

Soft Song

by

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Cast of Characters

TINA:

Teens

MOTHER:

Early 40's

Place

Tina's bedroom

Time

Morning

MOTHER: I don't care what you tell me but this Saturday you are going to make the time for your family.

TINA: What's this Saturday?

MOTHER: I told you what this Saturday is...

TINA: Mom, I told you I can't go to the birthday party.

MOTHER: Don't even start!

TINA: But I can't go because I'm recording, I had the studio booked ages ago.

MOTHER: This is your Grandmother's birthday---

TINA: But I asked you if we can do it on Sunday, why not Sunday?

MOTHER: And I told you Sunday is out because management said no.

TINA: Why do you put me in these situations all the time?

MOTHER: You put yourself in these situations.

TINA : But I can't go.

MOTHER: Tina, I don't care what you need to do but you better figure it out, your Grandmother doesn't have long, this could very well be her last birthday.

TINA: Don't you think I want to be there? I told you months ago how important it is for me to have booked the studio space when I did. Not everybody gets a chance to work with who I'm working with and for the price he gave me, I can't just go and tell him I can't be there, I won't look professional and it will ruin my reputation. Don't you want me to get my album off the ground?

MOTHER: You've been working on that album for how long now? When is it ever going to be finished?

TINA: It takes time, I'm working my stupid job to pay for the whole thing myself. Don't you want me to succeed?

MOTHER: It's not a question of wanting you to succeed, it's a question of bringing the family together because we are running out of time.

TINA: Grandma understands---

MOTHER: Your Grandmother wants you to be there, she said so herself.

TINA: But I already spoke to her about my recording session, she knows all about it coming up and everything---

MOTHER: Because your Grandma is a classy lady and she loves you but believe you me she wants to see you there...she asked me if you were coming.

TINA: And what did you say?

MOTHER: I told her you were coming.

TINA: Damn it, Mom! You can't answer for me!

MOTHER: I'm sure the recording studio people will understand.

TINA: No! No, they won't.

MOTHER: Well, you better figure it out.

TINA: I figured it out already and I'm not going.

MOTHER: Don't make me angry, I'm telling you now, don't cause I'm already at the end of my rope and---

TINA: I said I'm not going. I will see Grandma on Friday by myself or on Sunday by myself but not on Saturday.

MOTHER: Your Grandmother is dying, you do realize that, don't you?

TINA: Of course I realize that! Stop asking me such a stupid question. You think I don't know, you think I don't know that she's dying. Of course I know. You act like I don't care or that I wish she was dead or something and that's horrible and you make me feel all this guilt for not being there for her birthday when I want to be there but I can't be there because I have things going on in my own life that matter to me and you should be supportive to that and understanding, instead of trying to make me feel rotten by forcing me to choose between Grandma and my music.

I'm not trying to choose between anyone or anything, I'm trying to live my life and it's not fair what you've been doing to me, it's not right that you put this pressure on me all the time. I can't be at two places at once and it's not like I'm ignoring Grandma cause I visit her every single week and you know I do and I call her and I don't want her to go...

TINA: (conti'd) I'm dedicating my album to her and I want to be able to give it to her before she goes...why can't you understand any of that, Mom?

MOTHER: You're really dedicating your album to your Grandma?

TINA: Yes.

MOTHER: Don't you play violent punk rock music?

TINA: So?

MOTHER: Your music will kill her for sure.

TINA: No it won't, I have a soft song in there that Grandma may like.

MOTHER: Soft song?

TINA: Yeah...I mean, it may sound intense but if you read the lyrics, you know...it makes sense.

MOTHER: What's it called?

TINA: Black Rose.

MOTHER: Oh.

TINA: Not the most original title but I don't know what else to call it...

MOTHER: It's thoughtful.

TINA: It's the song I'm recording on her birthday...I'm making it a single track just for her to give as a gift...Mom, I wanted to book the studio session sooner but it's the earliest I can get it for the price I can afford.

MOTHER: I see.

TINA: Please, don't be upset with me.

MOTHER: It's not you. I'm ready to take my anger out on anybody that gives me a reason...it's not you...I'm making everything special with balloons and cake and I even got the management to agree to let Grandma outside for a few hours cause the weather is supposed to be beautiful and they are even gonna help me decorate and I want to make it special for her and I figured you would be there to help me out with everything to make it nice but I understand, I know what you are doing is important and I'm probably being selfish---

TINA: You're not being selfish, Mom.

MOTHER: I am, it's been hard on me...everything has been on me, dealing with the doctor's and trying to be strong for Grandma...the fact that I'm losing her, so soon, I can't, I'm no where near letting her go...you know, she told me the other day that it's time, that I need to let her go and I sat there unable to give her that peace...I cried, I cried like a little girl in her lap and begged her not to go and she's the one suffering...I'm just not ready, I'm not ready to accept any of this...

TINA: Neither am I, Mom...I just don't want Grandma to suffer anymore.

MOTHER: Neither do I, honey...I wanted all of us together, even your moron uncle is going to be there and----

TINA: What time exactly is everyone going to be there?

MOTHER: About 1pm.

TINA: Okay...I will see if I can work something out...I have my session throughout the whole day but maybe I can work something out during a break where I can come and stop by, even for twenty minutes.

MOTHER: Really?

TINA: I will try to stop by but I won't be able to stay long, this way the whole family is together and I will see Grandma again the following day.

MOTHER: Only if it's possible, I don't want you to rush around and stress.

TINA: I'll see what I can do.

MOTHER: See what you can do but if you can't it's fine and if you can---

TINA: I will try.

Mother and Tina hug.

THE END