

# Tyler

This play has been great. You always love working with this group and *The Watchman's Daughter* was the best thing that Crystal has written. Besides, it was great to see your boyfriend Dan get to be the villain. You love watching him take on darker roles. He's such a sweet and caring person, but he's an incredible actor and it gives you chills to watch. You're a behind the scenes person yourself. You hate it when all the attention is focused on you, but you love working with your hands and building things for sets and props to let the actors really shine.

It's hard to find time for these shows, but you make it a priority. You need an artistic outlet, and it lets you do something fun and creative with Dan. Besides, when he's in a show, you'd barely see him if you weren't helping out. In your real life, you're a lead software developer for a tech company, and you love it. It's stressful sometimes, and you work longer hours than you really should, but you like your coworkers and the work provides you with interesting challenges.

As a black man in tech, you also try to keep yourself visible. You've done well for yourself, and you consider it important to be a role model to black boys and young men who are interested in technology. You've faced more than your share of discrimination and people who thought you were the janitor or didn't belong in the building, but at your level, enough people know your name that it isn't as bad. You do some volunteering now and then, but when you're working on a show, pretty much all you do is work, the show and spend time with Dan, but you're ok with that.

You've always been someone who tends to throw yourself completely into relationships. You have mostly dated women in the past, but you've known you were bi since high school, and you're really happy with Dan. You've been together for a little over a year, and you already feel like this could really be it. Dan could really be the one. In most ways, Dan is perfect for you.

Now if only you could make him believe that. Dan had one bad experience in the past when he dated Josh, a bi guy in an open relationship, and Josh eventually left him for a woman. You know Dan loves you, but you feel like he's always afraid that you're going to do the same. You don't know how to convince him that you're not Josh. You don't even want an open relationship. You're just a monogamous person, that's how you're wired. Really, the only problem in this relationship is that Dan doesn't trust you. If he could get over his jealousy, you could see this being the thing you're looking for: marriage, maybe an adopted kid, everything that you want. And you know that Dan wants the same things. You're not crazy, you've only been together for a year, you can't know for sure yet, but this feels right. You just want things to work out.

There's one other thing that you've been thinking about lately. You wrote a play last year during Nanowrimo, and you've been revising it ever since. It's based on your experiences growing up. Your dad was a touring musician, and it's the story of a black teenage boy discovering himself while traveling with his semi-estranged father after growing up mostly with his white mother. It's about their relationship and the experience of being on the road, and about coming out as a bi black kid and struggling with being accepted in any community. It's almost ready to produce. Dan is the only one who has seen it and he really likes it, but he's your boyfriend and you know he's biased. You would love to put it on, but you're not sure that you could make the time to direct something with your job. Besides, Crystal writes great stuff, and you don't want to step on her toes.

## The Cast

**Maria** is an old friend of yours. She's in a relationship that you don't quite understand, with Jason and Skylar, but she seems happy, so that's what really matters. Last night she told you that she's pregnant. She's always wanted kids, but she's not sure that right now is the time and she's really nervous about

how Jason and Skylar are going to take it. She's also worried about having a kid this soon after starting a job that she absolutely loves with Planned Parenthood. You convinced her to wait to tell Jason and Skylar at least until after the show, but you can tell how much it's weighing on her. You're pretty sure it's going to come out tonight, regardless of whether it's the right time. You really hope everything works out for her, but you'll be there for her if things go wrong. God knows that she's heard enough of your complaints about Dan.

**Jason** is Maria's partner of many years. They've been together for almost as long as you've known Maria. The rules of their relationship are complicated and wouldn't work for you, but they seem happy, and you almost can't imagine Maria without Jason at this point.

**Skylar** is a more recent addition to Jason and Maria's relationship, but things seem to be working out for the three of them. At first you were worried that bringing in a new person could be disruptive to Jason and Maria's relationship, but, if anything, Skylar seems to have brought them closer together.

**Dan** is your boyfriend of about a year. You love him and you're really happy to be with him, you just wish that he would realize that. You really think that he could be the one, if only he would stop panicking that you're going to leave him for a woman. The only thing that has ever made you want to leave Dan is that you constantly have to reassure him that you're not going to leave him.

**Crystal** is the writer, director and all around person that makes this company work. This was her best play yet, and you love working with her to help these shows come to life. You've always been happiest in the background, and it's great to get to shine a (metaphorical and literal) spotlight on your boyfriend and your closest friends through such great shows.

**Angela** is a sweet girl who recently got out of a terrible relationship. Before she got into that relationship, she used to be involved in the theater, and the two of you dated briefly, but it just didn't work out. All of that would be fine, except that she's one of Dan's closest friends, which should also be great. The problem is that when she got out of her relationship, she turned to Dan for a place to stay. You were more than happy to help her out, but once Dan found out that the two of you had dated in the past, everything got weird and awkward. Things have been better since she got her own place again, but Dan still gets nervous about it.

**Olivia** is the costume designer, so you wind up working together on a lot of the behind the scenes stuff. Thankfully, she's a lesbian, so she's one woman that Dan doesn't worry about. She's also a woman in tech, so the two of you commiserate a little about working in a white man's world. She's good at her job and you like chatting with her, but the two of you have never been that close.