful with those ones. They tend to pull a fast one on you and whip out some kinky shit in the bedroom, not always 100% safety assured either. I still can't look at a cop without cringing.

JEFFREY

What if she hates me?

BRENDAN

Then she hates you. Game over. Look, when Angie dumped me for whatever stupid reason she made up off the top of her head I got over it. Like a man. Cause when it's done it's done. And the more you keep crawling back with your tail between your legs the harder it gets to find a new owner at all.

JEFFREY

You know for once, and I really hate to admit this, you're right.

BRENDAN

God, don't act so surprised. Despite what Angie says I am not just an arrogant self-centered sack of skin with shit for brains. Just take a deep breath and go for it.

(JEFFREY sighs and moves towards the door.
Meanwhile LIGHTS UP on the bathroom so now
the whole stage is lit.)

LISA

Okay, all set. Time to face the world.

ANGIE

Thank god, I have had to pee for like twenty-minutes.

LISA

We are in a bathroom you know. They're generally used for that kind of thing.

ANGIE

Ew, not while you're here. That's just weird.

LISA

How do I look?

ANGIE

Not really any different than when we came in.

LISA

Thanks. Well...

LISA/JEFFREY

Here goes nothing.

(LISA opens the door to find JEFFREY standing there who looks equally surprised to be caught in the act.)

LISA

Jeffrey.

JEFFREY

Lisa. Hi! How are you?

LISA

Good. Better than good. Amazing. Fabulous.

JEFFREY

I'm glad.

LISA

And you? You're good too?

JEFFREY

Sure. Yes. I didn't know you were here.

LISA

Oh? Yeah, I go out a lot these days. Busy busy busy. Like a bee.

JEFFREY

Too busy to spare a minute?

LISA

Um, no. Sixty seconds wouldn't be catastrophic to my schedule. Let's talk. Angie, could you give us a sec?

ANGIE

That'd better be all. I don't know much longer I can hold it.

(ANGIE exits into the living room where
BRENDAN still stands as LISA and JEFFREY go
into the bathroom and shut the door.)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Oh, this will be fun. Stuck having to deal with the mindless hormone driven excuse for evolution.

BRENDAN

Want a drink?

ANGIE

Sorry, not in the mood for roofies tonight.

BRENDAN

That's okay, I was thinking more along the lines of arsenic.

JEFFREY

You look amazing.

LISA

Thanks. It's my new boyfriend. He's a personal trainer. Big muscles. His name is Ted. Actually he owns the gym. He makes a lot of money.

JEFFREY

That's great, Lisa. I'm happy for you.

LISA

Thanks. I'm happy for me too.

JEFFREY

Actually, I'm not.

LISA

You're not happy for me?

JEFFREY

No.

LISA

You are happy for me?

JEFFREY

No.

LISA

Then I'm confused.

JEFFREY

I'm not happy at all.

LISA

And why is that may I ask?

JEFFREY

Well, why the hell do you think? You broke up with me out of the blue and everyone just expects me to bounce back like it was some middle school recess fling.

LISA

I broke up with you? I think someone has their story incredibly backwards. You broke up with me Jeffrey.

JEFFREY

No, no, no. I said I wanted to take a break. That is not the same thing. And then you didn't call me for a solid week.

LISA

What did you expect? You said break, I gave you a break.

JEFFREY

I meant time to slow things down. Not completely shutting me out of your life.

LISA

Slow down from what? We're almost thirty. There isn't much slowing down from here, next thing you know you'll be proposing from the grave.

JEFFREY

A lot was going on. I was balancing a new job, they raised my mortgage, my mother's in the hospital and I just needed some space to breathe.

LISA

I'm sorry I was suffocating you.

JEFFREY

You know that's not what I meant.

LISA

Clearly I misinterpret a lot of things. Because when you said break I assumed that meant you wanted to be left alone.

JEFFREY

Not forever. Read the fine print. I just meant-

LISA

I saw you with her!.

JEFFREY

Who?

LISA

That slut. At our restaurant. Eating at our table. Wearing the shirt I bought for you on our three month anniversary.

JEFFREY

Lisa, that was my sister.

LISA

No, I've met your sister.

JEFFREY

You've met one of my sisters.

LISA

Nice try. You only have one sister.

JEFFREY

One from my mother's first marriage, then another from her second. She was in town for a few days so I took her out to lunch.. And I wore that shirt because it's my favorite shirt and I wanted to look my best for the sister I only see twice a year. And when I said I needed a break it was only so we wouldn't get so fed up with each other that we'd drive ourselves insane, if we aren't there already, because I planned on spending a long time with you Lisa. And I didn't want to ruin that so soon in our relationship by being completely stressed out. I'm sorry if it seemed like I was pushing you away but it was only to make sure I didn't lose you in the end.

LISA

Then I think it's safe to say break was not the right choice of words.

JEFFREY

Agreed. Now I know for the future. There is a future isn't there? Or are you already head over heels for this other guy?

LISA

There is no other guy. I made that all up to make you jealous.

JEFFREY

Really? I had no idea.

(They smile at each other and kiss softly on the lips.
ANGIE and BRENDAN watch in disgust.)

BRENDAN

God damn it. There goes my beer night buddy.

ANGIE

The last thing you need is more beer in that gut of yours.

BRENDAN

How about a stapler for that mouth of yours?

ANGIE

You're such an asshole.

Bitch.

BRENDAN

(ANGIE falters for a moment shifting her eyes.)

You want to get out of here?

ANGIE

Oh, yeah.

BRENDAN

(BRENDAN puts down his drink hastily and takes her hand. They exit the stage leaving LISA and JEFFREY alone to make up. BLACKOUT.)