

A Rebellion

By Krystle Johnson

## CHARACTERS

MAMA JOAN      New Orleans accent. Wise.

ROY              New Orleans accent. Strong.

ACT I

SCENE 5

*(Scene opens up with Roy sitting on the ground outside of his mother's restaurant. He is beginning to nod off, but is awoken by the shining sun in his eyes. Getting up from the ground, he pauses, dusts himself off and starts his trek home.)*

*(Upon his arrival home, Mama Joan is in the kitchen waiting for him.)*

MAMA JOAN

Roy is that you?

ROY

Yes mama.

MAMA JOAN

Boy get your behind in this kitchen right now.

*(Roy walks into the kitchen where Mama Joan is standing with a cup of coffee in her hand.)*

ROY

Yes ma'am.

MAMA JOAN

Where in the hell have you been? Do you know I haven't slept a wink all night because I stayed up worried about you?

ROY

I was watching the restaurant.

MAMA JOAN

What the restaurant need watching for? I'm pretty sure I locked it up before I left.

ROY

They tried to burn it down, ma.

MAMA JOAN

What?

ROY

I was walking down the street and they were coming in the opposite direction, straight for your restaurant and I had to do something mama, I couldn't just stand there and watch them burn it to the ground.

MAMA JOAN

Who?

ROY

The KKK.

*(Mama Joan puts down the cup of coffee she has in her hand and begins frantically searching Roy for any signs of cuts and bruises. She smacks him when she doesn't find a scratch on him.)*

MAMA JOAN

Are you crazy!

ROY

But mama-

MAMA JOAN

But mama nothing, you should of never done that! They could have hurt or worse killed you. I've always told you to stay as far away from them as possible, why would you put yourself in that kind of situation?

ROY

Because I couldn't let them do that to something that you gave up so much to build.

MAMA JOAN

You think I rather have a restaurant than a son?

ROY

No.

MAMA JOAN

Exactly, you think I want them to do you just like they did that Emmett Till boy? Just because it happened over ten years ago doesn't mean times has changed boy! They will kill you and get away with it. Don't ever forget that, do you hear me?

ROY

Yes ma'am.

MAMA JOAN

Now you're going to stay out of trouble until it's time for you to leave and go back to school.

ROY

Is that it?

MAMA JOAN

No, sit down.

*(Roy pulls a chair from under the kitchen table and sits  
down and Mama Joan follows suit.)*

MAMA JOAN

I know you were trying to help me Roy and I appreciate it, I really do but I could have lived without the restaurant if that meant having you. Look at you baby, you're nineteen, you're in college and you're black. How many people your age can say that? They either end up dead or behind bars.

ROY

But mama what they're doing, it's not right. Why do I have to watch what I do because they'll kill me at a drop of a dime, where's the fairness in this?

MAMA JOAN

There is no fairness when you colored son. They don't care who they kill, but what can we do?

ROY

We can do a lot mama, all we got to do is stand up for ourselves.

MAMA JOAN

Let me tell you something boy, doing something is what got your father killed 19 years ago and I refuse to let you go down the same road. There's no winning with white people; your sister has only an ounce of black in her and they still treat her like she's full Negro. There's nothing you can do that can change their way of thinking.

ROY

What do you mean she's not full Negro, ma?

MAMA JOAN

Alright I guess you're old enough to know the truth now. You father didn't die when I was pregnant with Loraine, he was killed when I was pregnant with you.

ROY

What? That doesn't make sense ma... then who's her father? Why would you lie to me?

MAMA JOAN

I didn't want to answer these same questions that you're asking me right now. Do you really want to know why I kept this from you?

ROY

Yes ma'am.

MAMA JOAN

When you were a few months old I worked for a white couple and usually the wife was with me there, but one day she wasn't and her husband was.

ROY

I thought you said you would never work for white people, mama.

MAMA JOAN

And you're about to hear the reason why if you just listen.

ROY

Okay, I'm sorry.

MAMA JOAN

That man raped me that day. When I threatened to tell, you know what he did? He laughed in my face and said "who would believe a negro over me?" I left that day and never returned and that's how Loraine came about.

ROY

I'm sorry that happened to you mama.

MAMA JOAN

(Shakes her head) Oh no baby, don't be sorry. Your sister is one of the best things that's happened to me.

ROY

How could you forgive them just like that?

MAMA JOAN

Because, I have God in me and with that, nobody can break me.

ROY

(Scoffs.)

MAMA JOAN

One day you're going to understand. Now go wake your sister up for school.

ROY

Yes ma'am.