

Thin Ice

by

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Cast of Characters

SCARLET:

Teens

KYLE:

Teens

Place

High School

Time

Afternoon

2.

Setting: The play takes place just after high school detention. Students have been released and Scarlet and Kyle walk out of the high school on their way home, through the suburbs.

At Rise: The play opens up with Scarlet and Kyle walking together out and away from their High School.

SCARLET and KYLE exit classroom detention.

SCARLET: Hey Kyle.

KYLE: Scarlet, how's it going?

SCARLET: Alright.

KYLE: What did you get caught for?

SCARLET: Smoking cigarettes.

KYLE: Yeah?

SCARLET: During gym.

THEY both laugh.

KYLE: Who saw you?

SCARLET: I think I was ratted on by that bitch Kimberly.

KYLE: Kimberly Gianco?

SCARLET: Yeah, can't stand her.

KYLE: Why would she rat on you?

SCARLET: She hates me, always did, ever since kindergarten she's had it out for me and I've done nothing but be nice, even tried making friends with her. I finally stopped trying and it's like her horns came out.

KYLE: She's got issues.

SCARLET: What about you?

KYLE: Me?

SCARLET: Why were you in detention?

KYLE: I punched Jimmy out.

SCARLET: I heard about that but wasn't sure you would do something like that.

KYLE: He deserved it.

SCARLET: You seem like a good boy, ha, you don't seem like the kind of guy that could be violent.

KYLE: I didn't wanna be.

SCARLET: What happened?

KYLE: He was teasing me when I was lifting weights. I ignored him at first but then, when I was bench pressing he came up from behind me and pushed his weight down on me and the pressure almost broke my ribs. He could have killed me.

SCARLET: Didn't you tell Mr. Conway what happened?

KYLE: Nah.

SCARLET: Why not?

KYLE: Cause fuck them all, you know?

SCARLET: I get you. Not bad for the new guy.

KYLE: I hate this school.

SCARLET: Why'd you transfer out here anyway? We live in such a shitty little town.

KYLE: My mother...she always wanted to move to long island and so we came out here---

SCARLET: From Queens, right?

KYLE: Yeah.

SCARLET: I take it you don't like it?

KYLE: No, it blows. Can't go into the city. Used to go to manhattan on the weekends and now it's like a forty-five minute train ride and costs an arm and a leg and it sucks. Everyone's different out here, too.

SCARLET: It does suck out here.

KYLE: Yeah.

SCARLET: You have a father?

KYLE: He died in a boating accident.

SCARLET: Oh, sorry.

KYLE: Nah, it's cool, you didn't know.

SCARLET: My mother's dead.

KYLE: Is she?

SCARLET: Yeah, it was stomach cancer...she loved to smoke.

SCARLET and KYLE exit the school doors.

SCARLET lights a cigarette.

SCARLET offers cigarette to KYLE.

KYLE takes a drag, hands it back.

KYLE: You have siblings?

SCARLET: I have a twin sister.

KYLE: Oh yeah, that's right, I thought I saw you twice one day when I was walking to math class. Bugged me out.

SCARLET laughs.

SCARLET: That's Misty.

KYLE: Wow.

SCARLET: What?

KYLE: No nothing, surprised there's two of you, that's all.

SCARLET: What does that mean?

KYLE: Nothing, nothing.

SCARLET: Tell me.

KYLE: I mean, you're both pretty.

SCARLET: Oh. Thanks.

KYLE: But you're...

SCARLET: ...What?

KYLE: I like you.

SCARLET: I like you too.

KYLE: People out here seem too busy with their own lives. Nobody really cares to take any interest in me and I don't blame them. I'm the new kid, right? And whenever someone does have anything to say to me it's always some dumb random question like, 'Are there a lot of shootings in Queens?'

KYLE (cont'd): Stuff like that, that doesn't make any sense. Like where I'm from has this bad reputation or something and it's nothing like that at all, you know, it's just a regular place, no different than out here except for the fact that people from my town like to talk and it feels more like a family community vibe, can't explain it, but it's like you're surrounded by one big family. Out here, you never know what you're walking into. Maybe that's cause I'm not familiar with things, but it seems lame in comparison.

SCARLET: I'm talking to you.

KYLE: You are.

SCARLET: Am I lame?

KYLE: Nah, you're not lame at all. But you're the exception to what comes off as the rule around here.

SCARLET kisses KYLE.

SCARLET: How about now?

KYLE: I didn't expect that.

SCARLET: You're cute.

KYLE: You're beautiful.

SCARLET: Surprised you didn't get suspended.

KYLE: I thought I was gonna get thrown outta here. Kinda hoping I would be.

SCARLET: Surprised about that too. Mr. Connelly doesn't take shit from no one. He's thrown out about three students that I know of over the years.

KYLE: He's hardcore?

SCARLET: Oh yeah, way hardcore. He probably takes a liking to you.

KYLE: I doubt that.

SCARLET: This one kid got thrown outta here for throwing gum at a teacher after he was scolded for never turning in homework. He was out that same day. Never saw him again. Never liked him anyway, was always a troublemaker and corrupting other kids that didn't know how to tell him no. He'd get everyone in trouble.

KYLE: I probably just got a lucky break. But now I have to be on thin ice.

SCARLET: Everyone's on thin ice around here.

KYLE: Yeah?

SCARLET: What did you do for fun where you're from?

KYLE: Oh, I'd hit the city up, go to jazz bars, there's this one blues club I go to where I've become friendly with the doorman, he lets me in for five bucks even though I'm underaged.

SCARLET: A blues club? What's that like?

KYLE: It's pretty dope. You ever listen to blues?

SCARLET: I've heard of it but I've never really listened to it before.

KYLE: You should come with me one night and check it out.

SCARLET: I'm down.

KYLE: Maybe this Friday if you want. We can take that lousy train in.

SCARLET: The train isn't that bad.

KYLE: Maybe it'll be better when I'm not by myself.

SCARLET: You'll have someone to talk to.

KYLE: Sounds good.

SCARLET: And what else?

KYLE: What else what?

SCARLET: What else does a Queens boy like yourself do for fun?

KYLE: I read.

SCARLET: Read?

KYLE: Yeah, does that make me a nerd or something?

SCARLET: Quite the opposite actually. What do you read, comic books?

KYLE: Not really...I have a collection of them but I've never read one before...I read literature.

SCARLET: Literature...fancy word.

KYLE: Well, novels, short stories, plays, travel guides, anything that kinda gets my mind thinking.

SCARLET: You surprise me.

KYLE: Do I?

SCARLET: Never took you for a reader.

KYLE: Why?

SCARLET: I don't know...the guys who read either seem too loud or too quiet...

KYLE: Yeah, well, you can't really judge someone you don't really know.

SCARLET: I'm not. I won't.

KYLE: Do you?

SCARLET: What?

KYLE: Read?

SCARLET: Oh- No, Not much. Not for my own pleasure...Maybe you could recommend something to me?

KYLE: I have a little library of stuff, I can lend you something if you want.

SCARLET: Okay.

KYLE: I'll look through what I've got, see if I can find something I think you'll like.

SCARLET: Not something that's like a thousand pages. Something small.

KYLE: Alright, I have some good novellas, they are shorter works of fiction, faster to read, won't feel like such a chore.

SCARLET: Awesome. Thanks.

SCARLET stops walking.

KYLE: Oh. Is this, is this where you live?

SCARLET: This is me.

KYLE: Nice house.

SCARLET: Been in the family.

KYLE: Huge.

SCARLET: I like it.

KYLE: Alright, I'll catch you later. I'm not too far from here. Like ten minutes away by foot.

SCARLET: I know where you live.

KYLE: How do you know where I live?

SCARLET: I happened to be driving by and saw you entering a house, figured it was where you lived.

KYLE: Spying on me now?

THEY laugh.

SCARLET: Gotta know what I'm getting myself into.

KYLE: And what are you getting into?

SCARLET: I don't know yet...(she smiles)

KYLE: I'll see you later, Scarlet.

SCARLET: See you later, Kyle.

KYLE walks on.

SCARLET walks to her house.

END OF PLAY