

LIVING THE LIE

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dramatic music plays as HAROLD, a well-dressed man in his 40's, walks into the room. He strolls to a well-stocked counter of booze.

KELLY, a well-dressed woman in her 40's, sheepishly enters the room behind him. Harold pours himself a drink in an old-fashioned style glass, and downs it in one gulp.

KELLY

Please, Harold, can we talk about this?

HAROLD

Nothing to talk about, Kelly. You made your feelings clear.

KELLY

If only I had known-

HAROLD

Then what? Would it have changed anything?

KELLY

Of course.

HAROLD

How can I believe that? How can I believe anything now?

A knock at a door on the opposite side of the room draws their attention.

HAROLD

What?

The door opens and JEEVES pops his head in.

JEEVES

Excuse me, Mr. Tallowman, but your son is asking when you were coming down.

HAROLD

It'll be a moment, Jeeves. Tell

him to be patient.

JEEVES

Of course, sir.

Jeeves exits. Harold turns to Kelly.

HAROLD

What I don't understand is how you managed to keep it hidden all these years.

KELLY

I didn't hide it.

HAROLD

You did. The uneaten portions. The polite refusals. The mysterious excursions to... You know where I'm talking about.

KELLY

You can't just say it.

HAROLD

I wouldn't let the name pass my lips.

KELLY

I needed it. He needed it.

HAROLD

No one needs that. I gave you everything.

KELLY

Harold...

HAROLD

Everything.

Harold sits in a chair. Kelly crosses the room and stands next to him. Harold looks away from her, his chin resting on his hand.

HAROLD

What are we going to do? How can

I go out there and talk to him
with this hanging over us?

KELLY

We'll have to put on a strong
face. We always have.

HAROLD

It didn't feel like a lie before.

KELLY

I've always supported you. I'll
support him as well.

HAROLD

It's unhealthy.

KELLY

It's protein.

HAROLD

You can get it elsewhere.

KELLY

It makes me gag, Harold.

INT. MAIN HALL - DAY

A room full of partygoers enjoy punch, cake, and a full bar. A small band plays on a stage at the head of the room, and people dance. A huge banner reads: PETA THANKS SEAN TALLOWMAN.

Harold and Kelly walk into the room and cheers erupt through the crowd. SEAN, a young man in his early twenties, walks to the microphone amidst the crowd.

SEAN

Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like you
to welcome my greatest inspiration,
lifelong PEAT members, rock solid
vegans, and the true hosts of this
awesome party: my parents, Harold
and Kelly Tallowman.

Harold and Kelly smile and wave.

HAROLD

So the locked refrigerator in
the basement?

KELLY

If you think you smell steak
later, it may not be the
neighbors.

HAROLD

It makes me gag, Kelly.

KELLY

I know it does, Harold.

A variety of people approach the couple and shake their hands,
engaging in shallow conversation.

THE END.