

The Ego & The Idiot

Sample Scene

Throughout the play, Kevin's "Ego" and the "Image of Lisa", his ex-girlfriend, have been battling it out for control of Kevin's mind.

Tired of playing games with "Lisa's Image", the "Ego" challenges her to chess. Winner takes all. Mind, heart and soul included.

Since the "Ego" represents "logic", and "Lisa's Image" represents "foolish human emotion", the "Ego" is certain he has a distinct advantage.

[As the game begins, "Kevin" sleeps on the couch, oblivious to the battle being waged for his mind.]

EGO: I can't believe you actually accepted my invitation.

LISA: Women love a good challenge. *(Leans toward Ego.)*

Why do you think we date jerks?

EGO: I hope you understand the terms. If you lose, you have to leave us alone forever.

LISA: I don't intend to lose. Chess is just another game.

EGO: Yes, but a game of logic.

LISA: *(Proudly.)* Women defy logic.

EGO: Your games won't work with me. Let's play.

LISA: What are we waiting for? I'm always eager to add one more man to my body count. Even if it's merely half a man.

[EGO puts a black pawn in one hand, a white one in the other. Then mixes them behind his back, then holds them out for LISA.]

EGO: Pick one for the honor of moving first.

LISA: *(Laughing.)* Don't be so naïve. Women always make the first move. It may be a smile or a glance. The clothes we wear or the style of our hair. But we'll always drive men mad.

EGO: Pick one!

LISA: White. The color may have lost some meaning, but it still affords me the opportunity of moving first.

EGO: You don't understand. *(Gets extremely irritated.)* Pick one of the pieces!

LISA: *(Looking away.)* No. I've already made my decision, and a woman *never* changes her mind – unless she feels like it; and I don't feel like it right now.

EGO: You have to play by the rules.

LISA: No, I don't. In fact, I don't have to play at all. *(Lisa gets up.)* I'm leaving.

EGO: (Irritated.) All right! All right! You can have the white pieces. The only important move is the last one!

[LISA sits back down, as EGO places the pieces from his hand onto the board.]

LISA: I intend to make the first and the last move. (Leans toward Ego.) As women always do. Pawn to king's four.

[LISA moves. EGO counters.]

EGO: Ditto. My pawn to king's four. I'll mirror your every move until you make an error in judgment. (Mocks Lisa.) As women always do. Then, like a hungry wolf, I'll devour you like a rabbit!

LISA: My, my, my, don't we have our hormones in a frenzy? (Moving her piece.) White bishop to queen's bishop four.

EGO: That's totally insane.

LISA: (Smiling.) Everything a woman does is a little crazy – isn't it?

EGO: Surely you see your folly. You're attacking before you've built an adequate defense. (Moving his piece.) Pawn to king's knight three.

LISA: Tweedle dee. Tweedle dum. In love, the best defense is a good offense. Haven't you noticed? The most popular people are always the most offensive? (She moves piece.) Knight to king's rook three.

EGO: (Shaking his head, moving his pawn.) First, you must protect yourself. Pawn to king's bishop four.

LISA: (Excited, she takes pawn.) Oh, boy! Oh, boy! I've got the first piece. I'm winning. I'm winning.

[LISA holds the piece to her chest. She shakes excitedly.]

EGO: Just like a woman. Motivated by impulsive emotion. Pawn to king's bishop four. (Ego moves his piece.) Now I have the advantage. That's the problem with women. They never think ahead.

LISA: Oh, well. (She moves.) Queen to king's rook five. Check. (She leans forward, pausing to smile.) And mate!

EGO: What! (Jumps up, distracted.) You cheated! You underhanded wench! You distracted me with your beauty. Then baffled me with your mindless maneuvers.

LISA: I think they call it fool's mate. The queen has trapped the king; but isn't that how it always ends? The queen lurks a few squares away – just barely out of reach. Even if you could escape, I'd find you. I'd stalk you. (Mocks Ego.) I'd devour you like a rabbit. Women control this game – women control your life!

EGO: I want a rematch. Best two out of three.

LISA: We made a deal. I expect you to honor our agreement, even though I may not have honored it with you.

EGO: *(Dejected.)* All right. All right. You've got me.

LISA: I want a poem by the end of the week. That was our arrangement. You must help Kevin write the perfect poem. Together I know you can create something romantic – but disciplined. Something to melt a woman's soul.

EGO: Why are women so fascinated with poetry?

LISA: The best way to a woman's heart is to offer her something totally useless.

EGO: If that's the case, take Kevin.

[KEVIN falls out of bed.]

KEVIN: *(Sleepy.)* What happened? *(He spots Lisa and screams.)* What are you doing here!

LISA: *(Aside to Ego.)* Oh, just playing games with your mind.

KEVIN: In my own home?

EGO: *(Depressed.)* I'm afraid she has us pinned to the mat.

KEVIN: What do you mean?

EGO: She wants a poem. That's what I mean.

KEVIN: I don't write poetry!

[As LISA EXITS, she smiles at KEVIN and gently strokes his cheek with her fingertips.]

LISA: You do now, darling.

[KEVIN leans closer, but LISA eludes him and EXITS untouched, shaking her hips in an exaggerated fashion. KEVIN and EGO stare.]

EGO: *(Awestruck.)* Hot babe!

KEVIN: *(Dreamy.)* So warm, so loving.

EGO: Such firm, firm thighs.

KEVIN: So soft, so tender.

EGO: I'd die for just five minutes of a hot, steamy kiss!

KEVIN: So gentle, so compassionate.

EGO: I'd love to rip that cute little skirt off her round little butt –

[KEVIN slugs EGO.]

KEVIN: What the hell are you thinking about?

[EGO falls to the ground.]

EGO: Hey, man, I can't help it! My mind has a mind of its own. If the birds and the bees need it *(whining)* – why can't I get a little every once in a while?

KEVIN: *(Standing over Ego.)* You don't have to think about sex every minute of the day.

EGO: One of us has to think rationally.

- LIGHTS OUT -