

# WHOLE IN ONE

A short play

Just a perfect day,  
You made me forget myself.  
I thought I was someone else,  
Someone good.

- Lou Reed, *Perfect Day*

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**CHARACTERS**

ACE

ANYA

RAQUEL

**TIME**

The present and the past.

**SETTING**

Various places.

THIS PLAY REQUIRES NO SET OR PROPS

*MUSIC: Suggestion: Perfect Day by Lou Reed as Ace Enters. Music fades as he begins to speak.*

ACE

*(Alone in spotlight, dressed in country club-style golfing apparel. He speaks to audience)*

It was one of those perfect days.

A day when the stars aligned, Mother Nature smiled, and if you closed your eyes, you could hear the music of the spheres. *(He closes his eyes and mimes swinging a golf club)*

And then, it happened. *(sound effect of ball dropping in hole)*

A hole in one! *(lights change, he is in a bar.)*

As is customary, after the round, I went to the 19<sup>th</sup> hole to celebrate. Drinks were on me of course. There is no real 19<sup>th</sup> hole. It doesn't exist on the course. It's a bar.

And that's where I celebrated well into the night. So much so that the rest of my foursome were long gone. I was alone and about to hit the road when...

*(Music: Suggestion: Come Undone by Duran Duran. RAQUEL and ANYA saunter in.)*

Two of the most beautiful women I'd ever seen.

The kind of women that everyone notices:

Bold, stylish, sophisticated, classy—almost too classy for this place.

Fantasy material... and they were looking at me. *(he watches them saunter to the bar)*

At least I thought they were looking at me.

I looked away.

I looked back.

But they didn't turn away.

They kept on looking and whispering something to each other.

Maybe this was some kind of a joke.

Maybe one of the guys hired them to make my perfect day just a bit more perfect.

How could these two, beyond gorgeous, women want anything to do with me?

And the next thing I knew, they were right at my side.

RAQUEL

Hi.

ACE

*(to her)* Hi. *(aside)* Raquel. The classic beauty.

ANYA

Hello.

ACE

*(to her)* Hello. *(aside)* And Anya, the exotic seductress. I'm Ace...pleasure—

RAQUEL

Been golfing?

ACE

How could you tell?

ANYA  
How'd you play?

ACE  
Seventy-seven.

RAQUEL  
Is that good?

ANYA  
It must be good.

RAQUEL  
He sure *looks* good.

ACE  
I had a hole-in-one.

ANYA  
Perfect.

ACE  
*(aside)*  
Am I dreaming or are these the two sexiest women in the world?

RAQUEL  
You're not dreaming.

ANYA  
So it must be the latter.

RAQUEL  
How many have you had? *(indicating his drink)*

ACE  
I think I can handle a couple more.  
Then we had the sultriest three-way *(swallows hard)* conversation known to man.  
Every phrase was a double entendre.  
Those smouldering bedroom eyes...  
Their lips were lustful invitations to decadence.  
Their bodies—temptations to sin.  
And then they said—

ANYA & RAQUEL  
Can we take you home? *(ACE looks at audience)*

ACE  
*(The women surround him)*  
This is probably every man's fantasy come true: a hole-in-one and going home with two beautiful women all in the same day. A perfect day. THE perfect day.

ACE (cont'd)

But could I handle them both? Was I being greedy? Should I be humble and choose just one? But which one? How could I choose? So I agreed, and they escorted me to their car. One beauty on each arm. I was the envy of every man in the room. I walked taller than ever—strange things that fantasies can do.

*(To RAQUEL and ANYA)*

It's my birthday next week, but I feel like I got my present a little early.

ANYA

And the night is still young.

RAQUEL

What are your plans for your special day?

ACE

I have none.

ANYA

Then I'll make it special.

ACE

You already have. *(aside)* And then I knew. It was her. I knew from the start...*(looking at RAQUEL)* I think. *(Back to ANYA)* Her almond eyes and soft delicate skin. A blend of east and west. Strange and strangely familiar at the same time. They dropped me off at home.

RAQUEL

Here we are.

ANYA

We live close by.

ACE

Can I have your number?

RAQUEL and ANYA

Yes...*(ANYA hands him a card)*

RAQUEL

It's on the card.

ANYA

We live together.

RAQUEL

And sleep together.

ACE

*(He smiles wryly to the audience)*

I closed my eyes for a second. *(The ladies leave. Music fades out.)*

ACE (cont'd)

And they were off and into the night.

I went to bed, but not to sleep.

Was I dreaming? Was the whole day a fantasy?

I had to know.

At the risk of blowing it all, I just had to call and see if it was real.

So the next morning...

*(on telephone)* Anya?

ANYA

Yes?

ACE

I'm sorry. I just wanted to know if you were real or if I just—

ANYA

Dreamed that I met you last night?

ACE

You read my mind.

Can we meet for coffee?

ANYA

Uh-huh.

ACE

So we did.

I met her in the parking lot and we just stood there.

ANYA

Staring into each other's eyes.

ACE

Lost in them.

ANYA

Found in them.

ACE

Seconds seemed like

ANYA

Minutes. And minutes seemed like

ACE

Hours. We'd met just the previous night—

ANYA

But have known each other for years.

ACE  
We have?

ANYA  
As kids we used to play Charlie's Angels together. *(beat)* You were Bosley.

ACE  
Thank goodness. And which angel were you?

ANYA  
Yours. *(They kiss. Looks at her watch.)* I have to go.

ACE  
She went to work.  
And in the week before my birthday we had 13 dates:  
We met for lunch, dinner, breakfast, coffee. We fed animals in the zoo, went to the movies, went antiquing, went for a picnic, a walk on the beach, a walk under the moon, a drive up the coast, played scrabble, I wrote her a poem, she sang me a song, I gave her flowers, she met my father, I met her mother...  
And we talked on the phone when we couldn't be together.  
Then my birthday came. *(MUSIC: Suggestion: No Ordinary Love by Sade.)*

ANYA  
I have a present for you.

ACE  
Where is it?

ANYA  
Right in front of you. *(They hold each other at arms length. pause)*  
I love you. *(They kiss)*

ACE  
And I...love you too. *(they kiss passionately)*  
*(aside)* It was all so sudden.  
We wanted to take it slow and get it right.  
Despite my better judgment,  
I simply couldn't resist her.  
I *knew* she was the one.  
I did love her—  
And would do so forever.

ANYA  
Come to bed. *(she leads him by the hand into the bedroom and disappears)*

ACE  
But then, everything began to change. *(music fades out)*  
The next day I went to buy her a gift.

RAQUEL  
Hi.

ACE  
Raquel. Hi, gorgeous. *(They kiss on the cheek)*

RAQUEL  
What are you up to?

ACE  
Looking for a gift.

RAQUEL  
For Anya? She is really crazy for you. She says you're the one.

ACE  
I'm crazy for her too.

RAQUEL  
Just be careful.  
Don't get hurt.  
She's easy to love.

ACE  
Uh-huh.  
Well, good to see you again. *(She leaves)*  
Easy to love...  
But not for me.  
I suddenly felt like maybe I wasn't good enough.  
Maybe I didn't deserve her.  
She needed someone better. *(beat)*  
She was *my* fantasy.  
So, I created fantasies—for her, so that she would love me even more.  
Find me more interesting.  
Find me as sexy as I found her.  
So that I would be her fantasy too. *(He is with her again.)*

ANYA  
*(playfully)*  
You fought in the war?

ACE  
Yeah.

ANYA  
*(skeptical)*  
You've visited Venice?



ACE  
Uh-huh.

ANYA  
You managed to save a lot of money?

ACE  
A fair bit.

ANYA  
*And* you love me?

ACE  
Yes, I do. Love you. *(They kiss and then part)* Good night.  
That night, I lay awake again.  
Tomorrow was the day.  
I was going to do it.  
But I had to come clean.  
I got up at sunrise and went to her place.  
Good morning.

RAQUEL  
*(Sleepily)*  
Morning.

ACE  
Is she up yet?

RAQUEL  
Yes.

ANYA  
*(Sleepily)*  
You're up early.

ACE  
Sweetheart, come here.  
I have something to ask you. *(Gets on one knee)*  
But before I do, I have to tell you something:  
You know how I told you I served in the war?

ANYA  
Yes.

ACE  
And that I visited Venice?

ANYA  
Yes.

ACE  
And that I saved a lot of money?

ANYA  
Yes.

ACE  
Well, those were fantasies.

ANYA  
What do you mean?

ACE  
Being with you is like a dream.  
I got so caught up in it I just wanted the fantasy to go on...forever.  
And speaking of forever, I want to ask you something very important—

ANYA  
Are you saying you lied?

ACE  
I wouldn't say that.

ANYA  
And if you lied about those things, then maybe you lied about something else...

ACE  
No. The rest was all—

ANYA  
I don't even really know who you are. *(She storms off. RAQUEL shakes her head and follows her.)*

ACE  
And she left.  
I went home.  
And wept.  
And wept.  
And wept.  
I stayed in my apartment for weeks.  
Then the phone rang.  
Hello?

RAQUEL  
Ace?

ACE  
Raquel. I'm sorry to ask this, but I need—

RAQUEL

Someone to talk to? I'm going to work, but I can meet you tonight.

ACE

All right.

She must've sensed I needed her.

So she came over.

RAQUEL

Hi.

ACE

*(He falls to his knees, grabs onto her, desperate.)*

Please help me!

RAQUEL

I'm sorry. Don't put me in the middle, but don't blame yourself either.

ACE

What?

RAQUEL

That's the way she is. She makes everyone fall in love with her.

ACE

What do you mean?

RAQUEL

You loved her.

ACE

Yes.

RAQUEL

I loved her.

We both did.

With everything we had.

ACE

I don't understand.

RAQUEL

When you love with everything, you have nothing else to give. She has a hole deep inside her. No one can fill it. No one but her. We filled it with fantasy to keep her satisfied.

ACE

You mean it's not my fault?

RAQUEL

Not entirely. You and I are the only two who ever loved her enough to tell her the truth—before she figured it out for herself.

ACE

But I still want her back.

RAQUEL

Never. The fantasy's over. *(ACE buries his face in his hands)* She can't truly be loved until she learns. Don't be so hard on yourself. *(RAQUEL holds him.)*

ACE

*(To audience)*

And then she held me.

With a tenderness borne of immense pain.

She looked deep into my tear-stained eyes and...

*(MUSIC: Sexy Jazz. Suggestion: Cherish the Day by Sade. She kisses him tenderly)*

She kissed me. *(He kisses her)*

So I kissed her back.

This was wrong.

It must be wrong.

But it felt so right.

How could we both love her and be standing here in each other's arms?

*(They continue to kiss passionately)*

But we both loved her so much—

RAQUEL

That it seemed to make some kind of strange sense.

ACE

We both wanted her—

RAQUEL

And couldn't have her.

ACE

So why not settle on the next best thing?

RAQUEL

The man she loved.

ACE

Her best friend.

RAQUEL

Come to bed. *(She leads him by the hand into the bedroom and disappears as ANYA did earlier.)*

ACE

How could I refuse? *(music fades out. He is in spotlight)*

ACE (cont'd)

The next morning we lay there looking at each other.  
And both of us knew it had been a bad idea.  
She left.  
And I never saw her again.  
Maybe we all had holes inside of us.  
Maybe none of us were whole at all.  
But I still couldn't get those two women out of my mind.  
I moved to another city.  
Another state.  
Another country.  
But they were still there.  
Preventing me from ever fully loving anyone again.  
I wondered if I was going insane.  
Nearly 10 years passed.  
And then...  
I saw them. *(they stand on either side of him)*  
At the airport.  
Raquel with her husband.  
Anya with hers.  
And I... with my wife.  
We stood there staring at each other for what seemed like an eternity.  
And then came together and held each other.  
As if we were three parts of one person.  
Each needing the other to be whole.  
And maybe we knew then, if only for that brief instant,  
We were whole again.

RAQUEL

Do you still...

ANYA

Play golf?

ACE

No. Not very often.

*(They part and wave goodbye. The ladies exit. ACE is alone in a spot light as beginning.)*

I had a hole-in-one once.

And it was a perfect day.

*(MUSIC: Perfect Day by Lou Reed)*

I wish I could live that day over and over again.

Maybe I'd do things differently.

But I can't.

So I go on to the next one.

Knowing that I'll probably never find it.

But it doesn't stop me from trying.

*(He mimes swinging the golf club as in the beginning. He peers off to see where the ball lands, closes his eyes and shakes his head. He stifles his tears as lights fade.)*

[END]