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Meg + Leo

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LEADING LADIES

~~DUNCAN. Which one?!~~

~~MEG. Stephanie. And Maxine. They were both there.~~

~~DUNCAN. I'll be right back!~~

(He runs off. The moment he's gone, LEO hurries in dressed as MAXINE, but slightly askew, since everything has been pulled on in such a hurry.)

LEO. Darling girl, there you are! Now listen, you misunderstood me. I want you to marry Leo, that divine young man — and he's right outside. *(Calling.)* Come in, darling! ... What?! What's that you said?! *(To MEG.)* Oh no! He's hurt his leg! I'll send him in. You stay right here.

MEG. Leo —

(He runs off and now plays both parts, putting his head around the door as necessary.)

LEO. *(Off — as LEO.)* Meg, I'm right out here! I've hurt my leg and I can't come in! *(Off — as MAXINE.)* Of course you can, just put a little weight on it. *(Off — as LEO.)* Ow, that really hurts!

(He pops his head around the door, without the wig and with his jacket on, as LEO. The more he can pop in and out as the two characters and make this a tour de force, as in "The Mystery of Irma Vep" and other similar plays, the better. It should build to a fever pitch.)

LEO. *(As LEO.)* Here I am, Meg! Now Maxine says you should marry me — but I've hurt my leg so I'll let her do all the talking. Bye!

MEG. Leo —

LEADING LADIES

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LEO. (*Off— as Maxine.*) Oh you brave young man! Of course she should marry you and not Duncan! (*Off— as LEO.*) Then go inside and tell her! (*Off— as MAXINE.*) I'll do it right now!

MEG. Leo — !

(*He runs back on as Maxine.*)

LEO. I'm right here! Here I am! Now Meg, you really must marry Leo. He's such a lovely boy, and so handsome and —

MEG. Leo, stop it!

LEO. Leo? (*Beat; then he calls through the door.*) Leo, she's talking to you so listen carefully!

MEG. Would you please just stop it! I know it's you! I know you're Leo! And that Stephanie is Jack! I know everything!

LEO. You do?

MEG. Yes! Now get out of here, fast. The police are here!

LEO. But I can't leave you.

MEG. You have to! You'll be arrested!

LEO. Meg, I love you.

MEG. I know that! And I love you!

LEO. You do?

MEG. Yes.

LEO. Will you marry me?

MEG. Yes!

(*He's about to kiss her, but stops abruptly.*)

LEO. Wait! I came here to take your money.

MEG. I know that!

(*They kiss. Another really great kiss.*)