

TOO, TOO SOLID FLESH

a short play by
Peter M. Floyd

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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

CHLOE, female, 20 - 35
ISABEL, female, 20 - 35
MAX, male, 20 - 35

A bar. CHLOE, ISABEL and MAX sit at a counter, or around the table. Each has a pilsner in front of them. ISABEL's is about half-filled with beer, CHLOE's is nearly empty, and MAX's appears to be untouched. They are all drunk, especially CHLOE. ISABEL has her hand stretched out on the table/bar, and MAX casually holds it with his own, as boyfriends do. CHLOE is expostulating, and is the center of attention. We begin in the midst of a conversation.

CHLOE

No, listen. I'm serious.

ISABEL

Sure.

MAX

'Course you are.

CHLOE

Fuck you, I am! This is a real, honest-to-shit scholarly theory. Creation is creation, right?

MAX

Can't argue with that, Chloe. That's some profound thinking there.

CHLOE

Creation is creation. Whether you're God or a poet. So, here's the thing: whenever a writer, an artist makes something, it becomes real. The word is made flesh. Right?

ISABEL

I honestly have no idea what you're trying to say.

CHLOE

So, let's say a writer creates a character. That character then comes into existence. See?

ISABEL

No.

CHLOE

Jesus. Okay, do this. Pick a character.

MAX

What?

CHLOE

A character. A fucking literary character. Anyone.

ISABEL

Fine. Um, I don't know... Hamlet?

CHLOE

Hamlet. Of course it's Hamlet. It's always Hamlet. A thousand years of fucking English literature, and somehow it always comes back to fucking Hamlet.

ISABEL

Fine, I'll pick someone else.

CHLOE

No, too late. Actually, Hamlet's a good example. (*She takes a drink.*)

MAX

...Of what?

Pause.

MAX

Chloe?

CHLOE

Is this Sam Adams? It doesn't taste like Sam Adams.

ISABEL

What is Hamlet an example of?

CHLOE

What? Oh, right. So, William Shakespeare wrote *Hamlet*. Okay? He creates this character. (*as Shakespeare*) "Here's me writing about this tight-assed Dane whose life is going

down the crapper." And so, *poof!* Somewhere out there, Hamlet comes into existence. Like, a real person.

MAX

Hamlet is real?

CHLOE

As real as the nose on your chin.

ISABEL

Right. I mean, there was a historical Hamlet, wasn't there? Shakespeare took this story from like Danish history...

CHLOE

I'm not talking about fucking historical fucking Hamlet. I'm talking about fucking William fucking Shakespeare's fucking Hamlet.

ISABEL

Shakespeare's Hamlet?

CHLOE

Yeah.

MAX

From the play? With the iambic pentameter and everything?

CHLOE

Yes! When you create a work of fiction, you literally create that world. It's out there. Somewhere. You are that world's god. And you don't even know it! Somewhere there's a world where *Hamlet* really happened, and Shakespeare is god of that world. There's another world where *Pride and Prejudice* is true, and Jane Austen is goddess there. And somewhere, in some pathetic shithole, there's a world where *Twilight* is real, and the god of that world is whoever the fuck that person is who wrote *Twilight*.

ISABEL

You really believe that?

CHLOE

It's a working theory. Just bear with me. So, get this. Imagine you're Hamlet.

FOR FULL SCRIPT, CONTACT PMFLOYD01@GMAIL.COM