

Dan

You love the theater company, you love your job, you love your boyfriend. You're really happy, and things are going well. Now if only you could make that voice in the back of your brain believe that it's real.

You're in a good relationship with a wonderful man. You came from a conservative Christian background and didn't come out until your early 20s. You had a few relationships with women before then, but nothing really worked out, of course. You had certainly slept with other men, but only in sleazy bars, and other awful, self-punishing interactions.

The funny thing is that coming out wasn't actually as bad as you feared. Your parents weren't happy, of course, but they didn't try to disown you. You were an adult, and could make your own decisions. They hoped that you would come back, but they really believed in the "love the sinner, hate the sin" doctrine. After a few years, they even stopped preaching at you about it too much. At this point, you think they'd almost be happy to see you marry a man, just to see you settled and stable. They even almost like Dan, although they did a double take the first time they met your black boyfriend.

It's still better than your previous long-term boyfriend. Josh was great at first, but Josh was bi and wanted an open relationship. You were ok with it: it was your first serious relationship, and you weren't sure what to expect anyway. You even liked the freedom to sleep around a little. But then things went south. After you had been together for almost a year, he started getting more and more serious with Kelly, a woman he had been seeing. Finally, she told him that she wanted to be monogamous, and he left you, just like that. Last year you heard that they got married.

After that you decided: no more bi guys. You've heard about this happening before, and you just didn't think you could trust them. You dated around, had a few short relationships, but nothing really worked out. Then Tyler came along. He was sweet, he was funny, he cared about theater as much as you did, he treated you really well, but he was bi. Finally, you gave in and started dating him. He wanted to be monogamous, and you were nervous about him leaving you like Josh did, so you decided you were ok with it.

A year in, everything is great, except that you still can't help watching him like a hawk when he's talking to attractive women. You don't think he's cheating on you, you just can't quite believe that he's not going to leave you for a woman at some point. Ideally, you'd actually prefer to open the relationship up a little. No matter how much you love Tyler, being with just one person for this long has been hard. But you're too scared to do it. What if this is the excuse he needs to leave?

Still, working on the *Nightwatchman's Daughter* together has been great. There's nothing like working on a play together to remind you of why you fell in love with him. He cares about it so much, his work on props and sets is great, and the way he just watches you with adoration while you're on stage makes you feel like the best actor in the world. Which you certainly know you're not.

You're a mediocre actor in community theater and you know it. You'd love to get some bigger parts, but at least you consistently get cast here. Playing the villain this time has been fun, but you'd love a lead part one of these days. It also makes you feel a little guilty at work. You're a high school English teacher, and you run the drama program. You feel like you're not really qualified for that, some of these kids are practically better actors than you, but someone needs to do it, and no one else is available. You love seeing the kids growing and learning, and you remember your high school drama program and how important it was to you. At least the kids are having fun.

This show has been complicated for you in one way, however. One of your oldest friends, Angela,

recently broke up with her boyfriend of almost 5 years. She stayed with you for a few weeks while she got her own place and got back on her feet. She used to be in theater with you in college, and you encouraged her to get back involved with community theater. It was great, she actually jumped in and got the female lead for the play right off the bat. The only complication was when you found out she and Tyler dated. You know it was years ago and they're just friends now, but it's still hard for you not to worry.

The Cast

Maria is an old friend of Tyler's. It scared you at first to see them together, but this one, at least, you've finally gotten over. If anything was ever going to happen between those two it would have happened years ago. You know Tyler needs friends, and Maria seems to be really good for him.

Jason is Maria's long-term boyfriend. They have some sort of open relationship, and it seems to be working really well for them. They recently added Skylar to the mix, but, amazingly, that's been stable so far. Jason is really cute, and you always thought he was straight, but getting involved with Skylar has made you wonder. Skylar isn't exactly male, you get that, but they're not exactly female either. Maybe if you ever do open your relationship up a little you'll get to find out how flexible Jason is.

Skylar started dating Maria quite some time ago, before you and Tyler got together. It was more recently that Skylar started dating Jason as well and moved in with them. You hope it works out for them. You've had a few friends in triads, and things usually seem to end explosions.

Tyler is your boyfriend, and he's wonderful. You really do know that he loves you and isn't cheating on you, you just have trouble making the voices in the back of your head believe it. You really want to trust him, and you really want to make this work.

Crystal does amazing work with this company. She is a great director and a great writer. You love working with her, but the truth is that she could be doing much bigger things. You're not sure whether to hope that she finds them or hope that she stays.

Angela is an old friend who recently got out of a bad relationship. She stayed with you for a few weeks while trying to find her own place. It was during that time that you learned that she and Tyler used to date. You know there's nothing between them now, but it was really hard to leave them alone together in the house. You were really glad when she got her own place. You're still glad that you brought her back into theater. She's a great actress and she and Crystal reconnected immediately.

Olivia is the costumer. She and Tyler chat about theater tech and work tech, and she's a lesbian, so even you can't get nervous about their friendship.