

Spitfire Gene

by

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Cast of Characters

<u>BORIS</u> :	50's
<u>ELANA</u> :	Teens
<u>LUKE, BORIS, RICH</u> :	Teens

Place
Garden

Time
Night

2.

Setting: The play takes place in a beautiful and well maintained garden beside the side entrance lobby of a magnificent wedding reception area.

At Rise: The play opens with Boris and his daughter Elana talking in the garden, walking slowly together. Boris wears a tuxedo, Elana a gown.

BORIS: Sometimes life's stress impairs ya. You make emotional decisions on impulse that aren't good for you or the person you're expressing it to. It's dangerous. Dangerous for you and dangerous for the other person. No, I'm not talking physical danger. No. I'm speaking on the psyche. Emotional warfare, how it affects the mind, the carnage it leaves in one's spirit. We live in an imbalanced world where people react on negative impulse, rather than open positive lines of communication. It's hard. For all of us. We're still quite a ways off from our true selves, our truest selves. But that's no excuse for your behavior tonight.

ELANA: You expect those guys to get away with how they were acting?

BORIS: Yes, I do.

ELANA: That makes you as bad as they are.

BORIS: No, it doesn't.

ELANA: You're condoning their behavior.

BORIS: I'm preaching to my daughter because you are my daughter. Not too concerned about those boys.

ELANA: Did you hear what they were saying?

BORIS: I heard some of it.

ELANA: And?

BORIS: I didn't like it.

ELANA: Why not go over there and punch them out?

BORIS: We are in a wedding reception.

ELANA: I would never let anyone talk trash about my family.

BORIS: They're all drunk.

ELANA: Lucky I didn't stab them.

BORIS: Darling...

ELANA: I'm angry, okay?

BORIS: You have every right to be angry, but you have every right to conduct yourself like the lady I've raised you to be. Those boys are all tomfoolery. You go wrong when you pay them too much attention.

ELANA: Dad, they went beyond earshot. One of them came over to me and made such a dirty comment, I was shocked.

BORIS: Don't pay attention.

ELANA: Don't you care?

BORIS: I care about my daughter's well being. Words are cheap.

ELANA: Words can sting.

BORIS: If you allow them to.

ELANA: I can't turn off my hearing and what I heard *hurt*. I can't ignore what was being said, what they said about Momma.

BORIS: I know...sometimes there are awful deeds that should go unnoticed.

ELANA: WHY?

BORIS: Because it helps to keep what's good in the world.

ELANA: I think you're wrong. I think a person must defend their honor.

BORIS: I do, too.

ELANA: So, why not defend me?

BORIS: Is that why you're upset?

ELANA: Partly.

BORIS: You feel I didn't defend you?

ELANA: You are my father, aren't you? And Mom was your wife?

BORIS: Is my wife.

ELANA: Sorry, is...

BORIS: Just cause she's not here, don't mean she's gone.

ELANA: I'm sorry, I didn't mean--

BORIS: I know what you meant sweetheart, I ain't mad at ya. I'm trying to set a good example for you is all. Don't you think I'd like to knock them boys out cold? Don't you think I can? Hmm...maybe I can't, I am getting on some...ha...but, I'd do anything for you, anything, but to waste our evening on a few no good goons is pointless to the memory this day has given me...you've made me the proudest father that ever walked this here planet. Looking so glamorous in your gown; you remind me of your mother..spittin' image of her; and you were blessed with her valor, always a bit much for me to handle, I admit, but we always worked.

BORIS (*cont'd*): You were born with the same spitfire gene she had and it's almost like a secret power, but you need to learn to harness that power and use it when absolutely necessary, like a superhero...you like superheroes, don't ya?

ELANA: You know I do, dad.

BORIS: Well, there you go.

ELANA: I'm no superhero.

BORIS: You're not?

ELANA laughs.

BORIS: Was about ready to watch you beat up three grown men singlehandedly, with a little bit of help from me, of course.

ELANA laughs.

When I first saw that look in your eyes I knew we was headed for trouble. I was like, "Oh darn, them boys went and done it this time!" (*laughs*) Tell me, what stopped you?

ELANA: You...felt you looking on, felt your sense of worry an' I didn't want to ruin this day either...

BORIS: Thanks, darling, your mother would be equally proud I'm sure of it.

THREE guys enter the scene. Dan, Rich and Luke.

LUKE: Look who it is?

BORIS (*to Elana*): Come on...just let them boys walk on.

LUKE: What's the matter old man, lost your vigor.

ELANA: Shut your face Dan!

DAN: Ha, ha, ha.

LUKE: Be careful 'fore someone gets smacked.

RICH: Guys, come on.

LUKE: I don't give a shit if she's a girl or not.

ELANA: D'you hear em' Dad? They're sick speaking to us like that!

BORIS: Gentleman, we're headed back inside, have yourselves a good evening.

LUKE: Yeah, yeah - fuck you!

ELANA looks around in shock.

BORIS: Let's head back inside, darling.

LUKE: Darling! HAHA! He calls his daughter DARLING.

DAN: What a weirdo.

RICH: HAHAHA.

BORIS and ELANA head towards the side entrance.

LUKE: Yeah, run away...just like your wife did before she died.

BORIS: Go inside sweetheart.

ELANA: I'm not leaving you alone!

BORIS: I said go inside.

BORIS walks back to the three young men.

My wife did leave me for your father Luke, nothing I could have done about that and yes, she did die, tragically, in my arms. One of the most painful experiences of my life. Nothing anyone can do or say, to ever make me feel worse than that, but if any of you ever go near my precious daughter ever again, I will carve out your liver and feed it to you...understood?

LUKE: ...We're cool.

BORIS: You sure about that?

All THREE nod or say YES in agreement.

BORIS: ...Well done fellas, have yourselves a goodnight.

BORIS walks back inside the lobby.

ELANA: What did you say, Dad?

BORIS: Oh, nothing much darling, just making sure we can enjoy the rest of our night in peace. I don't want no trouble.

ELANA: But what did you say?

BORIS: Just told them boys we don't want no trouble is all. They understood. Not as bad as you think.

ELANA: Just like that?

BORIS: Yeah, they're young minded fools.

ELANA: You sure?

BORIS: Sure about what?

ELANA: Sure you don't want me to go out there and talk to them?

BORIS: Oh, not at all sunshine. We leave them alone, they will leave us alone. Deal?

ELANA: Deal.

BORIS: Let's have a dance.

ELANA: (*laughs*)

BORIS: Why you laughing?

ELANA: You said you don't dance.

BORIS: For some reason, tonight I feel like dancing.

END OF PLAY