

## Sally's Choice

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A short play

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

SALLY (25), a rich English (or Australian) woman from a prominent family. She's in love with Mitch, but faces a dilemma when marriage time arrives. (English [or Australian] accent).

MITCH (39), hardworking middle class man owner of a small shoemaking company. Wants to settle down and have children as soon as possible.

GRETA (32), Sally's sister. A house wife and socialite married to a millionaire. (English [or Australian] accent).

ELIZABETH (60), Sally and Greta's mother. Rich English (or Australian) woman. (English [or Australian] accent).

GEORGE (60), Sally and Greta's father. Rich English (or Australian) man. (English [or Australian] accent).

## SETTING

1 - A modest restaurant. (Two chairs and a table with a modest table cloth + respective modest glassware/silverware).

2 - A first class rooftop. (Two chairs and table with a fancy table cloth + respective fancy glassware/silverware).

3 - A couch to one side (London); Sally sitting on the floor on the other side (indeterminate location).

4 - A picnic at a park.

## TIME

The present.

## LOGLINE

A rich single woman inquires with her sister and parents about marrying her working class boyfriend after he reveals his insecurities about marrying her due the social class disparity between.

## SYNOPSIS

During a dine out, Sally expects her boyfriend Mitch to propose, but instead he reveals his insecurities regarding marrying her and addresses the 'elephant in the room', the fact that he is poor and she is rich. Mitch requests of Sally to debate with her family if marrying him is in fact in her best interests. Sally goes on a 'quest' to speak with her sister and parents, but is given different perspectives. Sally and Mitch encounter once again to decide if they will get married or not.

SALLY'S CHOICE

(LIGHTS UP. SALLY and MITCH sit at a restaurant table opposite each other.)

MITCH

Sal?

SALLY

Yes sweetie?

MITCH

I'm almost forty. I'm ready to settle down, have a wife and kids, and I need to know if that's what you're looking for as well. I don't mean to put you under any kind of pressure...

SALLY

All right.

MITCH

And...

SALLY

Hm?

MITCH

We've been dating for a year, right? And... Don't get me wrong, I absolutely adore you. But... Ahm, I'm just concerned-

SALLY

I want what you want darling. All right?

MITCH

You see? That's the problem.

SALLY

What?

MITCH

Your smile.

SALLY

What?

MITCH

The way you make me feel, it's like I'm drugged-

SALLY

Mitch, you're not making any sense. Can't you just say whatever it is that you want to say?

MITCH

You're a mermaid luring me to my slow death and I go drown myself with a smile.

SALLY

Ok... That's not funny anymore.

MITCH

The elephant in the room?

SALLY

What?

MITCH

That... I'm poor and you're rich?

SALLY

What?

MITCH

I would definitely be marrying up as they say.

SALLY

Are you serious?

MITCH

I'm very serious.

SALLY

All right... Ahm-

MITCH

Listen... This year, as much fun as we've had, I can't help but to feel insecure about our finances. Just coming out to a place like this every few days tears big holes in my pockets. I appreciate that you split the bill with me, but still, it's not enough, and-

SALLY

I understand you're insecure about that.

MITCH

Well...

SALLY

But honestly, it's not a big deal-

MITCH

You paying for my dinner is not a big deal?

SALLY

No. It's trivial.

MITCH

All the time, for the rest of our lives?

SALLY

Who knows what's gonna happen? What matters is that we love each other, right?

MITCH

I do love you.

SALLY

So why does it matter if my parents are rich?

MITCH

Because I'll never have the means to provide you the same level of comfort. Where are we gonna live? I can't afford an apartment like yours. You would have to move in with me into a shitty place. Have you thought about that?

SALLY

Yes. I mean, not necessarily, but we can manage, can't we?

MITCH

You haven't thought this through. At all... But I have. And I need to know if you will really be happy, because if you're not, then I won't be either.

SALLY

Of course I'm gonna be happy.

MITCH

Love dies, Sally.

SALLY

What?

MITCH

Think about it, we won't even be able to travel to England all the time to see your parents unless they pay for my ticket. Instead they'll have to come see us. How many times are they willing to do that? How angry are they gonna get when you decide you're not gonna see them under some excuse, thinking they won't know it's about money and that you're trying to spare me the embarrassment. But they will know. Right now it works because we are just dating, you have your apartment, I have mine, they extend donations to me for your sake. But with marriage, all that changes.

SALLY

You're over thinking this.

MITCH

That's the point, isn't it? Marriage is very serious.

SALLY

I'm the one who's bloody rich. If you divorce me you get alimony.

MITCH

Divorce you?

SALLY

Sorry I... Didn't mean what I said. You're stressing me out with all this talking.

MITCH

Divorce affects the child irreversibly, even if we share custody.

SALLY

I agree with you.

MITCH

My biggest fear is to ruin the life of a child. That's why I want to make sure we're doing the right thing by getting married.

SALLY

And I thought women were the ones supposed to make the storm in the teacup.

MITCH

But also, I'm getting old, and I don't want to be a grandfather to my own children. But-

SALLY

You don't trust us as parents.

MITCH

I want to. That's why I'm bringing this up now-

SALLY

For Pete's sake. If you had just asked me I would have said yes, instead you decided to freak the shit out.

MITCH

And I would propose to you here then? And you would tell your parents that I proposed to you at Sergio's?

SALLY

I don't know. I didn't think it would be an actual proposal.

MITCH

What?

SALLY

I thought you were just gonna ask me and I would say yes. You know? In the moment-

MITCH

You see?

SALLY

What?

MITCH

It would be an actual proposal. How the fuck wouldn't it be an actual proposal?

SALLY

I don't know, I guess it would be an actual proposal. I don't know. I thought you were just gonna ask me, but with no ring.

MITCH

I see.

SALLY

Just in the moment.

MITCH

And we become engaged? With no ring?

SALLY

Because you're making sure I'll say yes before buying it.

MITCH

Because you were thinking that I would ask your parents to help me buy the ring for you.

SALLY

No, you're terribly mistaken.

MITCH

Unconsciously you were. Because you want to have a beautiful ring like your mother's and your sister's.

SALLY

I wasn't thinking anything, all right?

MITCH

You're meeting your sister for brunch tomorrow, right? At that beautiful rooftop at the plaza, which we won't be able to afford by the way once we're married.

SALLY

Do you have a point?

MITCH

I just want you to look at her ring-

SALLY

Wow...

MITCH

Real hard, because that ring costs a hundred thousand dollars and you're not gonna get one of those. You're gonna get a much cheaper and smaller one. I'm sorry, I know I said I didn't want to put you in any kind of pressure, but... Please, just take this opportunity to talk to your sister. Ask her advice, what does she think of you possibly marrying me and having a kid with me.

SALLY

All right... I will. Since when Greta owns the monopoly of the truth that I couldn't possibly tell, but I'll ask her. You're really way more insecure than I thought.

MITCH

I'm rational. I think ahead so that we can both make the right decision and be happy.

SALLY

Splendid...



MITCH

Observe if she's happy and how much of that happiness is due to her wealth and the possibilities it brings her. As long as you're honest with yourself, whatever you decide, even if you break up with me, I won't be hurt.

(LIGHT CHANGE. Mitch leaves and GRETA occupies his chair. New table cloth and glassware are put in place.)

NEW SCENE:

(Greta and Sally are at a rooftop drinking expensive drinks, and wearing posh hats and sunglasses. Sally eyes Greta's wedding ring.)

GRETA

Ugh... I've grown bored of this particular venue. Look at that new skyscraper completely warding us from our view of the park. I fancied it much better when we could observe the entire city around us, did you not?

SALLY

Right, yeah...

GRETA

Whatever, Gary assured me they'll have a rooftop as well, and when it's done we can upgrade even further up!

SALLY

That will be grand.

GRETA

I know!

SALLY

But, I fancy it here though... I mean, must we always be at the tallest building?

GRETA

Hm?

SALLY

I mean, we know what the park looks like...

GRETA  
The park?

SALLY  
Greta...

GRETA  
Are you all right?

SALLY  
Should I marry Mitch?

GRETA  
Sorry?

SALLY  
If Mitch proposes to me, should I say yes or no?

GRETA  
That's a weird question, isn't it? Did something happen?

SALLY  
No... I mean... I supposed he will propose.

GRETA  
And when is that?

SALLY  
I don't know.

GRETA  
Do you know where? Did he make a reservation?

SALLY  
I'm afraid he did not.

GRETA  
Ugh. So will he propose to you at your flat? Or in a park or some pub?

SALLY  
I don't know.

GRETA  
Hm.

SALLY

Are you happy with Gary?

GRETA

Of course I'm happy with Gary. What sort of question is that?

SALLY

Why?

GRETA

Why? Isn't that obvious? He's handsome, he's filthy rich, he's older but not by much. We think alike, sex is grand.

SALLY

Splendid...

GRETA

He has his life, his job, I do whatever I like. Mother and father fancy him. I've never been more cheerful.

SALLY

Do you love him?

GRETA

I most certainly do. What's not to love?

SALLY

But do you really love him?

GRETA

Oh Sally...

SALLY

What?

GRETA

You're in love with Mitch.

SALLY

I think so.

GRETA

But you think you can do better.

SALLY

No.

GRETA

You most certainly do.

SALLY

Oh god...

GRETA

If that's the case you shouldn't marry him.

SALLY

Why not?

GRETA

Because... Love is just a part of it. Marriage is about life, you know? What you do on a daily basis that makes you happy, and Mitch can't provide you with that. I wish I could tell you 'listen to your heart' or some crap, but... I don't want to fool you.

SALLY

Mitch said... That... Our marriage wouldn't last... Or something the like...

GRETA

You're so young. It's unfair for Mitch to put you in this position. If you're not positive, you have the right to consider and it's not his business to rush you.

SALLY

Help me Greta.

GRETA

Oh Sally, you're frazzled. You mustn't.

SALLY

He might break up with me.

GRETA

Do you want my honest advice, from sister to sister?

SALLY

Yes, please.

GRETA

There's an entire world out there for you if things don't work out with Mitch. Don't get me wrong, I fancy the chap, I do, but life is not a fairy tale.

Love comes second, or fifth or even tenth. Your happiness comes first, always. Because if you're not happy, then I can't be happy either, and neither can mum and dad. This is how we were raised and we love it. So if you actually want your life to be like a fairy tale, even if just a little bit, Gary has many wonderful pals in his industry who would be delighted to make your acquaintance and I'm positive would love you for who you really are.

(SET CHANGE. Greta leaves. Sally sits on the floor to one side. GEORGE and ELIZABETH occupy a fancy couch to the other.)

NEW SCENE:

(Sally calls her parents on the phone.)

ELIZABETH

Hello?

SALLY

Hello mother.

ELIZABETH

Sally my dear. What a delight. How are you?

SALLY

Grand. I just-

ELIZABETH

How is your sister?

SALLY

She's all right, we had brunch together earlier-

ELIZABETH

Will you tell her to give her mother a ring, dear? I miss my little darlings so much. And so does your father.

SALLY

Mum?

ELIZABETH

When are you coming to London?

SALLY

Ahm-

ELIZABETH

We've already started preparations for the holidays this year...

SALLY

Mum-

ELIZABETH

The season is absolutely marvelous. I can't wait to gather our family together...

SALLY

Mother, will you listen?

ELIZABETH

Over a cup of tea with biscuits by the fire-

SALLY

I need your advice-

ELIZABETH

Guess who's agreed to dress as father Christmas this year?

SALLY

Mother-

ELIZABETH

Your father! (Laughs)

SALLY

Should I marry Mitch?

ELIZABETH

Marriage? Did I hear that correctly?

SALLY

Yes.

ELIZABETH

Oh my god!!!

SALLY

No. Mother! Hello?

ELIZABETH

Sally is getting married.

GEORGE

To whom?

SALLY

Oh bullocks...

ELIZABETH

What do you mean, to whom? To Mitch! Her boyfriend.

GEORGE

The American shoemaker?

ELIZABETH

Well absolutely. Is there another?

SALLY

Should I get married then?

ELIZABETH

When is the wedding?

GEORGE

(Takes the phone) Did I hear that correctly my dear? You're getting married to the shoemaker?

SALLY

Well, I was asking mother how she fancied the idea.

GEORGE

Your mother couldn't possibly wait a second longer to have grandchildren, you should absolutely not marry the first wanker in sight just because she tells you to.

ELIZABETH

George!

SALLY

All right...

GEORGE

Has he proposed?

SALLY

Not yet.

GEORGE

Good. Don't accord with anything without giving it a thought first.

SALLY

What do I do father?

GEORGE

It's a money trap, Sally. He most certainly doesn't love you.

SALLY

Sorry?

GEORGE

He's too old for you, he's desperate.

ELIZABETH

Oh my god. Sally never got along with boys her age. (Takes the phone) Sally, do you love the chap?

SALLY

...Yes...

ELIZABETH

Then you should marry him.

GEORGE

But you love to travel dear! How can you settle in America? What about us?

ELIZABETH

You must both come to London then! George will gladly yield Mitch some job at the company.

GEORGE

That's a fine idea. Or even better, just come to London alone and marry an Englishman, how it's supposed to be.

ELIZABETH

That's preposterous. Don't mind this silly old man.

SALLY

All right. As a matter of fact, I've got this...

ELIZABETH

Follow your heart dear.



GEORGE

Follow reason!

SALLY

I must go now... Love you!

(SET CHANGE. Mitch enters and sits  
with Sally on a picnic blanket.)

NEW SCENE:

(Sally and Mitch are both trying to  
say something but can't find the  
words. They drink wine at the same  
time.)

SALLY

For Pete's sake, say something.

MITCH

Sal?

SALLY

Yes sweetie...

MITCH

I love you... Ever since I first met you everything just felt  
right and you made me happier than I ever thought I could be.  
That's why I need you in my life until the day I die. I have  
a proposition for you.

SALLY

Ok...

MITCH

I want to break up with you romantically so that we can  
remain friends. Forever.

(Sally freezes.)

MITCH

Because... I can't be with a woman who's clearly out of my  
league. I would be too busy all the time trying to protect my  
ego and make us both miserable. But if we remove sex from the  
equation-

SALLY

Bugger off, Mitch. I'm not gonna be your fucking buddy.

MITCH

Wow!

SALLY

Can you even hear yourself when you speak? Because I can't understand shit you're saying.

MITCH

I said I want to be just your friend-

SALLY

And have children with another woman?

MITCH

I don't know. But you're free to get a boyfriend if you want to.

SALLY

What?

MITCH

We are both too brainwashed to make this work. There's too much media, too many opinions on how people should interact.

SALLY

You're mad. And I'm leaving.

(Sally stands.)

MITCH

Sally, wait. What are you doing?

SALLY

Please don't come near me again. I'm deleting your number and blocking you on social media.

MITCH

Can I just finish, please? I'm sorry I said all that. It sounded differently in my head. It's just that... I'm afraid. I'm afraid it won't work out.

SALLY

Don't be, because it already didn't.

MITCH

Sally, please. I do want to have a kid with you.

SALLY

No, you don't. You made that crystal clear.

MITCH

Did you speak to your sister about this?

SALLY

What the fuck has that got to do with anything?

MITCH

I'm just afraid. I'm afraid... I'm afraid-

SALLY

You know what you're afraid of? Of being happy.

MITCH

Why me, Sally? Why me?

SALLY

Because you... Used to make me happy. But now you're breaking my heart.

MITCH

Do you want to marry me, then?

(Mitch produces a ring. Sally's speechless.)

MITCH

If you promise you'll be happy, then I promise I'll be happy too.

SALLY

Oh bullocks. You're taking the piss, aren't you?

MITCH

I've never been more serious my entire life.

SALLY

You say all that crap, and now this? What the hell am I supposed to say?

MITCH

That you're going to be happy?

SALLY

I don't know if I'm gonna be happy. I used to think I was, but I can't predict the bloody future.

MITCH

That's fine. We'll figure it out.

SALLY

Where did you get that ring?

MITCH

If I had money I would buy a better one.

SALLY

What about our kids? What's gonna happen to them if this doesn't work out?

MITCH

We'll just ruin their lives? Like everybody else does?

SALLY

Is this an actual proposal?

MITCH

How the fuck wouldn't it be an actual proposal?

(Sally stares at Mitch's eyes and  
the ring, but she doesn't know what  
to say.)

END PLAY