

# ***Hurts When It Rains***

*by*

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Cast of Characters

SALVE : 25  
FRANK : 22

Place  
Queens

Time  
Day

2.

Setting: A small apartment in Queens during the 1930's.

At Rise: Salve wears a suit and enters his brother Frank's apartment.  
Frank wears a white tank top and slacks.

SALVE: You let me know Frank.

FRANK: I know, I know SALVE, I SWEAR, I didn't have no choice between who I owed the money to and...

SALVE: And what?

FRANK: ...Gettin' my fix man.

(FRANK is suffering, almost crying)

SALVE: If Pop saw this, if he was alive to see this, what do you think he would do? ...Talk to me.

FRANK: Eh, fuck knows, probably beat my ass.

SALVE: Pop?

FRANK: What? What would he do, Sal?

SALVE: He'd get you the help you need.

FRANK: Right, right he would, he would.

SALVE: You gonna listen to me?

FRANK (like a statement): What...

SALVE: I know about you. I know all that you do, where you go, who you hang out with, that Sandra girl you've been seeing.

FRANK: So?

SALVE: It's her brother that you owe money too, isn't it?

FRANK: I had to pay him the money or else...

SALVE: Or else, what?

FRANK: I would have looked like a donkey, alright, a Goddamn donkey! And I hate her brother, it was him that got her hooked on the stuff. God I hate his guts. I wasn't gonna let him hang something over my head boy, no, no, no, not ME, not HIM, never! I paid him, with interest, and now I'm the better man for it, I get looked at as someone dependable and, and Sandra, she's all over me now Salve, she loves me and I was thinking of gettin' married cause she's so beautiful and kind and, she's got her flaws but I think I love her, well, I know I love her and before you try and stop me with one of your big brother speeches, just know that this is what I want...for me, I deserve this and you have to let me have it, cause you're my brother and that's what I want...okay?

SALVE: You're fucking nuts, you know that?

FRANK: Don't call me nuts, you know I hate that.

SALVE: Why are you so stupid? Tell me, why?

FRANK: Cause I love her!!!

SALVE: You love her?! You stupid bastard!

FRANK: I told you this is what I want, for me!

SALVE: You have a family. Look at me, see *my* face now...you have a family Frank.

FRANK: You're my boss now, is that it?

SALVE: That is it. I am your boss. When our father died he passed everything on to me and it's my burden to carry this family forward and see things are done right. That means making sure my brother makes the right decisions in his life and marrying that woman is not what's right, not in this family, not today, not ever and that's how it's going to be. You have a choice Frank and we are leading up to something big right now. I need you to have a clear mind. I'm sending you upstate to get fixed and when you come back you will resume your life better than before. This stops, today.

FRANK: Wait, wait Salve, what am I supposed to tell her?

SALVE: Tell her that her brother is dead.

FRANK: ...What??

SALVE: That's right. Sandra's brother is no more.

FRANK: What happened to him?

(SALVE stares at FRANK)

How...why did you do that?

SALVE: The money you gave him was not our money Frank. That money was from the Gufacci's. You understand? You were carrying THEIR money to the track, NOT OURS. I'm glad you paid off your debt, but it was wrong of you to do that, and if you weren't my brother you'd be buried in a hole somewhere in the woods.

FRANK: Ahhh God, ahhh man. Why didn't you tell me it was the Gufacci's?

SALVE: I have my reasons.

FRANK: I'm sorry, I'm so sorry Salve.

SALVE: Don't be sorry to me. Be sorry to yourself and be sorry to Mom. You know, I always have to cover for your whereabouts but she's beginning to suspect and she's a sharp woman, there's no getting past her. You put me in a position to lie to our mother for your own drug addiction. How do you think that makes me feel?

FRANK: You've done worse things.

(SALVE grabs his brother's face)

SALVE: Why you so wise, huh? That the drugs making your brain into mush or what?

FRANK: Nah, it's not.

(SALVE lets him go)

SALVE: You put me in the hole. The horse that was bet on, won. So I had to pay the Gufacci's, out of our own treasury.

FRANK: How much?

SALVE: Fifteen grand.

FRANK: Jesus.

SALVE: Yeah.

FRANK: How can I repay you?

SALVE: Listen, you're my brother and I love you, no matter what, we're in this thing together. That's it. For life. I want you to straighten yourself out. I want you to get well, physically and mentally...I'm sending you to an undisclosed location. You will be cared for and you will get strong. However long it takes.

FRANK: I don't want to go.

SALVE: What?

FRANK: I ain't going. Gonna leave me there to die, I ain't stupid. No!

SALVE: Frank! Goddamn you, Frank. You are going and there is nothing you can do about it.

(FRANK pulls out a gun, puts it to his head)

FRANK: Gonna save me from this Sal?!

SALVE: Put the gun down, don't be stupid.

FRANK: Takes a split second.

SALVE: You're my right hand.

FRANK: No! Fuck you!

SALVE: I can't build this business without you and you know that. You're just not yourself and you need to get well again.

(FRANK draws the gun at SALVE)

You know what? Do it. I want you to pull that trigger and shoot me dead cause I'm at a point where I don't really need this shit anymore. Put me to sleep.

FRANK: Remember when we was kids and pop used to ride us around in that wooden go-kart and we used to ride down that long hill together. Remember?

SALVE: I remember.

FRANK: Remember, when that big dog came jumping over the fence at us?

SALVE: Yes, I do.

FRANK: What did you do? Tell me what you did?

SALVE: ...I stood in front of you. That dog bit me here. (points to his hand) Hurts when it rains.

FRANK: Why'd you do that?

SALVE: I don't know...was my reaction.

FRANK: You think I couldn't defend myself, Sal?

SALVE: You were smaller than me.

FRANK: I've always been smaller than you! When you ever gonna let me fend for myself?

SALVE: Is that what you want?

FRANK: I want people to stop looking at me like I'm stupid.

SALVE: The only way you can get respect is if you show respect. Do you think you've shown respect?

FRANK: To who, you?

SALVE: To yourself...

FRANK: ...I haven't.

(FRANK brings his gun down)

SALVE: We're in this together brother.

FRANK: I want to be able to be my own man. I don't want to be your shadow anymore.

SALVE: I understand. I'll tell you what...you get yourself clean, you come back and I'll give you control of some territory. It will be territory completely run by you and your own workers. Would you like that?

FRANK: Yeah.

SALVE: But you can't ever use again.

FRANK: Yeah, okay.

SALVE: Okay. (beat) Should we get going?

FRANK: Now?

SALVE: Now.

FRANK: What about Sandra?

SALVE: What about her?

FRANK: I can't just disappear on her?

SALVE: Why not? You can't be with her now anyway, if he ever finds out you knew how her brother died, she'll hold you responsible...is that what you want?

FRANK: No.

SALVE: Listen, Frank, that will be the last thing I ever do that you won't be in control of...I see what you want and I want the same thing for you...let this be a lesson we both learn from, together and let's move forward with our plans...there will be more than one Sandra, believe me. It's important that we do this.

FRANK: Right...I'm sorry I fucked everything up.

SALVE: We took care of it. Get dressed. Jimmy's waiting for you in the car. I took my own car here and I got a meeting.



FRANK: Jimmy's taking me to the place?

SALVE: Yeah. (pause)

(SALVE hugs his brother)

I love you, you know that right?

FRANK: Yeah...I love you too.

SALVE: Good. See you when you get back and not sooner than necessary. You will know when you're ready and your new life will be here waiting.

(SALVE rubs FRANK'S neck)

(SALVE smacks FRANK on the cheek  
lightly)

Fucking guy.

(THEY both laugh)

(SALVE turns and leaves)

**END OF PLAY**