

A Castle Broken Apart

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Cast of Characters

<u>Isaac</u> :	About 48, father of Rebecca and Lana
<u>Rebecca</u> :	20, daughter of Isaac
<u>Lana</u> :	19, daughter of Isaac

Scene

A livingroom

Time

An evening.

ACT I/SCENE 1

At Rise: ISAAC is flipping through a family album while seating on his chair. LANA is sweeping around him while REBECCA is dusting the TV set. REBECCA keeps looking at ISAAC and shaking her head. LANA is smiling and humming a melody.

REBECCA

I'm done for today.

ISAAC

I need dinner made tonight.

REBECCA

Lana can handle something simple like that. (To LANA)
Can you?

LANA

It'll be a lot easier with you around.

REBECCA

I have to go out to meet Steve. I have a life, you know.

LANA

I don't have a life, sadly.

ISAAC

When your mom gets back, you can leave for your get together. But we need you.

REBECCA

Mom's not coming back, Dad. Ever.

LANA

Rebecca, please don't do this. You know how he gets. Confused.

REBECCA

Maybe the truth will finally hit him, and he'll come to his senses.

LANA

No, Rebecca. He won't.

ISAAC

Of course your mom is coming back. I just spoke with her ten minutes ago, and she said she'd be back in fifteen minutes. But knowing her (he laughs) she'll take her sweet time.

REBECCA

Since mom is not coming back, can I leave Lana?

LANA

Help me finish up here first. The table has to be dusted.

REBECCA

(taking the duster from LANA)

Sure.

ISAAC

I'm sorry you girls have to do all the chores around the house, but your mom has been feeling sick. I can't even get her to cook anymore.

REBECCA

(To LANA, whispering)

I'm just tired, LANA. I'm tired of cleaning up, and hearing about Mom. She's gone, okay. We have to move on.

LANA

(whispering)

He hasn't. I know this is not the best situation to be in. I get frustrated sometimes. But that's our father. He never gave up on us.

REBECCA

(whispering)

So he has to be our burden?

LANA

(whispering)

Are you suggesting we put him in a home?

REBECCA

(whispering)

Maybe.

LANA

(whispering)

No. I don't mind giving him to be taken care of, but to someone I know who will actually care for him.

REBECCA

(whispering)

It is an option.

LANA

(whispering)

Because you want to go out and party and have a good time?

REBECCA

(whispering)

I want to live. Do you know how many dates I've had to cancel because of him? I've lost many potential mates. I want to settle down and get married. I don't want to lose anymore.

ISAAC

(To REBECCA)

Where is your mom?

REBECCA

Old man...

LANA

Don't.

REBECCA

I'm not going to take this anymore, Lana. All the delusions! How can you put up with this without going crazy?

LANA

That's dad. He loves you, Rebecca. I do everything for him from the heart but he still loves you more.

ISAAC

What are you talking about?

LANA

Stuff, dad.

REBECCA

(To LANA, whispering)

Well, you can have him, and all his love. I don't want it.

LANA

(whispering)

It's too late for that, Rebecca. He's living in the past, and I can never compare to you in the past.

REBECCA

(whispering)

Why does he keep living in the past? It's his fault mom left.

LANA

(whispering)

That may well be true, but...

REBECCA

(whispering)

Don't even try to cover up for him. He put mom through so much until she finally got up and left.

LANA

(whispering)

But she left us too.

REBECCA

(whispering)

She left us because she wanted to have nothing to do with that man. She didn't want his kids. Because she hated him. I understand now. And if you don't get away from him, you'll be sorry. You'll be trapped in his castle and die here. Miserable and lonely. You'll just waste your life.

LANA

(whispering)

He's our father, Rebecca.

REBECCA

(whispering)

That doesn't mean he owns us. It took mom twenty years to leave. That's not going to be me.

LANA

(whispering)

But...

REBECCA

I'm going upstairs to get dressed. Steve is waiting for me outside in the promenade.

LANA

Sounds like an interesting evening.

REBECCA

When are you going to start dating?

LANA

Honestly, I don't know. When I meet the right person.

REBECCA

How will you meet the right person if you're locked away in a house, taking care of an old man?

(REBECCA shakes her head and exits the stage.)

ISAAC

Why does she hate me?

LANA

She doesn't hate you. She's just stressed.

ISAAC

Maybe your mom can talk to her.

LANA

I don't think Mom would help that much. Rebecca is headstrong.

ISAAC

You're not going to leave your father, are you?

LANA

I'll stay with you as long as I possibly can.

(ISAAC smiles.)

ISAAC

Any good girl will stay with her sick father, and take care of him and help him out. Be a good girl like Rebecca. Yes, Rebecca. My fair, sweet Rebecca.

LANA

Have you taken your pills for the day?

ISAAC

I don't need any pills. I'm fine as fine can be. I can leap like a gazelle, yes, I can.

LANA

You have to take your pills.

ISAAC

Didn't you hear me? I'm not taking any pills!

LANA

You're sick, dad.

ISAAC

But not dead. I'll gladly give those pills to a dead person.

LANA

You'll die without them.

ISAAC

I'll die with them and I'll die without them.

LANA

They will lengthen your life.

ISAAC

A juicer is what I need to get, not take any pills. Natural is always better. When your mom gets back, write a list of fruits and vegetables for her to get tomorrow.

(LANA rubs her forehead and sighs.)

ISAAC

What's your name, again?

LANA

It's Lana, dad.

ISAAC

Lana. Lana. Lana.

LANA

Lana Macy Rushfield.

ISAAC

Lana Macy Rushfield, I have to go to work tomorrow at nine. Make sure I don't oversleep.

LANA

You're retired, dad. Remember?

ISAAC

I am retired?

LANA

Right.

ISAAC

But I still want to work. I have to take care of you, Rebecca, and your mom. Get me the phone, I want my job back.

LANA

You get pension so we're well taken care of. And Rebecca and I have day jobs. You don't have to take care of us. And since you're old, we're taking care of you.

ISAAC

But you're only thirteen, and you have a day job?

LANA

I am nineteen, dad.

ISAAC

Nineteen? Did I sleep for six years?

LANA

You just forgot, dad.

(REBECCA comes onstage with a dress and high heels.)

REBECCA

(To LANA)

How do I look?

LANA

Stunning. What more can I say?

(REBECCA twirls around.)

ISAAC

That looks inappropriate for an eight year old.

REBECCA

I'm twenty.

ISAAC

How old is she, Lana?

LANA

Twenty, dad.

ISAAC

I had to make sure, Rebecca. You do lie a lot. But you have an angel's face.

REBECCA

You won't always have this liar around. Soon, I'll be gone and you'll have nothing to worry about.

ISAAC

I don't want you to leave. I just want you to be better.

REBECCA

(To LANA)

Dance with me.

LANA

Wait...

(REBECCA grabs her hands and dances with LANA and ends by spinning LANA.)

LANA

I hope Steve likes it when you take the lead.