

**THE AGE OF LOVE**

**BY**

**MARIA CROOKS**

**Characters:**

**Ash:** Young man, 21

**Olivia:** Ash's step- grandmother, 77

**Evelyn:** Ash's mother, Mid-40s

**Dr. Blezieu:** (pronounced Bless-you.) Male, German psychologist, 50ish.

**Lex Rodriguez:** TV show host, female 30s to 50s

*The time period is the present. The play takes place in Toronto, Canada.*

Setting: - Hotel room in Toronto

- Backstage at a TV Studio
- TV Studio in front of a live audience

*Cada uno canta como quiere – Cuban Proverb (Everyone is unique)*

For my parents Rosita and Claudio

This play was workshopped in Calgary on Thursday July 2, 2015 with the following workshop cast:

The Age of Love	By Maria Crooks	Dramaturgy by Caroline Russell-King
<b>Character</b>	<b>Actor</b>	
Ash	Ryan Gray	
Olivia	Nicola Wilson	
Evelyn	Helen Young	
Dr. Blezieu	Alex Cherovsky	
Lex Rodriguez	Courtney Charnock	
Playwright	Maria Crooks	
Dramaturg	Caroline Russell-King	
Stage directions	A.J.	

This play was produced by Urban Stories Theatre in Calgary in November 2015 with the following cast.

The Age of Love	By Maria Crooks	Dramaturgy by Caroline Russell-King
<b>Character</b>	<b>Actor</b>	
Ash	Ryan Gray	
Olivia	Diana-Marie Stoltz	
Evelyn	Olga Primak	
Dr. Blezieu	Scottie Grinton	
Lex Rodriguez	Ellen Sullivan	
Playwright	Maria Crooks	
Dramaturg	Caroline Russell-King	
Stage directions	A.J.	

*(A hotel room in Toronto, Olivia is regarding herself before a mirror wearing a pretty dressing gown and fixing her bright red wig. She's got on very large false eyelashes, the same colour as the wig if possible. She is flamboyantly made up with bright red lipstick and rouge. She combs the wig and contemplates herself in the mirror with a critical eye.)*

**Olivia:** *(to self.)* This wig looked a lot better in the store. It seems to have morphed into something I don't recognise. *(She sighs and twists it around so the back is now to the front causing her to have a lot of hair in her face).* Ah I think that's better. Ash darling can you come here a sec hon?

**Ash:** *(Offstage.)* I'll be there in a minute my lovely. What is it?

**Olivia:** I need you for something.

**Ash:** Sounds interesting. Is it something sexy?

**Olivia:** *(Coquettishly.)* Come and find out.

**Ash:** I'm coming, I'm coming.

**Olivia:** Do you ever think of anything else?

**Ash:** Other than sex you mean? Naw, not when I'm around you. *(Ash enters in pyjamas. Olivia is still fussing with her hair.)* Your wish is my command you sexy siren.

**Olivia:** I would like you to opine on my hair.

**Ash:** Opine?

**Olivia:** Yes dear can you, on my hair?

**Ash:** On your hair?

**Olivia:** Yes, what do you think? *(She turns to face him.)*

**Ash:** Err... well I don't know it might be a bit awkward; are you going to kneel down or should I climb on a chair?

**Evelyn:** Climb on a chair if it's easier for you or I can step back a little. *(She takes a few steps back.)*

**Ash:** I can't reach that far.

**Evelyn:** Reach, can't you just do it from where you are?

**Ash:** Do it from here?

**Evelyn:** Yes.

**Ash:** Don't you want me to touch it while I'm doing it?

**Evelyn:** Sure OK touch it if that will help. (*She steps closer.*) Tell me what you think.

**Ash:** Well I think it's a little kinky but-

**Evelyn:** Kinky! I don't think it's kinky at all.

**Ash:** It must be a generational thing.

**Evelyn:** Why do you say that?

**Ash:** Well doing it on your hair and just before going out I mean-

**Evelyn:** Doing it on my hair! I want you to tell me what you *think* about my hair.

**Ash:** Oh, what I *think* about your hair.

**Olivia:** Yes, what did you think I meant?

**Ash:** Err... Nothing, nothing, you want to know what I *think*?

**Olivia:** Yes.

**Ash** About your hair?

**Olivia:** Yes, yes.

**Ash:** Err... there's an awful lot of it all of a sudden. What did you do, fertilize your head ha, ha?

**Evelyn:** What do you mean?

**Ash:** I remember you having less hair when I went to the bathroom only a few minutes ago.

**Olivia:** It's a wig you silly fool.

**Ash:** Thank God. For a moment I thought you had grafted an orange jungle to your head.

**Olivia:** If you don't stop making fun I'm going to hit you.

**Ash:** Promise?

**Olivia:** I'm serious. I want to know what you think. Do you like it?

**Ash:** Hmm, do I like it? Do *you* like it?

**Olivia:** I asked you first.

**Ash:** Fair enough.

**Olivia:** Well?

**Ash:** I'm still thinking.

**Olivia:** What's there to think about? I'm not asking you to solve world hunger.

**Ash:** That might be easier.

**Olivia:** Why is it so difficult to give me an answer?

**Ash:** I don't want to make a mistake.

**Olivia:** A mistake? It's not a life or death situation.

**Ash:** It may not be for you...

**Olivia:** Ash what's the matter, do you not like how I look?

**Ash:** I like how you look, the hair that's a whole different matter.

**Olivia:** What don't you like about my hair?

**Ash:** You mean other than I can't see your face? Can you see me?

**Olivia:** Yes of course I can see you... sort of. You hate it.

**Ash:** I don't hate it. I just like your face a lot better. I'd like to see more of it.

**Olivia:** I was just trying to do something different so I put it on back to front. I thought I would go for an air of je-ne-sais-quoi.

**Ash:** Je- ne- sais what?

**Olivia :** Je ne sais quoi. It's French for I don't know what.

**Ash:** You don't know what it means?

**Olivia:** No, no that's what it means "I don't know what".

**Ash:** You've lost me there.

**Olivia:** It means a certain something. Oh never mind.

**Ash:** I'm not sure I know what you're talking about but I would like to see more of you.

**Olivia:** In that case. *(She playfully flashes her dressing gown open revealing her sexy underwear.)*

**Ash:** You keep that up and I'm going to ravish you right now, you sexy kitten. *(He tries to take her in his arms but she evades him.)*

**Olivia:** *(Laughing.)* No don't. If we start that now we'll be late for the show. Later I promise. *(She looks in the mirror and adjusts the wig and combs it. Then she turns toward him.)* Now is that better?

**Ash:** Much, much better my little muffin. I love you as you are, but if it makes you feel better to wear a chia pet on your head then be my guest.

**Olivia:** I bought the wig for the television show. I think I will be less nervous if I look my best.

**Ash:** You always look your best to me.

**Olivia:** Thank you darling but the television audience is a lot more critical. I hope this idea of yours to go on this TV talk show will work out, sounds a bit far-fetched to me.

**Ash:** Have you got a better suggestion to get mom off my back?

**Olivia:** No need to get huffy. I just want to make sure you know what you're doing.

**Ash:** I'm not being huffy and I don't know if I know what I'm doing but I it's worth a shot.

**Olivia:** I don't like the idea of airing our lives in public. There's something so common about it.

**Ash:** It's not common. Everybody does it nowadays.

**Olivia:** I'm not everybody. Why can't you just talk to your mother like a grown-up and tell her some home truths?

**Ash:** Because you know that will be her excuse for holding on to my inheritance. Remember even though dad's will says I can have the money at 21, it's at mom's discretion. To her that means I must live at home and get married to someone she chooses. You know damn well, you won't make the grade.

**Olivia:** Make the grade. You know what your mother is? A controlling selfish bitch!

**Ash:** Whoa Olivia she's still my mother.



**Olivia:** And I'm your fiancée-

**Ash:** Mom cannot know I want to marry you until after she agrees to release my money or we can kiss my inheritance good-bye.

**Olivia:** I'm sick and tired of pretending we're not in love.

**Ash:** I know, mom is a bit-

**Olivia:** Manipulative?

**Ash:** No I meant-

**Olivia:** Selfish?

**Ash:** Well -

**Olivia:** Controlling?

**Ash:** Please don't put words in my mouth. She is a bit overprotective and-

**Olivia:** Suffocating.

**Ash:** Please.

**Olivia:** I just hate what she's doing to you: forcing you to lie about your life and who you love.

**Ash:** I believe after the show she will be persuaded to let me have my inheritance without demanding I do as she says.

**Olivia:** I don't care about the money.

**Ash:** Well I do.

**Olivia:** You don't care about me, about us?

**Ash:** Don't be silly. Of course I care about us but without the money I can't provide for you properly.

**Olivia:** I have my pension and you have your job at the camera store.

**Ash:** God knows how long that job will last. Besides I don't want to live off of you.

**Olivia:** What's mine is yours.

**Ash:** it's not right to be living off your money.

**Olivia:** But it's right for me to live off yours?

**Ash:** That's different.

**Olivia:** Really, explain to me how?

**Ash:** I'm a man; I should be able to provide for my wife.

**Olivia:** Those ideas belong in the dark ages along with your mother.

**Ash:** How would it look if we get married and I have to ask you for money all the time?

**Olivia:** I don't care how it looks.

**Ash:** I care.

**Olivia:** You could get a better job that pays more money.

**Ash:** I can never get a job that would pay enough to look after you properly.

**Olivia:** We don't have to live in luxury.

**Ash:** I want you to have nice things and live in a nice house.

**Olivia:** Alright, what's supposed to happen on this show? How is it going to work?

**Ash:** There will be a psychologist there who is trained in family disputes and reconciliation. He works primarily in the area of parents and adult children.

**Olivia:** I suppose it's worth a shot. Who is the psychologist? It had better be someone good if he's going to go up against the Rottweiler.

**Ash:** Blezieu. (*Pronounced Bless you.*)

**Olivia:** What?

**Ash:** That's the doctor's name I swear. His name is Dr. Blezieu.

**Olivia:** What kind a name is that?

**Ash:** No idea; that's what they told me his name is.

**Olivia:** That's a weird name. You know I once saw a doctor on TV with a weird name that sounded like Blessings or Blessyou, something like that. He was promoting a book he'd written on fetishism. It was so weird. At one point in the interview he took out a woman's red high-heel shoe from his jacket pocket of all places and put it on the table and said women's shoes

are often a fetish object. I remember he kept stroking it as he spoke. He even asked the host if she would take off her shoes to try his. It was creepy. That's the psychologist the studio hired to help you?

**Ash:** I don't think it's the same guy. This one's supposed to be very respected in the field of family dynamics. He's written all sorts of important books that have shaken up the world of psychology or something. The producer told me he's right up there with Freud and Ginger.

**Olivia:** Freud and who?

**Ash:** Ginger. They revolutionised the field of psychology. You've never heard speak of them?

**Olivia:** Not in the same breath I haven't.

**Ash:** They collaborated for years.

**Olivia:** How, one psycho-analysed while the other danced the light fandango?

**Ash:** Danced? Err I don't know if they did any dancing.

**Olivia:** Ash have you ever seen this TV show?

**Ash:** Yes I have, why?

**Olivia:** Many of them are just about their ratings. They're not serious about helping people with their problems.

**Ash:** No this is a good show. I used to watch it during the day before I started working at the camera store.

**Olivia:** How long ago was that?

**Ash:** About two years ago. It's Canadian.

**Olivia:** So?

**Ash:** So they're polite and they've been so good to us flying us to Toronto and putting us up in this very nice hotel.

**Olivia:** Ash I hope you know what you're doing.

**Ash:** It will all work out.

**Olivia:** I'm tired of skulking around and having you live in my basement as my tenant. I want you upstairs with me.

**Ash:** I am upstairs with you. I just keep a few of my clothes in the basement apartment in case mom should come by. She cannot know about us now or she would die.

**Olivia:** That's an idea.

**Ash:** You don't mean that.

**Olivia:** Never been more serious.

**Ash:** She's my mother.

**Olivia:** She's your jailer.

**Ash:** She loves me.

**Olivia:** Too much if you ask me.

**Ash:** What's that supposed to mean?

**Olivia:** Nothing.

**Ash:** What are you implying?

**Olivia:** That she's a little too attached to you, that it's time she found herself a man.

**Ash:** A man?

**Olivia:** Yes a man, you know homo- erectus? With emphasis on erectus and preferably not her off-spring.

**Ash:** This is crazy, what are you saying? She's my mother.

**Olivia:** Ash don't you think it's a little strange that she's so attached to you? How many men has she dated since your father died?

**Ash:** Not many.

**Olivia:** Ten?

**Ash:** No not that many.

**Olivia:** five?

**Ash:** No.

**Olivia:** two, how many?

**Ash:** She hasn't dated anybody alright. Is that what you want to hear?

**Olivia:** I thought so. How long has your father been dead?

**Ash:** six years.

**Olivia:** Your father has been dead six years and she's never dated anyone?

**Ash:** I've tried to encourage her to but she's not interested.

**Olivia:** Why not?

**Ash:** I guess no one can replace dad in her heart.

**Olivia:** Or she doesn't need to date.

**Ash:** Meaning?

**Olivia:** She's got you.

**Ash:** You're being outrageous.

**Olivia:** Ash think about it why is she so insistent that you live with her?

**Ash:** I don't know. I don't know; because she loves me?

**Olivia:** And she doesn't want anyone else to.

**Ash:** I won't think this of her.

**Olivia:** Think it.

**Ash:** Why say these things about my mother now?

**Olivia:** Because they need to be said. You need to open your eyes.

**Ash:** You don't like her.

**Olivia:** She doesn't like me.

**Ash:** How can I marry someone who doesn't like my mother?

**Olivia:** You marry her then.

**Ash:** You're being so unkind right now.

**Olivia:** And you're being naïve.

**Ash:** Please let's not fight.

**Olivia:** We're not fighting.

**Ash:** What do you call this?

**Olivia:** A... disagreement.

**Ash:** that's the same thing.

**Olivia:** No. Fighting is irrational a disagreement is civil and rational; it's two people expressing their point of view.

**Ash:** I don't feel civil right now. And I don't like your points of view.

**Olivia:** You don't have to like them; you just have to hear them.

**Ash:** this is making me feel sad and miserable. I hate being at odds with you. Please let's not talk about this anymore.

**Olivia:** I don't like to fight either but this needed to be said.

**Ash:** Enough Olivia.

**Olivia:** OK we'll give your plan a shot.

**Ash:** Come here. *(Ash holds her in his arms and dances her around the room.)*

**Olivia:** Your dancing is improving.

**Ash:** Cool. *(He steps on her toes.)*

**Olivia:** Ouch I spoke too soon.

**Ash:** Sorry.

**Olivia:** It's alright dear it's not your fault you've got flippers for feet. Who would have known that my teaching you to dance would have led to us falling in love?

**Ash:** Sweetheart I was a goner the moment I saw you at Grand-pa's funeral sniffing and blowing your nose, your face all swollen. It is a moment I'll treasure.

**Olivia:** It couldn't have been a pretty picture.

**Ash:** For me it was. Of course I was sad he was dead and you were widowed but I knew I had found the woman of my dreams. That's why I encouraged mom to invite you to come to Calgary to stay with us.

**Olivia:** I never thought I could fall in love again so soon after his death. I never would have thought that someone like you would ever fall in love with a woman like me.

**Ash:** What do you mean a woman like you?

**Olivia:** I mean you're so young and handsome and I, well I am not so young anymore.

**Ash:** Why should that matter? Love is love. I'm attracted to your maturity and your wisdom.

**Olivia:** You're so sweet.

**Ash:** You're the woman for me. I love the feel of your bones under my hand, so frail and brittle. I'm getting turned on again. *(He caresses her back.)*

**Olivia:** You really mean that?

**Ash:** Yes I love all your wrinkles and your warts, especially the little one you have here. *(He points to one of her breasts and then starts to undress, unbuttoning his pyjama top and throwing it on a chair.)*

**Olivia:** I want to get rid of that wart.

**Ash:** Don't. I love your bony elbows and knobby knees. *(He takes off his pyjama bottoms and throws them on the chair. He's left only in his briefs.)*

**Olivia:** It's hard to believe that.

**Ash:** Your sagging -

**Olivia:** It's alright dear I get the picture. I love that you love me the way I am. Ummm this is nice. What are you doing?

*(Ash has gone over to the dressing table and now he is holding a little container of KY Jelly and waving it suggestively at her.)*

**Olivia:** Not now Ash darling, we have to get ready to leave for the show. I promise when we get back to make you really happy.

**Ash:** *(He replaces the bottle on the dresser reluctantly.)* That's too bad. I need a cold shower now. Give me a kiss my darling. *(They kiss.)* Did I tell you how much I love your dentures?

*(Ash exits. There's a knock on the door. Olivia looks at her watch puzzled. She opens the door. Evelyn is standing there expensively dressed if a bit stuffy. On her feet she wears a pair of red heels. Without waiting she enters the room.)*

**Olivia:** Evelyn! *(Then loudly so Ash can hear)* IT'S YOU EVELYN.

**Evelyn:** Yes it's me. Were you expecting someone else?

**Olivia:** NO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE EVELYN?

**Evelyn:** I'm looking for my son.

**Olivia:** WHY WOULD YOU THINK HE WOULD BE IN MY HOTEL ROOM EVELYN?

**Evelyn:** Why do you keep repeating my name and why are you shouting?

**Olivia:** I'M JUST SURPRISED YOU'D THINK ASH WOULD BE HERE.

**Evelyn:** I knocked on his room door and there was no answer. I thought he may be here with you since you've been monopolising him ever since you moved to Calgary.

**Olivia:** I do not monopolise him and no he's not here. Perhaps he went for a walk.

**Evelyn:** It's minus 20 out there.

**Olivia:** Maybe he went to the gym in the basement. Why don't you check there?

**Evelyn:** What's that sound?

**Olivia:** Sound, What sound?

**Evelyn:** Like the shower running.

**Olivia:** Ahm, Tha, that's just me... I was just going into the shower when you knocked.

**Evelyn:** You were going to have a shower?

**Olivia:** Yes.

**Evelyn:** But you've got your make-up on already. Do you put make-up on before you shower?

**Olivia:** Oh it was silly of me. You see I was so nervous about going on the show that I forgot to shower so I, I put on my make-up. Then I remembered I hadn't showered. I was just heading to the bathroom when I heard your knock.

**Evelyn:** That's really odd.



**Olivia:** Yes I know but -

**Evelyn:** No listen.

**Olivia:** Listen to what?

**Evelyn:** Haven't you noticed?

**Olivia:** My hearing is not so good. What are we listening for?

**Evelyn:** Nothing. I don't hear anything.

**Olivia:** I don't hear anything either.

**Evelyn:** That's odd.

**Olivia:** Why's that odd?

**Evelyn:** I don't hear the shower?

**Olivia:** The Shower? The shower!

**Evelyn:** Yes the shower's stopped.

**Olivia:** The shower's stopped!

**Evelyn:** That's what I said.

**Olivia:** That's what you said!

**Evelyn:** Will you stop repeating everything I say. Is someone in your bathroom?

**Olivia:** Is someone in my bathroom? No Evelyn there's nobody in my bathroom. It's, it's an automatic shower.

**Evelyn:** An automatic shower?

**Olivia:** Yes.

**Evelyn:** Never heard of such a thing.

**Olivia:** Yes they use them in hotels to conserve water. If the shower doesn't sense movement it shuts itself off.

**Evelyn:** What will they think of next?

**Olivia:** I know, clever eh? *(She winks conspiratorially at the audience.)*

*(Just then the bathroom door begins to open and Ash is about to step out into the room. Olivia sees him but Evelyn doesn't. In fact Evelyn is looking at the chair on which rests Ash's pyjamas. Olivia gestures wildly with her arms for him to get back in the bathroom. Ash sees his mother and ducks back in but as he does so he hits his toe on the door and utters a loud moan. Evelyn hears the moan and turns around. Olivia starts waving her arms and moaning to cover up.)*

**Evelyn:** What on earth are you doing?

**Olivia:** I'm just practising my yoga moves.

**Evelyn:** Yoga. What kind of Yoga is that?

**Olivia:** It's called the moaning chicken.

**Evelyn:** Never heard of it.

**Olivia:** You should try it.

**Evelyn:** I certainly will not. You look stupid.

**Olivia:** It's very calming. It will help to calm your nerves. I'm sure you're nervous about being on TV too. That's why I'm doing it.

**Evelyn:** I *am* nervous about this whole TV thing. I don't know what you and Ash have got me into this for.

**Olivia:** Try it. You'll see it will help. Come on you'll see it's really calming.

*(Evelyn watches skeptically moving her head and eyes up and down watching Olivia's movements. Ash quietly opens the door takes his keys that are by the door and silently lets himself out. Neither woman sees him leave.)*

**Evelyn:** This is bizarre. I feel dizzy. What are you trying to do to me? I have to sit down.

*(She starts moving in the direction of the chair with the pyjamas. Olivia sees that Ash's pyjamas are on the chair and quickly moves the chair. Evelyn falls as she tries to sit.)*

**Evelyn:** Aww My God!

*(Olivia: grabs the pyjamas and hides them behind her.)*

**Evelyn:** What did you do that for, are you trying to kill me?

**Olivia:** No, no. The... the leg of that chair... it's broken. That's it; it's broken. I didn't want you to fall.

**Evelyn:** I don't believe you. This is exactly what you wanted.

**Olivia:** No, no I assure you.

**Evelyn:** You fool, give me a hand.

**Olivia:** (*Fumbling with the pyjamas behind her back.*) A hand?

**Evelyn:** Yes I need a hand to stand up you idiot. Aww my back.

**Olivia:** A hand, yes, yes just a minute. (*She is trying to buy time to stash the pyjamas. Finally she bundles them in a corner and hurries back to Evelyn.*)

**Evelyn:** What the hell are you doing? Oh I think my back is broken.

**Olivia:** Here's a hand. (*In her haste she steps on Evelyn's foot.*)

**Evelyn:** (*She clutches her foot with her other hand.*) Awww my foot. Get away from me you clumsy, stupid fool!

**Olivia:** You don't want a hand?

**Evelyn:** No! Stay away from me. What exactly is your game? (*She gets up on her own.*)

**Olivia:** Game, what do you mean game?

**Evelyn:** Don't play the fool with me. Ever since you came to Calgary you've been trying to turn Ash against me and now it looks like you're also trying to kill me.

**Olivia:** Why would I want to do that?

**Evelyn:** That's what I would like to know. I invited you in good faith to stay with us after my dad died. I thought it would be good for Ash to get to know you; my mother, died when he was little and he has never been close to his paternal grand-parents. I thought it would be good for you and him to get close.

**Olivia:** You succeeded; we are – umm, close.

**Evelyn:** Too damn close in my opinion.

**Olivia:** What do mean?

**Evelyn:** What do you want with him?

**Olivia:** Nothing. I want nothing other than to love- ly day isn't it?

**Evelyn:** It's minus 20 out there.

**Olivia:** I meant it's a lovely day to be indoors.

**Evelyn:** You say the oddest things. He was perfectly happy where he was with me.

**Olivia:** You mean *you* were perfectly happy.

**Evelyn:** And so was he.

**Olivia:** Are you sure?

**Evelyn:** Of course he was.

**Olivia:** How do you know?

**Evelyn:** What do you mean how do I know? I just do, I'm his mother.

**Olivia:** He's a grown man. He wants to live on his own. Have his friends over whenever he feels like it.

**Evelyn:** But he's not on his own is he? He's at your house.

**Olivia:** He's got his own apartment downstairs.

**Evelyn:** If he wanted more privacy I could have arranged things at home for him to have his own space. But he's never wanted that I tell you. I think you put that in his head.

**Olivia:** He's an adult with a mind of his own. If he decided to move out you have no right to want to keep him cooped up with you.

**Evelyn:** No right? No right? Where do you get off telling me what to do with my son? Oh yes and he's so much better off in some dingy little basement?

**Olivia:** My basement is not dingy. You've never been there. You've never seen it.

**Evelyn:** And I don't plan to. I'm going to do everything I can to bring my son back home where he belongs. Not with some stranger pretending to be family.

**Olivia:** I'm family.

**Evelyn:** The only reason I agreed to come to Toronto and be on this TV show is I hope the psychologist will talk some sense into him and show him that he's better off at home with his mother. I believe it's the strongest bond in the world: the bond between a mother and her son.

**Olivia:** No it isn't.

**Evelyn:** What?

**Olivia:** Ash is 21 years old. It's time to let him go. And I'm not a stranger. I'm - his grandmother.

**Evelyn:** You're only a step-grandmother. You're nothing to him. You weren't there to kiss him goodnight.

**Olivia:** I'm making up for it. (*Evelyn glares at her suspiciously.*) I mean I wish I'd been there you know to do that.

**Evelyn:** Neither were you there to comfort him when he needed to be cuddled.

**Olivia:** I am now-

**Evelyn:** What?

**Olivia:** I mean if he wishes to confide in me I'm there now to listen to him.

**Evelyn:** If he needs to confide something he can tell me.

**Olivia:** Evelyn be reasonable, he's 21 years old.

**Evelyn:** So?

**Olivia:** So he's not a child any longer. He won't want to talk to his mother about certain things.

**Evelyn:** Certain things? What certain things?

**Olivia:** You know, affairs of the heart that sort of thing.

**Evelyn:** And he would confide them to you?

**Olivia:** He might.

**Evelyn:** Don't be ridiculous.

**Olivia:** Think about it, a man his age doesn't run to his mother with his most intimate thoughts.

**Evelyn:** Why not. Ash always did. He told me everything

**Olivia:** (*under her breath.*) You wish ...

**Evelyn:** What did you say?

**Olivia:** I said I wish you could understand.

**Evelyn:** Understand what?

**Olivia:** That Ash needs his independence.

**Evelyn:** He doesn't need independence; he's not a country.

**Olivia:** He has wanted to move out for ages.

**Evelyn:** Nonsense.

**Olivia:** You're suffocating him.

**Evelyn:** How dare you.

**Olivia:** And you make him feel guilty for wanting to leave.

**Evelyn:** I've never heard such rubbish. Ash never wanted to leave home.

**Olivia:** You've kept him tied to your apron strings. He needs a chance to try his wings. If you don't you may lose him forever.

**Evelyn:** Never. He's my son. I know what's best for him. Try his wings indeed so that he can fly into a basement apartment? You don't understand. My son and I mean everything to each other. I gave him life twice: once when he was born and later when he became dangerously sick. His life hung by a string for weeks. But I refused to accept it. I refused to let my son go. I lay on the floor by his bedside day and night for days willing life back into him. Everyone said I shouldn't. Even his father said I was being foolish, but I would not listen to them. I stopped death from taking him. I willed him back to life.

**Olivia:** (*Applauds.*) What a performance.

**Evelyn:** How can you be so cruel? My son almost died.

**Olivia:** He had a broken leg Evelyn.

**Evelyn:** What do you know about it? He was seriously ill.

**Olivia:** He broke his leg when he was 15. He fell off his bicycle and for weeks he could not get you to stop sleeping on the floor in his room. Ash told me about it. He couldn't sleep from all your praying and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

**Evelyn:** He could have died.

**Olivia:** You don't die from a broken leg.

**Evelyn:** What would you know about a mother's anxiety? You have no children.

**Olivia:** I don't have to be a mother to know you don't die from a broken leg.

**Evelyn:** You're insensitive.

**Olivia:** You're insane.

*(Evelyn gets up and starts walking in the direction of the bathroom.)*

**Olivia:** Where are you going?

**Evelyn:** I'm going to the bathroom. Do you mind?

**Olivia:** *(Alarmed.)* What for?

**Evelyn:** Well if you must know, I have to splash some cold water on my face. You've got me all discombobulated.

**Olivia:** You can't go in there.

**Evelyn:** What do you mean I can't? What or who have you got in there you don't want me to see?

**Olivia:** Really, Ha, Ha, who could I have in there?

**Evelyn:** I don't know. Why can't I go in there?

**Olivia:** Because... Because I made a mess. Let me get you some water to drink. It will make you feel better.

**Evelyn:** No, I need to splash water on my face. How messy can it be?

*(Just then there's a knock at the door. Olivia is torn between answering the door and preventing Evelyn from going into the bathroom.)*

**Evelyn:** Aren't you going to answer the door?

**Olivia:** Yes, yes. Wait there I just need to clean up the bathroom a bit. *(She quickly opens the door without stopping to see who's there and rushes after Evelyn who has just disappeared into the bathroom. Ash enters fully dressed.)* I told you not to go in there!

**Evelyn:** *(Offstage.)* This is unbelievable!

**Olivia:** I can explain.

**Ash:** Explain what?

*(Olivia and Evelyn speak simultaneously.)* **Olivia:** Explain to your mother why you're hiding in my bathroom- Ash! **Evelyn:** *(Entering.)* That's got to be the messiest bathroom I've ever seen - Ash!

**Olivia:** How? When? Oh God I need to sit down.

*(As she's about to sit Evelyn pulls the chair away. She almost falls and Ash catches her just in time. Or the director may choose to let her fall.)*

**Olivia:** What did you do that for?

**Evelyn:** *(Sweetly.)* I didn't want you to fall. *(Innocently)* That chair is broken remember?

**Ash:** Really? It wasn't broken before.

**Evelyn:** Before?

**Ash:** I, I mean it wasn't broken before I saw that it was broken *(Evelyn looks at him quizzically.)* I mean before I heard, before you said it was broken.

**Evelyn:** Are you alright?

**Olivia:** Yes I'm fine.

**Evelyn:** Not you, Ash.

**Ash:** Yes I'm fine.

**Evelyn:** Where were you?

**Ash:** Where was I?

**Evelyn:** Yes I knocked on your door and there was no answer.

**Ash:** I, I went for a walk.

**Evelyn:** In this weather?

**Ash:** I needed to clear my head.

**Evelyn:** I hope you didn't catch cold. Come here let me feel your forehead.

**Ash:** Mom, please don't fuss. What is it now?

**Evelyn:** *(Evelyn is examining him closely.)* You've got your sweater on backwards.

**Ash:** No I haven't.



**Evelyn:** Yes you have, I should know I bought it.

**Ash:** I like wearing it this way.

**Evelyn:** Nonsense, and what's that mark on you neck?

**Ash:** What mark? Oh it's, it's a mosquito bite.

**Evelyn:** Mosquitos bite in winter?

**Ash:** That's Toronto mosquitos for you.

**Evelyn:** Must have been a very large mosquito. Let me see you should put something on it.

**Ash:** (*Evading her*) Mom will you stop already, I'm not a child. I came to see if Olivia's ready. We're due at the studio in half an hour.

**Evelyn:** You came to check for her. What about me?

**Ash:** I went to your room too mom but you weren't there.

**Olivia:** I'm almost ready. I just have to get dressed.

**Evelyn:** I thought you said you were going to shower?

**Olivia:** Shower? I've already sh... Yes- yes I forgot I haven't showered. I won't be long. (*Exit Olivia. Soon after there is the sound of a shower running.*)

**Evelyn:** (*Urgently.*) Ash we need to talk.

**Ash:** We do?

**Evelyn:** Yes, I'm worried.

**Ash:** No, really, you worried?

**Evelyn:** Ash I'm serious.

**Ash:** So am I.

**Evelyn:** Ash that woman.

**Ash:** What woman?

**Evelyn:** That woman in there.

**Ash:** Her name is Olivia.

**Evelyn:** There's something weird going on.

**Ash:** What do you mean?

**Evelyn:** I don't know. I haven't put my finger on it yet.

**Ash:** What are you talking about?

**Evelyn:** I feel something is going on. I have a sixth sense about things.

**Ash:** There's nothing going on - a sixth sense?

**Evelyn:** Yes a feeling that there is more to this than meets the eye.

**Ash:** This?

**Evelyn:** I can smell a rat.

**Ash:** You shouldn't, this is a very clean hotel.

**Evelyn:** People think they can fool me, but I'm not so easily fooled.

**Ash:** You can't?

**Evelyn:** No siree. (*Whispering.*) I think she dabbles in the occult.

**Ash:** (*Relieved.*) Oh that.

**Evelyn:** What do you mean Oh that?

**Ash:** I thought you meant something else.

**Evelyn:** Something else, is there something else?

**Ash:** No of course not.

**Evelyn:** So you think she's a witch too?

**Ash:** No I don't.

**Evelyn:** While she's in there I'm going to look for evidence. Help me look through her things

**Ash:** Mom are you crazy?

**Evelyn:** No I'm your mother.

**Ash:** Mom, please.

**Evelyn:** I'm your mother; it's my job to be suspicious. If it weren't so preposterous, I would almost believe she's got designs on you. She always wants to hang out with you. She's a 77 year-old woman. What does she want from you?

**Ash:** Nothing mom. She wants nothing from me. She just wants to be a, a grandmother to me.

**Evelyn:** Some grandmother. She doesn't dress like one. Those skimpy little mini- skirts she wears showing off her bony legs and the plunging neckline.

**Ash:** *(At these words about how Olivia looks he's visibly turned on and begins to emit little sounds of pleasure.)* hmhhh.

**Evelyn:** What's the matter with you?

**Ash:** Nothing I suddenly felt a, a shiver.

**Evelyn:** A shiver, are you coming down with something? I knew you shouldn't have gone out walking in this weather. Tell me where you feel it.

**Ash:** It's OK mom, it's err passed.

**Evelyn:** As I was saying those dresses with her breasts hanging –

**Ash:** *(Ash writhes with sexual pleasure.)* Ohhh.

**Evelyn:** Are you sure you're OK.

**Ash:** Quite sure.

**Evelyn:** And those short skirts she wears. I swear you can see her, her periwinkle.

**Ash:** Oh God. *(He stands and moves away from his mother trying to hide his erection.)*

**Evelyn:** Everything alright?

**Ash:** Yes fine.

**Evelyn:** Ash listen to me, I don't like the way she looks at you. She has a rapacious look in her eyes.

**Ash:** Rapacious. I don't even know what that means.

**Evelyn:** Like a vulture eyeing its prey.

**Ash:** I wish you'd stop it. You're being petty and silly and unkind. Olivia is really nice if you tried to get to know her. She's funny and quirky, and nice.

**Evelyn:** Nice like a spider is nice until it gets you into its web.

**Ash:** What have you got against her?

**Evelyn:** She's stealing you away from me. Before she came you and I never quarrelled, never. You used to tell me everything.

**Ash:** I didn't tell you everything.

**Evelyn:** (*Not listening.*) Ever since dad died you've been my little man, my little confidant. Now look at us. I thought she was really nice when she first came and when she started to give you dance lessons I said to myself "Wonderful it's a way for you to get to know her"

**Ash:** (*Under his breath.*) Boy did I get to know her.

Evelyn: What did you say?

**Ash:** Nothing.

**Olivia:** But then it was like she wouldn't stay away from you: "Ash drive me here, let's go for a walk. Ash and I are going to see a movie." I mean really. Those are things you and I used to do together. Then she buys that house and gets you to move in.

**Ash:** She didn't force me to move in and I didn't mind taking her places. I did it willingly. I lov... I like her a lot. She's fun to be with.

**Evelyn:** Living in a basement, a basement for God's sake; it's embarrassing. How do you think that looks? What do I tell people?

**Ash:** I don't care what people think. I moved there because it's closer to work.

**Evelyn:** Bullshit! Now look what she's got me doing. You know I never swear.

**Ash:** She hasn't got you doing anything. You're doing it all on your own.

**Evelyn:** I bet you she's some sort of witch; are you going to help me look?

**Ash:** Of course not, Mom stop it.

**Evelyn:** (*Starts to rummage through the bottles and pots of cream on the dressing table.*) She's got enough creams and potions here to supply a coven. She needs it with all the wrinkles she's got. She looks like a dried up prune what's this, what's this?

**Ash:** (*Wearily.*) What is it mom? (*Then worried about what she may have found.*) What have you found?

**Evelyn:** Wart removing cream. Aha I knew it. Everyone knows witches have warts.

**Ash:** *(Relieved and anxious at the same time that Evelyn not find the KY Jelly. He looks on the dresser and slips the bottle into his pocket)* Oh come on, that doesn't mean anything. She's trying to remove a small wart on her left... nipp- nibble.

**Evelyn:** Her left what?

**Ash:** Her left neck -

**Evelyn:** Her left neck?

**Ash:** I mean her left nose, err near her nose.

**Evelyn:** Funny I never noticed a wart on her nose.

**Ash:** That's because you never look at her. It's mostly gone anyway. Stop all this talk of witches and let's go before she comes out and catches you going through her things.

**Evelyn:** Ash how can I convince you she's strange? Before you got here I caught her doing some sort of ritual.

**Ash:** Ritual?

**Evelyn:** Yes she was evidently trying to cast some sort of spell on me.

**Ash:** A spell, a spell how?

**Evelyn:** She was doing some sort of weird movements with her arms and moaning loudly. Immediately I started to feel dizzy.

**Ash:** What was she doing exactly?

**Evelyn:** Well she was going like this. *(She waves her arms and her body and moans.)*

**Ash:** Oh mom that's just the moaning chicken yoga move.

**Evelyn:** You know it?

**Ash:** Oh yes, it's all the rage right now.

**Evelyn:** I've never heard of it.

**Ash:** That's because you don't get out much. It's good to do when you're nervous.

**Evelyn:** That's what she said too. It's very odd. So it's a genuine yoga move?

**Ash:** Yes Mom now let's get out of here. We can meet up with her in the lobby.

*(Ash leads the way off stage. Evelyn surreptitiously begins to do the moaning chicken stance as she exits and the lights dim.)*

*Backstage at the Lex Rodriguez TV show before the start of the show. Dr. Blezieu the psychologist is in the green room. He speaks with a very pronounced German accent. Ash and Olivia enter. Olivia is dressed flamboyantly in a short outfit with red false lashes and a bright red wig.)*

**Dr. Blezieu:** Who do we have here?

**Ash:** I'm Ash Singleton.

**Dr. Blezieu:** And who is this beautiful little lady mit you?

**Ash:** This is my fian-sss - step-grandmother Olivia.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Dr. Werner Blezieu at your service. *(He snaps his heels together.)* For a moment I think she is your fiancée.

**Ash:** No, not at all. What gave you such an idea?

**Dr. Blezieu:** You did. To me it sounded as if you were going to say this is my fiancée.

**Ash:** No- no, you see I have a speech impediment. When I'm nervous sometimes I begin some of my words with an 'F' even when there's no "F". For example if I'm going to say the word friend I say f-friend.

**Dr. Blezieu:** But the word "friend" already it begins with "F" no?

**Ash:** Fat's right, f-fat is is not a f-food example.

**Dr. Blezieu:** What did you say?

**Olivia:** He said that was not a good example.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I see... I think.

**Ash:** The f-freason I'm fere is -

**Dr. Blezieu:** What?

**Olivia:** He's telling you the reason he's here.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I thought he said he's freezing and afraid. What is he afraid of? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

**Ash:** No need to fout. I can f-fear you.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. Tell him I'm not going to hurt him.

**Olivia:** He said he can *hear* you.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Mein Gott this guy's English is worse than mine.

**Ash:** Ffff...

**Dr. Blezieu:** Ya go on.

**Ash:** Ffff...

**Dr. Blezieu:** Take your time my boy.

**Ash:** Ffff fuck I, I can't go on like this.

**Dr. Blezieu:** That I understood. Don't be hard on yourself dear boy. Patiently I will listen already I am understanding you better.

**Ash:** No I really mean I can't keep this up. I don't have a speech impediment or fear issues for that matter.

**Dr. Blezieu:** You could've fooled me.

**Ash:** No really, I don't.

**Dr. Blezieu:** So what was all that f'ing for?

**Ash:** I didn't want to tell you about my relationship with Olivia so I was trying to throw you off the scent. I want to marry Olivia and she's my step-grandmother. We are in love.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Ho! Ho! Ach du heiliger Strohsack! That is very ... how can I say it? Very unusual!

**Ash:** Yes, yes, but that's not the reason I'm here. What I want to discuss is my relations with my mother.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Your mutter too? Jesus Maria und Josef, now that is naughty, very naughty indeed!

**Ash:** No you dont understand.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I understand. You have sexuelle beziehung mit your mutter and your Gross mutter

too yah?

**Ash:** No not my Gross mutter- grandmother.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Only mit your mutter?

**Ash:** She's my step-grandmother and no I dont have sexual bezie... whatever you call it with my mother.

**Dr. Blezieu:** But you would like to?

**Ash:** NO I DON'T . Will you listen please!

**Dr. Blezieu:** I'm listening, I'm listening. You have a very interasting life. My boy, It's not for me to judge, you have sexuelle beziehung mit whoever you like.

**Ash:** I only have sexuelle bezie- that kind of relationship with Olivia.

**Dr. Blezieu:** You are faithful to her? No running around with other members of the family?

**Ash:** No.

**Dr. Blezieu:** An aunt? A cousins? Your sister perhaps?

**Ash:** NO.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Only mit your grossmutter?

**Ash:** Only with my step-grandmother.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Thought about it though?

**Ash:** Thought about what?

**Dr. Blezieu:** (*Slyly*) You know a pretty cousin?

**Ash:** NO I told you no!

**Dr. Blezieu:** Because as I said I dont judge.

**Ash:** Will you get off the subject!

**Dr. Blezieu:** Good, good, good. Frau Olivia you are a lucky lady; you have here a very loyal young man.

**Olivia:** He's a good person.



**Dr. Blezieu:** Yes I can see that. So you're in love mit your grossmutter.

**Ash:** We're not related by blood.

**Dr. Blezieu:** That's why it's alright to do the in and out mit her?

**Ash:** What?

**Dr. Blezieu:** You know, the old bam bam bam in the ham?

**Ash:** Look I -

**Dr. Blezieu:** The blitzrieg mit dem fleischgewer?

**Ash:** Excuse me?

**Dr. Blezieu:** the four legged foxtrot?

**Ash:** I dont see-

**Dr. Blezieu:** The, what do you call it, the dipsey-doodle?

**Ash:** what that's got to do with anything?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Well you say you need my help -

**Ash:** I need your help with my mother.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Again mit the mutter. You have little bit the Oedipus complex yah?

**Olivia:** BLAST YOU –

**Dr. Blezieu:** No, no my dear, not Blast you, Blezieu. The name is Blezieu, Dr. Werner Blezieu.

**Olivia:** Whatever. The reason we're here. The reason Ash wants to be on the show is that he wants you to convince his mother that she should not be demanding he live at home with her.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Where does he live now?

**Olivia:** With me.

**Dr. Blezieu:** And his mutter doesnt like that?

**Olivia:** No she wants him at home with her.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I see, I see. Maybe *she* wants sexual beziehung mit him.

**Ash:** No, no she doesnt, will you get off that beziehung crap?

**Olivia:** Ash would like your help to make her see reason. Ash is an adult He can live wherever he wants.

**Dr. Blezieu:** And explore Punarnia mit you as often as he wants yah?

**Olivia:** Explore Punarnia? What's that?

**Dr. Blezieu:** You know *(he gestures with his body or with his hands to indicate he means intercourse.)*

**Olivia:** Why is everything about sex with you?

**Dr. Blezieu:** It makes the world go around yah. *(he makes suggestive circles with his hips a la Joel Grey in Cabaret.)*

**Olivia:** I thought it was money.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Money und sex.

**Olivia:** She made his father put a clause in his will that if he doesnt marry someone she approves of he wont get his inheritance.

**Ash:** I want to marry Olivia.

**Dr. Blezieu:** And you want your moolah too. How much is in your inheritance?

**Ash:** About \$100K I believe.

**Dr. Blezieu:** That is a lot of money.

**Olivia:** This is a tricky situation. I hope you'll treat it with the utmost delicacy.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Trust me dear madam. I'm very skilled. I will treat mit extreme tact.

**Olivia:** It seems to me that I saw you once on TV and you were not very professional.

**Dr. Blezieu:** That must have been somebody else. I'm very professional.

**Olivia:** That doctor's name sounded a lot like Blezieu.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Is very common name where I come from.

**Olivia:** Well I hope you understand this is a very delicate situation.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Absolutely. Very much. I will be extremely discreet and subtle. This is sensitive issue yah. So Ash have you liked other antiques, I mean other ladies in Frau Olivia's age bracket?

**Ash:** Y-yes.

**Dr. Blezieu:** You have always liked your lassies mellow?

**Ash:** In- in a way.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Are you more likely to fall for an old lady mit false teeth and wrinkles than a young filly mit big tits and ass?

**Ash:** Ahm possibly...

**Dr. Blezieu:** A grey-haired granny mit a cane?

**Ash:** Well -

**Dr. Blezieu:** A babushka in a headscarf-

**Olivia:** Does he have to talk about this now?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Oh yes. It helps me the situation to analyse so that I can be mostly helpful to Ash. So young girls dont turn you on?

**Ash:** No.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I see, I see. Very intareesting. Tell me Ash, when did you first notice this craving for old birds?

**Olivia:** Old birds?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Yes this predilection for, ladies of a certain vintage?

**Ash:** Well I'm not sure. I've always felt this way I think.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Who was your first crush? Your first love interest?

**Ash:** I think it was my baby sitter.

**Dr. Blezieu:** How old was she?

**Ash:** Well she wasn't a baby sitter. I mean that wasn't her job as such. She had been my grandmother's friend and she looked after me sometimes.

**Dr. Blezieu:** You liked her?

**Ash:** Yes, she was very nice.

**Dr. Blezieu:** How old was she?

**Ash:** I dont know. Fifty maybe? She smelt nice and she was very pretty and...

**Dr. Blezieu:** Und?

**Ash:** Nothing.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Go on Ash. You dont have to be afraid to tell me.

**Ash:** I used to peek through the key hole when she was bathing.

**Dr. Blezieu:** You saw her mit the clothes not on?

**Ash:** Yes.

**Dr. Blezieu:** How did that make you feel?

**Olivia:** Ash you dont have to tell him these things.

**Ash:** It's alright Olivia, he's going to help us.

**Olivia:** How, how is this going to help the situation with your mother?

**Dr. Blezieu:** I assure you I know what I'm doing. I'm a doctor. How did it make you feel Ash?

**Ash:** It made me feel good all over.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Go on.

**Ash:** I would dream about her afterwards.

**Dr. Blezieu:** In bed?

**Ash:** Yes in bed.

**Dr. Blezieu:** At night?

**Ash:** Yes at night.

**Dr. Blezieu:** And you (*he gestures to indicate masturbation.*)

**Ash:** (*Embarrassed.*) Err... yes.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Aaagh!

**Ash:** What do you mean Aaagh?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Aaagh. I mean the picture I get it!

**Ash:** The picture you get it?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Yawohl (*pronounced ja vol.*) I have cracked the case!

**Olivia:** Cracked the case?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Diagnosed the problem!

**Ash:** Diagnosed the problem?

**Dr. Blezieu:** This is classic case!

**Olivia:** Classic case?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Let me explain -

**Voice:** (*Offstage or possibly a crew member can appear onstage*) Ten minutes to show time. Olivia and Ash I need you out here right away. Dr. Blezieu you will come on later. Stay backstage for now.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I will explain everything later. Dont worry everything is going to be fine. Leave it to me.

**Olivia:** (*With foreboding.*) Why am I not convinced?

(*Ash and Olivia exit and Lex enters.*)

**Lex:** Hello you must be Dr. Blezieu. I'm Lex Rodriguez. Host of the Lex Rodriguez Show

**Dr. Blezieu:** I'm very pleased to make acquaintance mit you. I feel I know you. I watch your show, you have very interesting topics.

**Lex:** Thank you, we try to be relevant to today's society as well as be entertaining.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I am a huge fan. (*Impulsively he gives her a hug.*)

**Lex:** Whoa! I say you really are a huge fan, or is that a gun in your pocket? (*Lex has felt the bulge in his jacket made from the shoe in his pocket.*)

**Dr. Blezieu:** What? Oh that. Nein, nein, Ha! Ha! No it is my shoe. *(He takes a red stiletto shoe from his pocket.)*

**Lex:** You carry a shoe in your pocket?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Better than carrying a gun eh? Ha, ha.

**Lex:** Why?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Why I carry a shoe in my pocket?

**Lex:** I would love to know why.

**Dr. Blezieu:** You see dear lady I am writing another book on women's shoes. They are often a fetish object for some men. They are seen as having erotic sexual connotations. Did you know that?

**Lex:** No, but I would love to hear more about this topic though. Maybe do a show on it one day.

**Dr. Blezieu:** That would be gut, *(pronounceds goot)*. I would like that. You know to some men the sight of a woman in red stilettos is like a dose of Viagra to the system. This would be a very appropriate subject for your show I think. You would like to try it on perhaps?

**Lex:** Your shoe?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Yes.

**Lex:** Sure ... why not it's research for a possible show. *(She sits and he kneels and he takes her shoe off.)* This feels weird. *(He tries to put the shoe on her foot but it does not fit her.)* It doesn't fit, too bad. *(She looks at her watch.)* Oops it's almost show time, gotta go. We can talk after the shoe, I mean after the show. See you in a bit. *(She exits.)*

*Dr. Blezieu:( Calls after her.) But – but maybe with a shoe horn... (Disappointed he replaces the shoe in his pocket and exits.)*

*(Ash, Olivia and Evelyn are now in the TV studio. They're about to be interviewed by the host Lex Rodriguez before a live audience. There is the sound of clapping, hooting hollering and chanting Lex! Lex! Lex! If it is possible, a member of the crew could rev up the audience the way it's done on TV talk shows before the host comes on stage. If this is not possible to do, given the resources available, then a soundtrack can be used to provide the applause)*

**Lex:** Thank you. Thank you. Boy oh boy what enthusiasm, back at ya! I'm happy to see you too ha! Ha! What an enthusiastic audience. Welcome to the Lex Rodriguez Show. Let's get started.

Today our topic is on how to heal family disputes and we're talking to Ash Singleton and to his grand-mother Olivia as well as his mother Edna.

**Evelyn:** Evelyn.

**Ash:** She's my step-grandmother.

**Lex:** Sorry folks, his step-grandmother Esslyn and his mother Olivia. I must say Esslyn you look very young to be Ash's grandmother.

**Ash:** She's not my grandmother.

**Lex:** You just said she was.

**Ash:** I said she's my step-grandmother.

**Lex:** Esslyn is your step-grandmother?

**Ash:** No, she's my mother and her name is Evelyn.

**Lex:** Look, make up your mind will yah.

**Ash:** Olivia is my grandmother, I mean my step-grandmother and mom is my mom.

**Lex:** Who is your mom?

**Ash:** Mom, mom is Esslyn, Evelyn.

**Lex:** You're sure about that?

**Ash:** Yes,

**Lex:** That's your final answer?

**Ash:** Yes.

**Lex:** Going once, going twice... OK folks now that we've got that settled, I think. Olivia, Ash's grandmother-

**Ash:** My step-

**Lex:** Yes, alright, let's just say the person who baked you cookies and kissed your little awees.

**Olivia:** *(Under her breath slyly.)* ha, ha.

**Lex:** Excuse me, did you say something?

**Olivia:** I don't do cookies.

**Lex:** Pardon me, she doesn't do cookies – Olivia what do you do?

**Olivia:** (*Beat*) I do all sorts of things.

**Lex:** Such as?

**Olivia:** I dance; I was a champion ballroom dancer. I paint, design clothes, sing.

**Ash:** She's teaching me to dance.

**Lex:** Hmm How quaint, a grandma teaching her grandson to dance.

**Evelyn:** (*Rolls her eyes.*)

**Olivia:** I keep busy.

**Evelyn:** Busy meddling.

**Ash:** Mom please, we're here to try to get along.

**Lex:** Why do you say that?

**Evelyn:** Because she doesn't mind her own business. (*To Ash*) she doesn't try to get along with me why should I try to get along with her?

**Ash:** We're family.

**Evelyn:** She's no family to me.

**Lex:** You two don't like each other very much.

**Evelyn:** What's there to like? She's not to be trusted.

**Lex:** Why not?

**Evelyn:** You ask her.

**Lex:** She says you're not to be trusted, why's that?

**Olivia:** No idea.

**Evelyn:** Well for one she has tried to turn my son Ash against me. My son and I had the best relationship until she came along; and she's also trying to kill me. (*Under her breath*) and she's a witch.



**Olivia:** What are you mumbling about you silly cow? Kill you? You're crazy.

**Evelyn:** Don't deny it, this morning as I was about to sit down you pulled the chair from under me. I could have broken my back.

**Ash:** You did the same thing to her remember?

**Evelyn:** Oh be quiet Ash.

**Olivia:** Believe me if I wanted to kill you, you would be dead already.

**Evelyn:** See what I mean? I want her to stay away from me and my son. Why don't you go back where you came from?

**Olivia:** Who's gonna make me, you?

**Evelyn:** I know people in high places.

**Olivia:** I'm shaking in my boots.

**Evelyn:** So you should.

**Olivia:** You don't scare me you tight-assed twit.

**Lex:** Wow! Looks like the fireworks have started already.

*(At this point a member of the theatre crew can step forward and raises a board in front of the theatre audience with the words "YOU GO GRANNY" for those on Olivia's side and "DON'T LET HER PUSH YOU AROUND EVELYN" for those on Evelyn's side. The audience would have been prepped beforehand that their participation is required.)*

**Audience:** You go granny!

**Audience:** Don't let her push you around Evelyn.

**Ash:** Mom, Olivia, please stop this.

**Audience:** *Crew member shows audience another board. The audience Shouts and eggs them on.)* Come on we want to see them fight. Fight! Fight! Fight!

**Ash:** This is not what I bargained for. This is not what I saw when I watched the show.

**Lex:** What do you mean?

**Ash:** The audience is very mean and you don't stop them.

**Lex:** We changed the format six months ago to encourage more audience participation. It makes it more interactive, more fun for everybody. We've been getting rave reviews ever since. Our audience wants to feel a part of the show. They mean no harm.

**Olivia:** It's your ratings you're concerned about.

**Lex:** Well we're in a ratings war with Jeffrey Springtime. He's been beating the heck out of us lately.

**Ash:** I'm not looking for fun. How is this helpful to me? I thought Dr. Blezieu was going to come out here and talk to us. Where is he?

**Lex:** Yes that's right. You got a chance to talk at length with the doctor about your situation. Let's bring him out. (*Enter Dr. Blezieu.*) Dr. Wylfrid Blezieu is a world renowned psychologist who specialises in family disputes and resolution. He's written countless books on the subject such as (*she reads from her notes. The Family to Heck with it and Kids You Kick your Parents out for a Change*) Hmm these should make for interesting discussions among families. Welcome Dr. Blezieu. Please have a seat. What have you got to say?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Ich liebe Schuhe. (*English translation: I love your shoes. He sits beside Evelyn and admires her shoes.*)

**Olivia:** Excuse me?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Dies ist mein Glückstag. (*English translation: This is my lucky day.*)

**Evelyn:** I don't understand.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I'm just saying that I'm a very lucky man to be seated next to such a lovely lady

**Evelyn:** (*Flattered.*) Thank you.

**Dr. Blezieu:** What is your name madam?

**Evelyn:** I'm Evelyn Singleton. I'm Ash's mother.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Ash's mother? I thought maybe you were his sister.

**Evelyn:** No I'm his mother.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Remarkable.

**Lex:** Dr. Blezieu what have you got to say about this situation?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Well what I have to say is I think you've got the wrong Blezieu.

**Lex:** Come again.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Thank you I will.

**Lex:** No I mean say that again.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I know what you meant. I was just pulling your legs Lex.

**Lex:** Very funny.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Well you know laughter is the best medicine. It puts people at ease. (He *addresses Evelyn again.*) Pardon me for saying this Mrs. Singleton but I must say you have great taste in clothes. Those red shoes are very flattering on you.

**Evelyn:** I don't know what to say, thank you.

**Dr. Blezieu:** You're most welcome.

**Lex:** What do you mean I've got the wrong Blezieu?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Thank you.

**Lex:** What?

**Dr. Blezieu.** You say bless you und I say thank you.

**Lex:** We've got a comedian on our hands. I didn't say bless you. I said Blezieu.

**Dr. Blezieu:** What's the difference?

**Lex:** I don't know. You tell me. It's your goddam name.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Now hold on to your horses. No need to get hot under your collarbone.

**Lex:** It's under your collar.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Where? (He *winks at Evelyn.*)

**Lex:** Look can you help these people or not. Are you Blezieu yes or no?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Yes und no.

**Lex:** What is that supposed to mean?

**Dr. Blezieu:** What that's supposed to mean Legs, I mean Lex, my name is Dr. Blezieu but I'm not the Blezieu you think I am.

**Lex:** Which Blezieu are you?

**Dr. Blezieu:** I am Dr. Werner Blezieu. My father is Dr. Wylfrid Blezieu. He wrote those books you mentioned.

**Lex:** Why isn't he here?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Because he's dead.

**Olivia:** Oh my God.

**Lex:** How awful. How did he die?

**Dr. Blezieu:** He fell off his horse.

**Lex:** I'm so sorry. We never heard.

**Evelyn:** You must feel terrible.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Thank you Evelyn: May I call you Evelyn?

**Evelyn:** Err...yes, yes if you wish.

**Dr. Blezieu:** It's hard to lose your father.

**Lex:** It's so sad. Please accept my condolences.

**Evelyn:** Yes mine too. I mean on behalf of Ash and myself.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Thank you Evelyn, you are so kind.

**Evelyn:** It's only natural.

**Lex:** When is the funeral? We should send flowers.

**Dr. Blezieu:** The funeral has already happened.

**Lex:** Really? When did he die?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Ten years ago.

**Lex:** Ten years ago? My producer made the appointment with him two weeks ago.

**Dr. Blezieu:** She said she wanted Dr. W. Blezieu. That's me. She didn't say she wanted my father. He couldn't have come anyway under the circumstances. You understand. (He *addresses Evelyn who nods uncertainly.*)

**Lex:** So you continue his work?

**Dr. Blezieu:** I am carrying on the practice.

**Lex:** Well thank you for being here. Is your specialty the same as your father's?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Yes definitely; my specialty is sex. *(He smiles at Evelyn.)*

**Lex:** But his specialty was the family.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Yah how do you think families get created? He! He!

**Lex:** And what does sex have to do with today's topic?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Everything.

**Lex:** Everything? Tell me more.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Everything is sex as you know Lex.

**Lex:** You got that right.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I watch your show: *Sex in the Boardroom, My Girlfriend is a sex addict. I had sex with the Eiffel Tower.*

**Lex:** No unfortunately we were scooped on the Eiffel tower by the Jeffrey Springtime show.

**Olivia:** That's why everything we talked about backstage was about sex.

**Dr. Blezieu:** That's right little lady. It's all about sex. Wouldn't you agree Herr Ash?

**Ash:** Well, err.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I can be of great help for this family. I had the opportunity to talk for a long time with Herr Ash here.

**Olivia:** You spoke to him for 20 minutes.

**Dr. Blezieu:** That's what I said, a long time and I was able to diagnose his condition.

**Ash:** Condition?

**Evelyn:** What condition?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Oh dear lady his penchant for well-cured flesh.

**Ash:** Dr. Blezieu, please there's no need to-

**Evelyn:** Well-cured flesh. What's this about well-cured flesh. You mean how he likes his steak?

**Dr. Blezieu:** When I say well-cured flesh I mean aged meat, cured beef, hoary venison.

**Evelyn:** What's he talking about?

**Ash:** Nothing mom. Let's get out of here. This man's crazy. (*He stands.*)

**Olivia:** Yes we're leaving. I knew this wasn't a good idea. (*She stands too.*)

**Dr. Blezieu:** Did I misunderstand? You told me you and Venus de Milo here like to do the horizontal tango.

**Evelyn:** WHAT!!

**Ash:** Mom it isn't true.

**Dr. Blezieu:** It's a classic case of... Oh what's the name again? It's a very long word. Damn it I can't remember. I don't deal with this condition often.

**Evelyn:** Ash what's he talking about?

**Ash:** Nothing mom. Let's go.

**Dr. Blezieu:** It's when young men like Herr Ash like to screw up little old ladies like Frau Olivia here. No not screw up, I mean screw, yes screw old ladies. English trips me up sometimes.

**Evelyn:** I don't believe it.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I know; it's hard to believe; but English is not my first language.

**Evelyn:** What are you talking about?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Well you see I was born in Germany in a little village in the Bavarian Alps called -

**Evelyn:** I don't give a flying fig where you were born. What are you saying about my son?

**Dr.: Blezieu:** Please, please dear Evelyn, don't get angry with me. I would like to be friends. I don't mean to upset you but you see this is a classic case. It was triggered in childhood when he used to peek at his naked baby-sitter through the key hole. Isn't that right Ash?

**Ash:** I didn't tell you these things so you could broadcast it to the entire world.

**Dr. Blezieu:** This is a safe place to speak about difficult things.

**Olivia:** I told you I didn't like this idea.

**Ash:** I didn't know it was this kind of show. It's not true mom. He's making it all up –

**Dr. Blezieu:** Gerontophilia!

**Lex:** What?

**Dr. Blezieu:** It is an erotic age orientation where a young person is strongly aroused by the elderly as you are Ash toward Olivia -

**Evelyn:** Erotic age orientation, what in God's name are you implying?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Don't be alarmed Evelyn, it's a treatable condition - in some cases. But since he's not harming nobody I mean he doesn't go around bopping little old ladies on the head und having his avenue with them do you Ash? No not avenue. I mean ...your alley? No, your road? your way with them. From what I was able to observe, Frau Olivia isn't fighting him off. She thinks it's wunderbar. Ist es nicht Frau Olivia? In fact they love each other very much.

**Evelyn:** WHAT?

**Ash:** Mom it's not true-

**Olivia:** It's true.

**Ash:** OLIVIA!

**Evelyn:** I don't believe a word of it. Not my Ash.

**Olivia:** You had better believe it, Ash and I are lovers.

**Evelyn:** This is disgusting!

**Olivia:** I'm tired of hiding and pretending. She might as well know the truth. We love each other.

**Dr. Blezieu:** And they're getting married.

**Evelyn:** MARRIED, OVER MY DEAD BODY!

**Olivia:** Be my guest.

**Evelyn:** I think I'm going to be sick.

**Lex:** Oh good, do we have barf bags? We haven't had this happen on the show before.

**Evelyn:** If you think I'm going to sit passively by and let this, this, this old hag marry my son...

**Olivia:** And how are you going to stop us?

**Evelyn:** I'll kill you first you, you, you witch! You have deflowered my precious boy.

*(She grabs Olivia they both tussle. Olivia's wig comes off. Ash tries to stop them.)*

**Audience:** *(Soundtrack or real audience is prompted.)* FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

**Ash:** Mom! Mom stop it. You're hurting her. *(He appeals to Lex and Dr. Blezieu.)* Help me for God sake they're going to kill each other.

**Lex:** This, this is wonderful. Our ratings are going to go through the roof! What, commercials? We can't go to commercial now are you kidding? Keep rolling; we'll beat Jeffrey Springtime for sure with this. Camera 1, get in closer. The audience is loving this. What do you think folks who's gonna win? Camera 2 can't you get in any closer?

**Audience:** The old biddy for sure! Nah The other one's got her beat!

**Dr. Blezieu:** This is very therapeutic Ash. It will help them to bond as mother and daughter- in-law or grand-mother in law... whatever.

*(Ash finally manages to pull them apart. Evelyn has Olivia's wig in her hand and Evelyn's dress is ripped and one of her shoes is off her foot.)*

**Evelyn:** You witch!

**Olivia:** And you're nothing but a frustrated, emasculating, bitch. Why do you want to keep Ash at home huh? You need to find yourself a man.

**Evelyn:** How dare you!

**Ash:** Olivia are you hurt? Mother what have you done?

**Evelyn:** Look what she's done to me. I've got bruises all over me and she's ripped my dress.

**Olivia:** I should have ripped your face off!

**Evelyn:** How can you love her? Look at her, Miss Hairless Wonder 1922.

**Ash:** I love her. Hair is overrated. *(He grabs the wig out of his mother's hands and gives it to Olivia who puts it on albeit crooked.)*

**Dr. Blezieu:** Spoken like a true Geron... geron. What's that word again?

**Lex:** Gerontophilia.



**Dr. Blezieu:** To a geron... to a person like Ash, signs of aging are very erotic. I bet you're very turned on right now Ash.

**Ash:** I didn't come on this show to speak about my sexual orientation or to have Olivia attacked and shamed. Who I choose to love is my business. But since this so-called psychologist has chosen to make it a matter for public knowledge, I will admit it for all to hear. *(He jumps on the couch a la Tom Cruise on the Oprah show.)* I love Olivia and I plan to make her my wife if she will have me.

**Dr. Blezieu:** That's my boy.

**Evelyn:** Ash you don't know what you're saying. She's tricked you somehow; turned your head.

**Ash:** Shut up mother.

**Evelyn:** How dare you speak to me like this? You've never spoken to me this way before.

**Ash:** I should have done it long ago. I love you mom with all of my heart but you're controlling and selfish.

**Evelyn:** Ash stop this right now! That's not you speaking. What have you done to my son? What spell have you cast on him?

**Olivia:** The spell of love.

**Ash:** I'm in love with her.

**Evelyn:** But how can that be?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Simple. As I explained earlier, he's got gerontophilia dear lady.

**Evelyn:** Oh shut up you deranged sauerkraut!

**Dr. Blezieu:** Call me names dear Evelyn if it makes you feel better but tell me how else would you explain a virile 21 year-old falling in love with a 77 year-old woman?

**Evelyn:** She's tricked him somehow I tell you. Cast a spell on him, fooled him, turned his head. She's a witch!

**Dr. Blezieu:** Come now Ev, may I call you Ev? My dear departed wife's name was also Evelyn and I always called her Ev. You bring her to me in my mind: same fiery spirit. You don't believe what you're saying. Look at her does she look like a witch to you? *(Olivia is dishevelled. Her wig is askew and her false lashes are hanging off her eyelids. She tries to lunge at Evelyn but Ash holds her back.)* OK don't answer that.

**Evelyn:** She is a witch I tell you.

**Olivia:** Call me whatever you want but sooner or later you'll have to accept that Ash is in love with me.

**Evelyn:** I don't believe it. For Goodness sakes look at her. She's an old woman.

**Olivia:** I'm proud of my age and all my wrinkles and warts, I've earned them all. This is who I am and I'm not ashamed. *(She takes the wig off and throws it on the floor.)*

**Dr. Blezieu:** It's precisely because of her age that Ash's in love with her. You could parade a bevy of young lovelies before him und he wouldn't even swap his head, no revolve his head? switch? rotate, swivel?-

**Lex:** Turn -

**Dr. Blezieu:** Turn his head to look at them. It's the elderly that appeal to him; the wrinkles are like aphrodisiac to him.

**Evelyn:** This just can't be true.

**Ash:** It's true mother.

**Evelyn:** But how can this happen to you so suddenly?

**Ash:** It wasn't sudden. I've always been attracted to mature women. Remember your friend Cynthia?

**Evelyn:** No not Cynthia!

**Ash:** And the cleaning lady Rita?

**Evelyn:** I hired Rita -

**Ash:** And the next door neighbour -

**Evelyn:** That's enough. *(She starts to cry. Dr. Blezieu gives her his handkerchief)*

**Lex:** Camera one make sure you're getting this. *(whispering)* Evelyn could you turn toward the camera a bit more?

**Evelyn:** There must be a cure for this.

**Ash:** I don't want it.

**Evelyn:** Oh yes you're going to get it. Doctor what can be done to cure him?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Well there are things that we can try: aversion therapy for example. Did you ever see the movie *A Clockwork Orange*?

**Evelyn:** Yes. (*Still crying.*)

**Dr. Blezieu:** Remember the guy in the movie that they strap to a chair. What was that actors name?

**Lex:** John Cleese?

**Dr. Blezieu:** No, no he wasn't in *A Clockwork Orange*.

**Lex:** Michael Caine.

**Dr. Blezieu:** No not him.

**Lex:** Hold on I'll google it.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Anyway they prop his eyelids open with clamps –

**Lex:** Malcolm McDowell

**Dr. Blezieu:** That's the guy. Whatever happened to him?

**Lex:** He's still acting. He's been in a number of things: *The Passage*, *Look Back in Anger*, *Law and Order*...

**Dr. Blezieu:** I didn't know he was in *Law and Order* -

**Evelyn:** Hey! This is a matter of life and death.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Yes, yes so they force this Malcolm McDowell character's eyes to remain open with clamps so he can look at certain kinds of pictures to cure him of his problems.

**Evelyn:** Yes go on.

**Dr. Blezieu:** We could try that with Ash.

**Evelyn:** Yes let's try it.

**Olivia:** Never!

**Dr. Blezieu:** Or you could just try to accept him the way he is.

**Evelyn:** Never!

**Dr. Blezieu:** You say that now Ev, because it has come as a shock to you finding out like this. Himmel I would be shocked too. But if you don't accept him, you may lose your son.

**Evelyn:** I won't lose him.

**Dr. Blezieu:** You sound very sure.

**Evelyn:** I'm very sure.

**Dr. Blezieu:** How can you be sure?

**Evelyn:** Because I hold a trump card. If he marries someone I don't approve of, he will lose his inheritance.

**Ash:** I know and I don't care. I have come to realise that money isn't everything, thank you Olivia for that.

**Lex:** Wow! Ash says he will marry Olivia whether he loses his inheritance or not; I tell you folks, I don't know if I could make that choice. But it speaks to the depth of love that Ash has for her. I can hardly speak. This is so beautiful. I'm in tears. I would like to know what you think. (*Lex wades into the audience; i.e. the people in the theatre who are watching the play. The next exchanges will be adlibbed as Lex asks three or four members of the audience what they would do if they were Ash and stood to lose their inheritance. Would you choose love or money?*) Well the audience has its opinions. Olivia you must be a very special lady to have captured Ash's heart the way you have.

**Evelyn:** You're prepared to throw away one million dollars?

**Ash:** One million dollars!

**Lex:** One million dollars?

**Evelyn:** One million dollars.

**Ash:** I didn't know it was so much money.

**Evelyn:** You'd better believe it. You marry her and you lose everything.

**Ash:** Everything?

**Lex:** Everything?

**Evelyn:** Every last dime. You will be totally disinherited.

**Ash:** *(Ash looks at his mother for a long time then he goes to Olivia and takes both her hands in his.)* Olivia my dear, I'm sorry. Truly sorry-

**Evelyn:** What did I tell you; money talks.

**Ash:** Olivia, I'm so very sorry. I really hope you can understand and not blame me-

**Evelyn:** I knew it. Ha! Gotcha Broom Hilda!

**Ash:** I hoped I could have married you-

**Evelyn:** It was so wickedly wise of me to have his father put in that clause in the will.

**Ash:** I hoped I could have married you and given you everything you deserve-

**Evelyn:** She deserves a swift kick in the- you-know-where. That's what she deserves. Cradle robber.

**Ash:** But I'm afraid because of the clause in my father's will, I will be penniless if I marry you. *(He goes down on his knees)* Will you marry me even though I will be a pauper?

**Olivia:** Oh Ash, my darling of course I will.

**Lex:** Ahh! This is soooo romantic.

**Evelyn:** Romantic my foot. Ash have you gone mad?

**Ash:** Yes I'm mad, I'm crazy, I'm in love.

**Evelyn:** Don't be ridiculous!

**Lex:** Olivia have you got something to say to your future mother-in-law?

**Olivia:** Yes, *(pause)* Ygna, ygna ygna ynga ygna ygna!

**Dr. Blezieu:** Love happens Evelyn.

**Evelyn:** How can you do this to me?

**Ash:** How can you do this to *me*?

**Evelyn:** I'm trying to save you.

**Ash:** I don't need saving.

**Evelyn:** She's wrong for you.

**Ash:** She's just right.

**Evelyn:** It's not what I dreamed for you.

**Olivia:** I know what you dreamed for him.

**Ash:** This is what I want for myself.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Think of it this way: you're not losing a son; you're gaining a grandmother-in-law.

**Evelyn:** Oh God.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Wrong choice of words. But really is it so bad? You wish your son to be happy don't you? Olivia makes him happy.

**Evelyn:** But he could be cured.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Yes perhaps, but he doesn't want to be cured. He's not hurting anyone with his sexual preference. In fact he's giving Olivia much pleasure, right Olivia?

**Olivia:** You bet.

**Evelyn:** Oh God.

**Dr. Blezieu:** He's found love Ev, that's what's important.

**Evelyn:** I have to sit down. *(She sits.)* I've lost my shoe. Where is my shoe?

**Lex:** It's over there by you Dr. Blezieu. *(Evelyn's shoes are red heels.)*

**Dr. Blezieu:** *(He picks up her shoe.)* I have one just like it.

**Evelyn:** What?

**Dr. Blezieu:** Yah right here in my pocket. I carry it close to my body. Did you know dear lady that women's shoes are a fetish object for men?

**Evelyn:** I don't understand.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I have written several books on the subject: *Improve your Sex Life with Shoes*. And my bestseller: *Imelda Marcos: Shoes her Sexy, Dirty Little Secret*. You see Ev, to some men, my dear, the sight of a woman's high heel shoe is a sexual turn on; the higher the heel the better. It's red shoes that do it for me. May I? *(He kneels before her and places the shoe from his pocket on her foot. Then he gently caresses it and then moves up to her ankle.)* Yah it fits. I have found the one.

**Evelyn:** What are you doing with my foot? That's not my shoe.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I beg your pardon liebe frau but it is yours now. I have been looking for the person whose foot it will fit this shoe. This was my wife's shoe. She was wearing it when she... *(he gets emotional.)* We were doing pully hawly when she... she just up and died in my arms. It was very sad. Mit this shoe I bury her but at the funeral I take it off her lovely, cold little foot. Now I give to you.

**Evelyn:** Dr. Blezieu, stop this at once. Who do you think I am Cinderella? *(She does not move her foot however.)*

**Dr. Blezieu.** You are my Cinderella. Mein Gott but you're beautiful. Please say you will have me.

**Evelyn:** I can't say that.

**Dr. Blezieu:** I understand, too soon it is. But at least say to me you're attracted.

**Evelyn:** I, I have too much on my mind right now. I have to think about Ash.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Ev my dear, Ash has found love and so have I. Please say yes. Say yes to the two of us. Tell him he may marry Olivia mit your blessing and tell to me that you like me even if only a little.

**Lex:** What do you say audience; should she say yes?

**Audience:** *( Audience prompted)* Yes! Say yes! Say no! Say yes!

**Evelyn:** I can't.

**Ash:** Mom I'm leaving with Olivia and you will never see me again. *(He takes Olivia's hand and begins to walk away.)*

**Evelyn:** No please. You're so young Ash; this is just a passing obsession.

**Ash:** I won't change my mind. Goodbye mother.

**Evelyn:** Ash please... wait. I don't want to lose you.

**Ash:** You have already.

**Audience:** Say Yes Evelyn. Say yes.

**Evelyn:** Don't go Ash... I, I say yes.

**Ash:** Oh mom. I can marry Olivia and I can have my inheritance?

**Evelyn:** *(Swallowing hard.)* I won't stop it.

**Audience:** *(Appaluse from audience or soundtrack.)*

**Ash:** I love you mom.

**Evelyn:** And... I, I will consider you Dr. Blezieu.

**Dr. Blezieu:** You say to me you are attracted?

**Evelyn:** Yes Dr. Blezieu, I say to you I am attracted.

*(Audience applauds.)*

**Dr. Blezieu:** Ich bin fröhlich. Call me Werner my love.

**Evelyn:** Werner. *(She pronounces it Werner with a "W". He corrects her with Werner with a "V" sound.)*

**Dr. Blezieu:** Verner.

**Evelyn:** Werner. *(besotted)*

**Ash:** Olivia darling. We did good.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Verner

**Evelyn:** Werner.

**Dr. Blezieu:** Verner

**Lex:** Well there you have it folks: true love wins out in the end. I have a feeling Dr. Blezieu will be spending many happy hours teaching Eulaleeh-

**Evelyn:** Evelyn!

**Lex:** how to pronounce his name. Tune in tomorrow when I'll interview a woman who says she's married to seven men and is looking for one more. It promises to be an exciting show folks. You will not want to miss it. Until then this is Lex Rodriguez saying goodbye, hasta la vista. *(Lights black out slowly.)*

**Evelyn** Werner.

**Olivia:** Oh for Christ sake Evelyn, you're making me want to heave.

**Evelyn:** Watch it you old toad.



**Olivia:** Shut up you tight-ass.

*(The rest of the dialogue takes place as lights are dimming and the actors are leaving the stage.)*

**Ash:** Mom, Olivia we're all one happy family now. Please behave.

**Olivia and Evelyn:** I'm not going to put up with her impudence. *(adlibbing the squabbling.)*

*Curtain*