

Lovelock
a play in seven scenes

By

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Cast of Characters

<u>Maddy Dillard:</u>	43, a blonde housewife
<u>Jason Dillard:</u>	43, her blonde husband
<u>Clarissa Dillard:</u>	16, their dark-haired daughter
<u>Melly Cruise:</u>	29, their next door neighbor. A striking woman of Afro-American, Lebanese and Caucasian descent
<u>Willard Lovelock:</u>	50s, an elder at the Dillard's church

Scene

The modest kitchen of the Dillards in Little Corinth, a town in central Florida. There is a screen door leading outside stage right, an old black Formica dining table and four chairs center stage, sink upstage with a large window over it; on either side of the sink are a stove and refrigerator; stage left there is a stool and a wall phone and a door leading off to the rest of the house. The furnishings are second hand and very modest. There is a huge mural representation of a Poinciana tree filled with both green and dead brown leaves towering behind the set. Through the course of the play, the entire kitchen is systematically disassembled during the blackouts, as noted in the stage directions.

Time

Next Fall.

ACT I

Scene 1

A Wednesday evening. The DILLARDS have just finished dinner. On the dark stage, light from the refrigerator illumines MADDY, sniffing a carton of soured milk; when she speaks, the lights rise on the kitchen; JASON and CLARISSA are laughing, working on a crossword puzzle around the table. Parrots are heard screeching in the distance.

MADDY

Ah. (To JASON) Take a whiff. (To CLARISSA) Now you. Whaddaya think?

JASON

(Simultaneously with CLARISSA)
Smells fine to me.

CLARISSA

(Simultaneously with JASON)
Yuck. It smells awful.

MADDY

(Throwing the carton away)
I don't know why I bother buyin' quarts a milk.

JASON

I gotta work again this Saturday.

MADDY

Oh, Jay.

CLARISSA

(Pause, she rises)
I'm going over to Ann-Marie's, o.k.?

MADDY

Clarissa.

CLARISSA

Sorry. Can I be excused?

MADDY

No. Yes.

CLARISSA

Thanks, mama. Good dinner.

MADDY

Thank you, honey.

JASON goes to fridge as CLARISSA heads out screen door

How long is this gonna go on?

CLARISSA

What, mama?

MADDY

I was talking to your pa.

CLARISSA

Oh. See ya!

She exits

JASON

There any beer?

MADDY

Bottom shelf, right. This'll be about the ninth Saturday in a row.

JASON

That's light beer. I want real beer.

MADDY

Behind that. When'd you find out?

JASON

How'd we get so low on beer?

MADDY

Somebody musta drunk it. Write it on the list. When did they tell you about Saturday?

JASON

I'm gonna blast the shit outta them parrots one of these days, I swear, Maddy. If people wanna keep pets, they should keep 'em - not let 'em get out and go wild like that. Where's the marker..?

MADDY

Try in there. When, Jason?

JASON

Yesterday. There's nothing in here...

MADDY

Why didn't you tell me last night? Try the messy drawer. Why?

JASON

I couldn't.
(Checking drawer)
Nope.

MADDY

Well why not?

JASON

I don't know; I looked in the drawer, and no matter how hard I looked, it didn't magically appear.

MADDY

What are you talking about? Lovelock - Page 1-4

JASON

The marker for writin' down "beer" with, what're you talking about?

MADDY

(Laughing)
Saturday. Why couldn't you tell me?

JASON

I was asleep by the time I remembered. Here it is. On top of the fridge.

MADDY

Yeah, I leave it there sometimes.

JASON

Obviously. You know we need the money, so why bust my butt for workin' Saturdays? Where's the opener?

MADDY

In the...uh...uh ...

JASON

It's not in the drawer.

MADDY

That's where it belongs. Try on top of the...

JASON

I already tried the top of the fridge; it's covered with pens and pencils. What is that?

MADDY

What?

JASON

That there in your hand.

MADDY
This? Looks like a bottle opener to me.

JASON
Hand it over.

MADDY
There's a toll.

JASON
What?

MADDY
You know. A toll.

JASON
Here? What if someone walks in?

MADDY
I didn't say a fee. A toll.
(He kisses her ear)
No, not a tip.
(He nuzzles her neck)
Or an I.O.U.
(He kisses her passionately)
Yeah. There you go! A toll.
(She hands him the opener, he continues
ravishing her)
What're you doing?!

JASON
I wanna pay my fee!! Fee-time!!!

MADDY
(Giggling)
No it's not. Jay...Jay!! Jason!! Jay-what...what if!!

Knock at the screen door

JASON
I don't believe it.

MADDY
Who is it?!

JASON
Go away.

MADDY
Jay, no.

MELLY
Maddy? It's me.

MADDY
Hiya Melly, come on in.

MELLY
Are you sure?

JASON
Yeah, come on in. But you gotta pay a toll.

MADDY
Jay!

MELLY
Should I come back later?

MADDY
No, no. How you doing honey? How are the twins? Jay, stop it!

MELLY
P.J. got a ear infection.

MADDY
Clarissa said. I stopped by, but you wasn't home. How is he?

MELLY
It was pretty mild. I think he's over it now.

MADDY
Oh, good.

MELLY
I brought back the pan from that pie. Stevie just gobbled down the last piece.

MADDY
Would you like some coffee?

MELLY
That sounds real good.

JASON
How's that toilet workin'?

MELLY
Like a dream. Until P.J. flushed Stevie's underwear down it this morning.

JASON

I'll come over and take a look at it later.

MELLY

You don't have to do that.

JASON

I know I don't have to, Melly.

MELLY

Well, I appreciate it.

MADDY

Oh, we're out of milk.

MELLY

That's o.k.

MADDY

How's work?

MELLY

Strange.

MADDY

How so?

MELLY

I think they're gonna fire me.

MADDY

(Simultaneously with JASON)

What?

JASON

(Simultaneously with MADDY)

Why?

MELLY

You want the "Official" reason or the real one?

JASON

(Simultaneously with MADDY)

The official.

MADDY

(Simultaneously with JASON)

The real.

MELLY

I'll tell ya both. Officially: First State Federal Savings and Loan is unhappy with the quality of my work.

MADDY

Then why'd they give you that big bonus last year?

MELLY

Thank you. They claim I'm making too many counting errors.

MADDY

You're the best teller they got. I know people won't go to no one else's window. What's the real reason?

MELLY

The twins. Some customers are afraid I might be infectious. They're taking their business across the street.

MADDY

They can't fire you for that. Lovelock - Page 1-10

MELLY

No, no, they shouldn't; that's different.

JASON

What ya gonna do?

MELLY

Talk to my lawyer.

MADDY

Oh, Mell, not another lawsuit. Well, I tell you one thing: if you do get fired, we're taking all our money outta there!

JASON

That's right. All six dollars.

MADDY

It's the thought that counts. This really stinks. Maybe we could picket - we could have a rally with signs and everything!

JASON

I don't think three people with signs qualifies as a rally, honey.

MELLY

Things'll work out.

MADDY

Yeah they will. But working 'em out just makes me so mad.

(Closing a window)

It's getting chilly out there. Winter's comin'. Here, have a cookie. Who's watching the twins?

MELLY

Samantha.

MADDY

What's she doin' in town?

MELLY

She's just here for the night. She's going to Miami on business. Oh, did I tell you about her latest boyfriend? It's the Vietnamese mailman! I told her, I said sister, you shouldn't mess around with the mail delivery. She says it's the mail delivery that's messing around with her.

MADDY

What's gonna happen if Robert finds out about all these guys?

JASON

Where the hell'd you get this shit? This ain't beer, it's carbonated piss.

MADDY

It's that home-made stuff you bought from Scotty Flitcraft.

JASON

I thought we threw that out.

MADDY

You didn't wanna waste it. You said we'd give it to my father this Christmas when they come to visit.

JASON

Oh yeah. He loves shit beer.

MADDY

Jason, I'm getting sick and tired of hearing that four letter word all the time.

JASON

Beer?

MADDY

Jason! C'mon. We have company.

JASON

That's not company. It's Melly. She's family. Right, Melly?

MELLY

Yeah. I'm the black sheep.
(Laughter; pause)

MADDY

You know what word I meant, Jay.

JASON

It's just a word. What's the big deal?

MADDY

No big deal. You're a dumb, lazy cracker; I forget that sometimes.

JASON

I beg your pardon?

MADDY

Just words, Jay.

JASON

O.K., O.K.; well, I'm gonna go get some real B.E.E.R.
You ladies want anything?

MELLY

How about a six-pack of twenty-one-year-old men?

JASON

Cans or bottles?

MELLY

I'll take whatever they got.

JASON

You got it. See ya later.

He leaves

MADDY

So. How are things?

MELLY

O.K., I guess.

MADDY

You worried about Friday?

MELLY

I been gettin' phonecalls.

MADDY

Who from?

MELLY

I dunno. Someone keeps calling and just hanging on the line. And then this morning I found a...

JASON

(Re-entering briskly)
Honey, what the hell happened to that side window on your car?

MADDY

It got broke.

JASON

I see that. Was that stupid Cooper kid throwing rocks again?

MADDY

Calm down....

JASON

DON'T!-tell me to calm down. It ain't criminal for a guy to get mad about some asshole kid throwing rocks at his wife's car. I'm gonna have to get me my own rocks and drive by that little...

MADDY

Jay, stop it! I drove Clarissa and Anne-Marie to school and Anne-Marie accidentally opened the door into one of those rear view mirrors that stick way out, like for driving with a trailer.

JASON

Was she alright?

MADDY

She felt real bad, that was all. Now go away. Mell and I are talking.

JASON

Oh, excuse me. You solve that Middle East problem, yet?

MELLY

Yeah. We're gonna castrate all the men.

JASON

I think I'd better go.

MADDY

Have you talked to Roger about the Poinciana yet?

JASON

Na, I keep forgettin'.

MADDY

I don't wanna lose that tree, Jay. The backyard'd be awful without it.