

**Running Away**

by

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Malcolm.....business man, early thirties, well-groomed

Andrew.....business man, mid-twenties, impeccable dresser

Jennifer.....Malcolm's wife, society woman, late-twenties

Sarah.....Malcolm's high school sweet-heart, early thirties

TIME: NOW

Setting: The city. Somewhat like New York, but less busy

## INT. SCENE - DESCRIPTION

Outdoors. Lunch time. There is a park with benches surrounded by busy streets and business buildings beyond that. There are hot-dog vendors as well as cafe vendors. There are many people around getting lunch or taking breaks. Malcolm is getting a coffee at a vendors cart. As he turns away, a bike messenger rushes past.

MALCOLM

Hey. Watch it!

(He walks over to a bench and sits. He pulls out a folder and begins reading the documents inside. Andrew comes in and sees Malcolm. He comes over and stands beside Malcolm.)

ANDREW

Malcolm. Hey, how are you today? I heard you'd been having some trouble.

MALCOLM

I'm fine. Trouble's been fixed. What are you doing out here? Don't you usually have lunch at some fine restaurant?

ANDREW

Yeah. I decided I needed to get some exercise.

(Malcolm looks at Andrew snidely. Andrew is as thin as a stick. Malcolm is fit, but he has to work at it.)

MALCOLM

(sarcastically)

I'm sure you've really been having some problems.

ANDREW

(hesitantly)

Yeah, well.

(pause)

So, how are things going with Jennifer?

(Malcolm frowns)

MALCOLM

Not so good. The fights have been getting worse. She's begun mentioning divorce.

ANDREW

I'm sorry to hear that, but she's mentioned divorce in the past. Nothing ever came of it then.

MALCOLM

Yeah, I know, but there's only so much a person can take. This might be Jen's breaking point.

ANDREW

What are you going to do?

MALCOLM

That's the thing. I have no idea what to do to please her. She's angry with everything I do.

(Malcolm looks away, forgetting about his papers. His fountainpen begins dripping on the papers. Andrew looks at him, worried, but then, looks away too. He fidgets. His phone rings. He reads a text and smiles, but glances at Malcolm, who is still in his own thoughts, and deletes the text.)

ANDREW

Hey, how about I talk to her? We've always been good friends. Why don't I try to infiltrate the female mind?

(Malcolm looks at Andrew for a long moment. Then, he puts his hand on Andrew's shoulder.)

MALCOLM

Thank you. That would really help.

(Andrew nods, then hesitates before speaking again.)

ANDREW

What if divorce is the right thing for you two?

(Malcolm becomes affronted, throws up his hands, and moves to get up. Andrew pulls his arm to pull him back down.)

Malcolm, please, just hear me out. What if divorce is the right way to go?

MALCOLM

(angrily)

No, it isn't. I love her. I'm not going to give up on us. I'm not going to leave her or let her leave me.

ANDREW

Okay, okay, Malcolm. We'll figure this out.

#### EXT. SCENE - DESCRIPTION

Inside Malcolm and Jennifer's house. Malcolm is dressed in his coat and is closet to the front door on the left. Jennifer and Andrew are standing next to each other by the couch in the middle of the room. There are stairs leading to the second floor of the house at the back. Another door leading to the kitchen is on the right. Malcolm had been facing the door, but turns to Andrew and Jennifer. He smiles at them.

MALCOLM

It's okay. I understand. You two want to be together, and I'm the odd man out. It's alright. I'm leaving.

(Malcolm opens the closets next to the front door and pulls out a suitcase. Jennifer scoffs.)

JENNIFER

What? What is this all about?

(She gestures to the suitcase.)

## MALCOLM

I'm leaving you, Jennifer. You can have all the freedom and fun you want with Andrew here. Goodbye.

(Malcolm walks out the front door, grabbing his hat on the way out. He drops his house keys on the table beside the door. Jennifer turns to Andrew, throws up her hands, and leaves in the opposite direction into the kitchen. Andrew looks around, sits down on the couch, and frowns, confused.)

Andrew know that Malcolm's wife is going to divorce him because Andrew's been sleeping with her. Over the course of the play, Malcolm gets reintroduced to Sarah, his high school sweet-heart. Jennifer and Andrew reveal their relationship. He is relieved because it means that he can finally leave Jennifer, take a promotion and transfer, and go back to Sarah.