

Rock Solid

by

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Cast of Characters

FRITZ :

47

LARA :

21

Place

Backyard (Queens)

Time

2PM

2.

Setting: The play takes place in a Queens backyard. It's a beat up yard that tries to look presentable but lacks a woman's touch.

At Rise: Fritz stands in front of a grill cooking burgers randomly sipping from his beer. Lara sits across from him in a chair, she too sips from her beer.

FRITZ: When's he getting' here?

LARA: How should I know?

FRITZ: He's ya boyfriend, ain't he?

LARA: Yeah, he's my boyfriend but I don't control his every move.

FRITZ: Maybe ya should.

LARA: Yeah, just like Ma controls you, right?

FRITZ (laughs): That's right. She keeps my balls in a jar somewhere in the kitchen.

LARA: Is that what I threw out this morning, while cleaning up?

FRITZ (laughs): Yeah, probably. (high-pitched voice) Maybe that's why my voice is a few octaves higher today.

LARA: That's deep for you.

FRITZ: Watch it, watch it. Don't make me put extra sweat in your burger.

LARA: Awk, that's disgusting, Dad.

FRITZ: Did you say you want one squirt or two?

LARA: Ill, stop Dad!

FRITZ: What?? It's just a little seasoning. Bet your boyfriend won't mind.

LARA: Leave him alone.

FRITZ: That's Mr. On Time.

LARA: I know.

FRITZ: I'm eating without 'em. Not waiting for him to show up. I'm starvin'.

LARA: Eat.

FRITZ: You love this guy or what?

LARA: He's alright.

FRITZ: Do you?

LARA: I love him, yeah.

FRITZ: He don't sound too bright.

LARA: He's just shy. He's actually smarter than he acts.

FRITZ: And looks. With those outfits he wears. I mean, I guess it's probably the style that's in fashion but really, he looks like an ass.

LARA: He looks fly.

FRITZ: Fly? Like a bird?

LARA: Just mean he looks legit.

FRITZ: Legit. Right. Looks like an ass.

LARA: Stop, Dad. You don't really give him a chance.

FRITZ: I've kept him alive, what more of a chance does he need than that?

LARA: Not funny.

FRITZ (laughs): You want cheese on yours?

LARA: Two pieces.

FRITZ: Two pieces! Uh-oh!

LARA: We have mayo?

FRITZ: You know it.

LARA: And medium rare, I want to see some pink. Last time you made my burger too well done, practically burnt.

FRITZ: Hey, come on, I'm the barbecue king ova here.

LARA: Not when you sizzle the burger like charcoal.

FRITZ: You're gonna complain about my burgers?

LARA: Just saying.

FRITZ: Don't say.

LARA: ...Dad.

FRITZ: What?

LARA: I love you.

FRITZ: I love you too, honey...what's the matter? You alright?

LARA: Nothin'. I'm fine.

FRITZ: No, what's a matter?

LARA: It's Roy.

FRITZ: What about him?

LARA: I know why he's late.

FRITZ: Why'z he late?

LARA: Cause he ain't comin'.

FRITZ: Alright, more food for us.

LARA: No, it's, he got in trouble, last night.

FRITZ: Arrright...

LARA: He got shot.

FRITZ: Shot?!

LARA: Last night.

FRITZ: For what?

LARA: He was...please don't hate me...he was dealing...

FRITZ: You're kidding me?

LARA: No, Dad, he was doing a favor for a friend and all he had to do was make a drop off and they shot him in his thigh.

FRITZ: So, your boyfriend is a drug dealer?

LARA: No, he was just doing it as a fav---

FRITZ: Come on, Lara, what kind of bullshit is this?

LARA: I swear he's not involved in anything.

FRITZ: He got shot! Of course he's involved.

LARA: It wasn't what you think. He's not connected to any of this, it was an altercation and he was walkin' away from the whole thing but then he got hurt. He didn't even wanna do it, but his friend, he, he's sick and begged him to help him out and so he did. It was supposed to be one-two-three and now he's lucky to even be alive. Cops questioned him and everything and he, he had to make up this whole spiel to protect his friend and now it's just, everything's got outta hand, he's gotta get a lawyer and it's a whole mess...

LARA (cont'd'): Arrhhhh...you know, this isn't what we were planning Dad, I swear, he's a good guy, you know he's into computers, he does programming and he loves me and wants to do everything for me and this is something so stupid that got in the way, like a set back but I swear he's not what you're thinking he is, he's not, he's not, I wouldn't ever go out with a guy like that, not after everything that's happened in our family. Not ever.

FRITZ: I don't want you seeing this clown anymore.

LARA: See?! I knew I couldn't talk to you?

FRITZ: You could talk to me but listen to what your tellin' me. The kid is shot for criminal activity and is dating my daughter. And I'm not supposed to get pissed? I'm worried as all hell, not about him but about you. How do I know these drug people aren't gonna try and do something to you now?

LARA: It's not like that---

FRITZ: Not like that? You know, Lara, my whole friggin' life was spent livin' on the edge. I grew up with the same bozos your boyfriend probably hangs with and I learned that if I didn't distance myself and play it smart, I'd end up dead, in jail or in the hospital. I raised you singlehandedly and taught you right from wrong, did I not? If anything ever happened to you I'd kill myself. Now I gotta go talk to this boyfriend of yours and straighten him out.

LARA: No, Dad!

FRITZ: What hospital is he at?

LARA: Stop it! I said NO.

Pause.

FRITZ: ...Can't eat now

FRITZ sits.

I believe everything you tell me, but you're my daughter and I put you first. I worry about you.

LARA: I know, Dad.

FRITZ: This kid, I don't know this kid. I met him once and you're already telling me the worst thing imaginable. Like a father's nightmare.

LARA: I didn't wanna lie to you.

FRITZ: I shoulda moved us out of this neighborhood when I had the chance. Now I gotta worry.

LARA: I like livin' here.

FRITZ: I shoulda moved us, years ago. Had the chance, found that nice little house near the highway, was perfect for you and me, but I, I don't know, I didn't go for it like I should've.

LARA: You told me it was out in the sticks and the only company we'd have was bugs.

FRITZ (laughs): Yeah. Bugs and animals. It would have been too quiet.

LARA: Compared to all this action.

FRITZ: It's the wrong kind of action, Lara. I wanna see you with somebody who has his head on his shoulders and is wise enough not to do stupid favors for the wrong people. You understand? We can't have this..this sounds like the worst thing...no. Lara, no. He wasn't thinking of you. If he was thinkin' of you, he would have thought otherwise because you can't take gambles like that. You need to see my point. Now he's got a case against him?

LARA: There's an investigation, so, I don't know how it works.

FRITZ: He's gonna have headaches. That's how it works. You sure you want to be around somebody like that?

LARA: ...

FRITZ: I'm not gonna tell you what to do, I never did and I'm not gonna start now. I've always supported your independence and allowed you to make your own decision because I always felt that by doing that, I would have a daughter smarter than I ever was...I hope I made the right decision as your father, giving you that.

LARA: You did Dad.

FRITZ: I hope so.

LARA: You did. I'm not gonna see him anymore.

FRITZ: That's up to you.

LARA: NO, I don't want to...even before we started talkin'. I knew.

FRITZ: That's what I was hoping you'd say...these situations aren't always easy to wiggle ourself out of...

LARA: What do you mean?

FRITZ: I mean, Roy's hurt and he knows he did something stupid. He will do whatever it takes to keep you in his life...you will need to stand up to that.

LARA: I know.

FRITZ: So, if you are gonna make the decision not to be with him, make sure you're rock solid. No halfway decisions. Life doesn't give you what you want if you aren't sure.

LARA: Okay.

FRITZ: Still want your burger?

LARA nods.

FRITZ gets up and goes back to the grill.

END OF PLAY