

North Fork

by Timothy Brown

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Cast of Characters

Angela
David Robertson age 16
Nana
David Robertson age 36
Mary Robertson
Tom Robertson
Joe Robertson age 38
Joe Robertson age 18
Sue Robertson

Setting

The Beach House, Laurel NY

Time

1966 and 1986

Scene 1

Angela is sitting on a beach chair. David enters.

ANGELA

Hey, who are you? Don't walk away, I'm talking to you.
What's your name?

DAVID

David ...

ANGELA

You have a last name, or is it just David?

DAVID

Robertson. What's your name?

ANGELA

I'm asking the questions. You from the bait shop?

DAVID

Yeah, what of it?

ANGELA

Nothin'. Whacha got in the bucket?

DAVID

Steamers.

ANGELA

They're not from our beach I hope!

DAVID

God's beach ya mean.

ANGELA

God doesn't pay property taxes. My father says that.

DAVID

Your father doesn't own this beach.

ANGELA

Does so!

DAVID

Not at low tide he don't! It's the law.

ANGELA

Know a lot, don't you David Robertson? I'm Angela.

DAVID

I've seen ya around.

ANGELA

I bet you have. Look at me now David.

DAVID

What?

ANGELA

Look at me!

DAVID

What do you think I've been....

ANGELA

Closer.

DAVID

Now what?

ANGELA

You have pretty eyelashes.

DAVID

I do?

ANGELA

Ask me to meet you here tonight.

DAVID

Would you like to meet me ...

ANGELA

Around nine.

DAVID

Around nine ...

ANGELA

It's a date. See you.

DAVID

Bye.

Scene 2

Nana is sitting in her chair on the dock.

NANA

I like to listen to the waves.

(Pause - there is no sound)

Even when it's calm, I can still hear them.
And the children, babies, all the babies.

(She pops open a beer)

It's time for my medicine.

(Drinks)

That's good. When my Joe died I would spend hours if not whole days out here.

(Long Pause)

Joe I have to tell you, Suzy thinks she has found the one. For this week anyway. He hasn't proposed but it does seem to be serious. She thinks it'll happen before she has to go back to school.

(Drinks)

Tom is doing you proud with the business. He works hard. Like his father. It's been a good summer. Oh I have to tell you 'bout our little David. He has been so preoccupied with clamming. Seems every day he's bringing home another bushel of something or other. The freezer's full. Have to give 'em away.

(Drinks as she drifts back in years)

Joe, I don't like being pregnant in the summer. I'm too hot and I'm too fat. Can't find anything comfortable to wear.

(Back in the present)

Where was I? I don't know. The children, my dear grand children call me, "Old In and Out." They don't think

I know, but I do. My mind is going. One moment I'm here and I understand everything. The next I'm lost, in my memories. But I always find my way back to the beach, the sand, water, and the waves.

(Lights fade out as Nana finishes her beer)

Scene 3

It is now 20 years later. David and Mary enter.

DAVID

No, no, no. You don't understand.

MARY

Understand what! Why is it that when I'm right and you're wrong, you always say, "I don't understand."

DAVID

Because you don't.

MARY

Bull!

DAVID

I don't want to argue, drop it. OK?

(Calls)

Mom, Dad. We're here.

MARY

Loser.

DAVID

Anyone home? Hello.

(No answer)

I'm a loser. What's that make you? You married me.

Mary

A double loser.

DAVID

VERY FUNNY!!!

IS ANYONE HOME!!!

[David's father Tom enters]

TOM

There's no need to yell David. Good to see you Mary.

DAVID

Hi Dad. Where's Mom?

TOM

Upstairs trying to take a nap.

DAVID

Sorry.

MARY

You're looking good Mr. Robertson. Must be playing a lot of golf.

TOM

Hate the game, but like the walk. Thank you Mary. I feel good.
Now you two must want to unpack. We put you in the front bedroom.

MARY

I told you. You owe me five bucks.

DAVID

Dad, we can't sleep in that room.

TOM

Of course you can.

DAVID

Dad...

MARY

What David is trying to say is that the sun comes
in that room at around five in the morning.

TOM

So?

DAVID

It will be fine Dad. Won't it Mary?

MARY

Terrific...

TOM

Thought it would. Joe's in the downstairs bedroom.

DAVID

Joe's here?

TOM

Since around noon. Went for a run down the beach.
Didn't we tell you?

DAVID

No.

TOM

Now you know.

MARY

It's going to be a full house.

TOM

He's your brother David.

(Pause)

TOM

Give me your keys, I'll get the rest of the bags.

MARY

Thanks.

(Tom exits)

MARY

I can't sleep in that room.

DAVID

Sorry.

MARY

This is my vacation David. My only vacation!

DAVID

I'll make it up to you.

MARY

And then some.

DAVID

You win okay. Will you just drop it? YOU WIN!

(Joe enters)

JOE

Hey guys long time no see. Mary, lookin' good.

MARY

Hi Joe.

JOE

Dave.

(They shake hands)

DAVID

God you're sweaty!

JOE

That's what happens when you exercise. Ought to give it a try.

DAVID

Anytime you want to put it on the line, "big" brother.

MARY

Will you listen to you two? It must be the salt air.

JOE

How 'bout a game of twenty-one before dinner?

DAVID

Hoop still up?

JOE

Was last time I looked.

MARY

David you are not thinking of playing ...

JOE

Of course he is. Tell her Dave.

DAVID

Maybe I'll have to pass on the game. Bad back you know.

JOE

Yeah right!

DAVID

What's that suppose to mean.

JOE

It's not your "bad back", little brother.

DAVID

Don't give me that crap!

(He starts moving towards Joe. Mary stops him.)

MARY

David!

DAVID

Stay out of his Mary.

MARY

What!

(The brothers are now in each others face.)

JOE

Afraid to lose again?

DAVID

I did not lose that game. I let you win.

MARY

What are you talking about?

JOE

The last big game we played. It was over this girl.

DAVID

Angela. Her name was Angela in case you've forgotten.

JOE

I didn't forget. She rented out here one summer. We both liked her.

DAVID

I saw her first!

JOE

So what Dave!

MARY

What happen?

JOE

Mom and Dad got tired of all the fighting especially at dinner and they decided that we should settle it on the basketball court.

MARY

And you won.

DAVID

I let him win.

(Tom enters)

JOE

How? Tell me that Dave. The score was eleven to five. Eleven to five!

DAVID

I missed on purpose!

JOE

Give it a rest, will ya. It's been over for twenty years. Admit it, for one day, one game, one girl you were beaten.

TOM

David, Joseph. That's enough!!

(Long pause)

DAVID

I'm gonna unpack.

(Exits)

JOE

Guess I'll shower. Good to see you Mary.

(Exits)

TOM

Don't use all the hot water.
Get you a drink Mary?

MARY

Vodka and soda. A double vodka and soda.
What was all that about?

TOM

A stupid game. Never should let them play it.

MARY

What happen to this Angela?

TOM

She died last May.

Scene 4

David enters. He has been drinking and is trying to sing what he remembers from a drinking song.

DAVID

"Drunk last night, drunk the night before, gonna get drunk..."

MARY

David it's time to go to bed.

DAVID

I'm not done yet!

MARY

You're past done.

DAVID

Leave me alone! Please, pretty please with a big stinkin' cherry on top!

MARY

You'll wake up your father and I'm not going to deal with that and neither will your mom.

DAVID

Leave me alone Angela.

MARY

What did you call me?

DAVID

Shit!

MARY

You didn't call me shit David. You called me her again. David! David I'm talking to you!

DAVID

And I'm listening to you. Sorry - Is that what you want me to say. I AM SORRY!!!

MARY

And drunk.

DAVID

Sorry and drunk. That's a good combination. Bartender I'll have another sorry and drunk.

MARY

You're not funny. You know that.

DAVID

Sorry, drunk, and now ladies and gents - not funny. Anything else? I know, how about stupid!

MARY

Stop it.

DAVID

Stupid it is.

MARY

Good night!

(She starts to leave)

DAVID

Wait. Please.

MARY

David it's late...

DAVID

I need to talk ...

MARY

You need to sleep it off.

DAVID

I said I need to talk... and I need you to listen. To understand, to sit down and listen. Please. Mary...

MARY

David...

DAVID

Sit.

[She does. Long pause]

I have only loved five women, truly loved only five women in my life. Nana, Mom, Sue, you, and Angela. She died last May.

MARY

Your Dad told me this afternoon.

DAVID

Tonight when I went into town I ran into her brother Kevin, he told me.

MARY

I'm so sorry.

DAVID

They came out to look for a summer rental. She was a city girl. Big brown eyes. Beautiful eyes. First time I looked into them I was hooked, caught big time. When I was fifteen we fell in love. I couldn't wait for the winters to end. For June, to see her, to hold her. Her parents didn't know about me, I don't think they would of approved. I think Nana knew. She knows everything.

(Lights cross fade to Nana sitting
in her chair)

NANA

We all Knew. He had the days marked off on the calendar. Summer was always a good season for love. Not like fall or winter. I hate the cold. Florida too. My friend Clara wanted me to move down and share a condo with her. Didn't know what a condo was so I told her no.

(Drinks her beer)

David was in love, a crazy love. He couldn't see past his nose, couldn't see his own brother.

Scene 5

Joe enters looking for David

JOE

David ! D.J. !

ANGELA

He's not here.

JOE

Excuse me..

ANGELA

Rode his bike into town.

JOE

He what?

ANGELA

David rode his bike into town for some ice cream.

JOE

What for?

ANGELA

Ice cream! For me. Is this confusing you?

JOE

Yes. No. You're Angela - David's Angela.

ANGELA

I'm my Angela.... John isn't it?

JOE

Yeah. No it's Joe, after my grandfather.

ANGEL

He'll be back in a few minutes. I'll tell him you want him.

JOE

OK.

(He sits)

ANGELA

You're staring.

JOE

So...

ANGELA

It makes me uncomfortable.

JOE

Makes me horny.

ANGELA

What did you say!?

JOE

I said it. You're not deaf are you?

ANGELA

I don't appreciate that language.

(Pause)

Why did you say it?

JOE

I have a habit of telling the truth.

ANGELA

Must get you in trouble.

JOE

Might get me more than that.

(David enters)

DAVID

I see you guys met. Want a popsicle?

(Joe laughs)

What's so funny!

JOE

It's nothin'. No, no thanks. I gotta go pick up Mom at the garage. You gotta watch " In and Out."

DAVID

Where is she?

JOE

Who knows. Doin' laps on the patio. Nice meeting you Angel.

DAVID

Her name is Angela.

JOE

I know. Later!

(He exits)

DAVID

What a jerk.

ANGELA

He's funny. What flavor you get me?

Scene 6

Nana is sitting in her chair

NANA

All of my life I have watched the water. Listened to the wind. Through the calm, and the storm. Joe Jr. was a hurricane about to blow up the coast. So full of himself, just like my Joe. He knew what he wanted and didn't care what was in his way. David wasn't ready for August, hurricane season. He couldn't see the storm taking shape... but I could.