

A FATHER'S LOVE

Drama

## SYNOPSIS

A rebellious young girl seeks the help of her mother's boyfriend in finding her biological father. The painful discovery leads to further resentment but in the scheme finds love.

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

<u>JACKIE:</u>	Daughter	16	Female
<u>BILL:</u>	Mother's Boyfriend	36-38	Male
<u>MATTHEW:</u>	Possible Dad	32-34	Male
<u>DOUG:</u>	Possible Dad	32-34	Male

### Place

Anywhere USA

### Time

June

SETTING: Black Box. Street corner and park bench

AT RISE: No one on stage.

Enter JACKIE walks up to bench, BILL follows behind her.

JACKIE

There's no one here, what time is it?

BILL

Looks at his watch.

Don't worry we're early.

JACKIE

Looks up

Looks like its going rain.

BILL

Yeah and its a long walk back.

(PAUSE.

MATTHEW

Walks to corner turns looks towards BILL and JACKIE.

Is this where the bus stops?

JACKIE

It stops across the street and the people walk over.

MATTHEW

Thanks.

JACKIE

Are you waiting for family?

MATTHEW

(frowning)

No, I'm not.

Turns away.

DOUG

Enter with red umbrella in hand, looks at BILL and JACKIE.

Is this where the bus stops?

JACKIE

The bus stops across the street and the people walk over. Are you waiting for family?

DOUG

(bewildered)

I don't know, I mean no.

MATTHEW

Turns, he recognizes DOUG.

Doug?

DOUG

Matthew?

Walks over.

MATTHEW

Man it's been a lot of years since I saw you last. Strange meeting you here *today*.

DOUG

I couldn't agree with you more. You waiting for the bus?

Puts down umbrella on bench.

MATTHEW

(pause)

Oh! The bus, yeah, I'm waiting for the bus.

DOUG

Family?

MATTHEW

No.

DOUG

Do you still live in this town?

MATTHEW

No I don't, but I do live on Pine. This street goes through several towns and into the next county. I live at the other end of Pine.

DOUG

How bizarre is that. I live at the end of Magnolia in the next county totally opposite of you. These two streets intersect right at this corner and here we are.

JACKIE

(to BILL)

I'm going to sit down and listen to music.

Puts on earbuds not connected. Sits down and removes one earbud to listens to conversation.

BILL

I'm going to look for a restroom, I'll be right back.

Walks away.

MATTHEW

Notices BILL walking away and JACKIE sitting. Turns to Doug.

Doug, who are you waiting for?

DOUG

Why do you ask?

MATTHEW

You remember back in the neighborhood I was dating Sara.

DOUG

Of course we all hung out together. I remember her mother got her out of the neighborhood, sent her away to live with her aunt.

MATTHEW

You do remember. Well I got a call from a private investigator, Sara had a child. She was pregnant that's why her mother sent her away. She's sixteen years old. She's arriving on the bus I'm waiting for. The investigator said all she wants to do is meet me. No legal problems to worry about and if for some reason she doesn't get off the bus, to go on with my life neither the girl nor Sara would ever contact me again.

DOUG

Matt I got the same call.

MATTHEW

(startled)

What do you mean the same call? What did you have to do with Sara?

DOUG

Ever since that call I've been traveling back in time. Matt you dumped her for another girl. You hurt her really bad. She came to me to talk, she cried on my shoulders for days. She said you were her first love. You have no idea what you did to her. Somehow along the way we hooked up once.

MATTHEW

You and Sara? You were both my friends.

DOUG

(Indignant)

She wasn't your friend anymore and if you remember we stopped hanging out together. She didn't want to be around you and then she didn't want to be around me either and she was gone.

MATTHEW

You were interested in her, weren't you? I remember seeing you hanging around her house when I came around.

DOUG

Yeah and you were the cool guy with the sweet words. You got what you wanted and moved on. The difference between you and her, she was in love, you weren't.

MATTHEW

Alright, let's not rehash what happened back then, it seems one of us is the father. Of all days why *today*? My wife cooked dinner and my kids are waiting for me. I've been so damn depressed since getting that call. They should have left this thing alone.

DOUG

I'm meeting my family at a restaurant, They made reservations. I'm going to be late and I don't know what to tell my wife.

JACKIE

Gets up, removes the ear bud and looks at the men as they stare at the arriving bus.

Here comes the bus.

BILL

Returns.

Bus is on time.

(PAUSE.

MATTHEW

(apprehensive)

She didn't get off or just didn't come. He said if she didn't get off I would not have to worry about anything. No one will ever contact me again. I assume that would be the same for you. No worries. I got to go.

Starts to walk away

DOUG

Matt wait a minute, what are you going to do?

MATTHEW

What do you mean what am I going to do? Get on with my life, my family is waiting for me.

DOUG

That's it? I can't help but think there's a girl out there and I might be her father. I wish I could do something for her. I feel I have to talk to my wife, just not *today*. Then in my world she exists. That's the least I can do.

MATTHEW

I don't think I can do that. I just can't, I mean what good would it do? We were all so young. This will never leave my mind, that's giving her existence. See you.

Turns, looks at the JACKIE and BILL and hustles off.

DOUG

(to JACKIE)

You had a no show too?

JACKIE

Just as well, there was no room in the inn for her anyway.

DOUG

Takes a look at his watch.

Boy, am I late. What's your name?

JACKIE

(hesitant)

Jackie.

DOUG

That's a pretty name, I'm Doug.

GIRL

Yeah, I heard.

DOUG

Well I got to go, you be well.

Walks off.

JACKIE

(to his back)

Yeah, be well.

BILL

(indignant)

Jackie is that it? Do you have any idea what I had to go through, never mind the money it cost to have an investigator find these guys and threaten them to be here *today* of all days, for you not to ask them whatever questions you had. I thought you needed answers so you could get on with your life. What was this all for?



JACKIE

(contentious)

You're not the only man mom brought home. You all tried to be my father. You weren't there for me, you were there for her. So you are not the first one. You were ok in the beginning, then you started getting into my business. Questioning who I was hanging out with, why was I home late and about school. Why should that matter to you?

BILL

Jackie sometimes you are one royal pain in the ass. Your mother was trying to find a good man to be your dad. She didn't care about herself. She knew your depression and bad behavior had to do with you not knowing who your father was. She lives with the guilt every day.

JACKIE

(starts to sob)

Those two didn't care about having a daughter outside of their family. I'm nobody. I brought fear to them. All they wanted was to run and get back to their family, how honorable. I didn't have to ask any questions. I heard enough, I didn't need anymore.

(abruptly stops sobbing.)

BILL

You know why I lasted so long with your mother? When we met she wasn't looking for a father for you anymore. She met a friend who became her lover. I moved in for her, not for you. Yes in the beginning I didn't get involved with your shenanigans but the pain you were causing her was too much for me to stay silent. You said we got along better in the beginning. I think you disliked me most when I didn't care about what you were doing.

JACKIE

To me you were just another man in the house. Another man that wasn't my father. You all tried to be my dad. How could any of you be?

BILL

Yes, I tried very much to be a father to you. You remember when we asked you about adoption? You blew a head gasket. How dare I claim you as my daughter. I love your mother very much. Sara loves you so much. You are the biggest part of her life and because of that I grew to love you too, Jackie they were all so young. She was your age when she got pregnant that's a worry she has about you. It was a mistake at that time, a costly one but after having you she never looked back. Yet you treat her as if she made a mistake by having you. That in itself is something for you to think about. You live with the choices you make.

JACKIE

I'm not my mom. I take care of myself.

BILL

Well you learned something. You know how to take care of yourself. Be very careful, because there is more to life than taking care of yourself. At your age you're making memories that will last you the rest of your life. How do you see yourself in your own head, the way you have been acting and what you've been doing. I'll tell you one thing, I won't back down. I love Sara and you might not know it, I love you too. Now let's get home before your mother gets there. If she knew about this she would throw me out of the house.

Turns and starts to walk away.

JACKIE

Calls out to him

Bill!

BILL

Stops and turns.

What?

JACKIE

(reveals her feelings)

I mean Dad, *Happy Father's Day*.

They walk toward each other and embrace.

JACKIE (cont'd)

Oh! Its starting to rain.

BILL

Sees umbrella on the bench.

He left his umbrella get it.

JACKIE

Walks over and grabs the umbrella and opens it.

Its going to pour.

Reaches for Bill's hand and hastily walks away.

FADE TO BLACK.