

GOOD NIGHT FOR SOME BURGS

Written by

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EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

APOLLO a man in his early forties dressed in a faded father of the year shirt and brand new super blue jeans and very white sneakers, opens the squeaky lid of his gas grill.

He turns and jimmies the burner knob on and hits the electric start.

Nothing happens, just a hiss.

Apollo sighs, staring at the ghost of a sear.

He takes out a road rashed Viking logo Bic lighter and holds it at arms length down next to the grill grate.

He winches his face and strikes the pocket dragon.

Nothing, just the continued hiss.

Apollo pokes the dragon again.

WHOOSH BOOMP!

The whole top of the grill burst in a propane bubble pop inferno.

Apollo peels back stumbling to the side banging into the neighbors tall wooden privacy fence, dropping the lighter.

Quickly he feels his face with his hand over and over examining quickly to see if there's anything on his hands.

Twin eleven year old boys, barefoot in T's and shorts, come racing around from the front of the house, blast from their super soakers making there Dad Apollo a friendly fire victim.

APOLLO

Enough, you knock this meat on the ground then that ones yours.

Both twins turn in unison, firing drowning headshots at their Dad.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

(wiping his face off with his shirt)

Grounded for life!

Both boys zip zig zag to the front yard laughing hysterically.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

And your little dog too.

Apollo grabs a meat paddy off the plate on the side of the grill and drops it banging onto the crusty grate.

Turning the burner down to low he plop bangs the rest of frozen burgers onto the grill.

He glares at the thirty percent fat hamburger as they barely sizzle.

Flipping them he waits ten seconds then snaps them back.

Sounds of laughter bounce off the side of the neighbors house from the front yard.

SOLANA
 (from over the tall wooden
 fence)
 Sugartit, Cumbubble, Twatwaffles!
 (pause)

APOLLO
 Uh, hello?

SOLANA
 Ahh, shit.

APOLLO
 Are you ok?

SOLANA
 Yeah, sorry. This suntan lotions is
 super cold from being inside. I the
 air-conditioning at sixty six.

APOLLO
 I'll bet that's quit the jolt.

SOLANA
 I'm pretty hot blooded so it warms
 up quick, but yeah.

Apollo gives the patties a quick flip.

APOLLO
 I thought I heard someone moving in
 over there.

SOLANA
 Yeah, I'm still box spelunking for
 everything I need, can opener to
 panties.

APOLLO
 It's a pretty quiet neighborhood.

SOLANA

Yeah, I've never lived on a dead
end street.

APOLLO

Don't have friends park at the end.

SOLANA

Ok, why?

APOLLO

The cars coming down that still
can't read the sign won't have room
to turn around.

SOLANA

Oh gotcha, you're smart.

APOLLO

Don't want someone trying to get
out of here, backing up and super
mad.

SOLANA

Good call.

APOLLO

The quiet around here though allows
you to stay sane.

SOLANA

Sane is boring to me.

APOLLO

Oh gotcha.

Apollo turn the still frozen burgers with four dead thuds.

SOLANA

If one of my small parties gets to
loud just let me know.

APOLLO

The neighbors before you put up
this nice tall fence, very rude I
thought.

SOLANA

Better for me to suntan with
though.

APOLLO

I was cleaning my gutters during one of their parties and was looking over for a while.

SOLANA

Giving them the high side eye?

APOLLO

My neighbor Bob was naked in a giant birdcage going up around to the bars pecking at people as they mingled by.

SOLANA

Oh wow.

APOLLO

He saw me.

SOLANA

Well you were lookin'

APOLLO

Him and his wife never came to church again.

SOLANA

Well I'm not religious and I don't have a bird.

APOLLO

I never did get my hose back.

SOLANA

To each his own I guess.

Apollo tosses the patties over pressing down on them hard with the spatula.

SOLANA (CONT'D)

I wish I was shy.

The twin boys come tearing around from the front of the house.

APOLLO

Get out of here with those on water blasters, you'll put your eye out and I'm having a conversation.

The boys aim at their dad and miss, then run back into the front yard laughing.

SOLANA

Those your two boys. I see them all the time out front.

APOLLO

Those are the twins, loving little monsters. They have a great instinct for knowing when I have nothing better to do than clean up after them.

SOLANA

Kids will be kids.

APOLLO

I see a great future in them when they're sleeping but not when they're awake.

SOLANA

Auh, they seem so sweet.

APOLLO

Pure confection, kids are little love cakes with germ frosting.

SOLANA

They are always laughing, you seem like a great Dad.

APOLLO

My man cave is a giant box fort maze and I keep them alive on chicken nuggets and cinnamon toast crunch.

SOLANA

I fucking love the crunch.

APOLLO

Most of my fatherly advice is from Coen Brothers movies.

SOLANA

Then you're a Dude Dad, I just had a father.

Apollo snaps the patties over.

APOLLO

Having kids shortens your vocabulary to no, clean your room and is your homework done.

SOLANA
What's their names?

APOLLO
The twins?... Cane and Abel.

SOLANA
Wow, you didn't.

APOLLO
No I didn't, my wife did. Filled out the birth certificate when I went for a smoke... When I still smoked and didn't go to church.

SOLANA
Uh... Is one good and one bad?

APOLLO
They both should be named Cane, one with a C and one with a K.

SOLANA
I'm religious enough to know you're pretty funny like a comedian.

APOLLO
Stopped touring eleven years ago.

SOLANA
Guys laugh at things I say but most of the time but I'm just being mean.

Apollo presses down on the patties with the spatula trying for a good sear.

APOLLO
You don't seem mean at all.

SOLANA
I haven't seen your wife around, ever?

APOLLO
Oh she's on Everest?

SOLANA
Everest?

APOLLO
Mt. Everest the tallest mountain in the world.

Apollo tries to close the lid of the grill easily at first then forcefully, it doesn't budge.

SOLANA

Oh wow she is so cool.

APOLLO

Oh very cool, she trained to go after the twins were born to lose the baby weight.

SOLANA

That's a fun way to do it, good for her, so she went by herself and did it?

APOLLO

She made it to the summit in record time.

SOLANA

That's great. So she just went again?

APOLLO

There was a freak storm on the way down. Her and her party got lost. She froze to death that night.

SOLANA

Oh my God so tragic.

APOLLO

They never bring the bodies down, she died on top of the world.

SOLANA

At least that's something. What a way to go.

APOLLO

She didn't have to go.
(pause)

APOLLO (CONT'D)

The boys like to try to send updated picture of themselves every year to Nepal hoping a climber can pin them to her as they walk by.

SOLANA

They found her?

APOLLO
Three feet off the trail.

SOLANA
You mean she's right there out
there as you walk by?

APOLLO
Eyes wide open, pointed at the sun.

SOLANA
Wow.

APOLLO
We sent her new sunglasses last
year, but they were returned.

Apollo gives the burgers a flip, puts a hand down right
against the grate and kicks the grill.

SOLANA
What was that?

APOLLO
Oh this damn grill never heats up
right anymore.

SOLANA
Get a new one.

APOLLO
It was a wedding present.

Apollo kicks the grill again a little too hard, sending it
tumbling and crashing over on its side.

APOLLO (CONT'D)
Twatwaffles!

The half frozen pink burgers slide off onto the freshly mowed
grass.

SOLANA
Hey that's mine.

APOLLO
Hey if I'm gonna get a new grill...
Something borrowed something blue.

Apollo pulls the flimsy tilting grill back up to duty.

SOLANA
That sounded bad, did you save
whatever you're grilling?

APOLLO

The burgers have nice grass skirt
on them now.

SOLANA

Hula burgers. You just need some
pineapple.

APOLLO

Pineapple hurts my mouth, when
you're eating it, it's eating you.

SOLANA

It's a great night for some burgs,
I hate to see your dinner ruined.

APOLLO

I can already hear the crunch
hitting the bowls.

SOLANA

I haven't tried it yet but I gotta
hose over here, I could spray the
patties off over the fence.

APOLLO

The grass will burn off.

SOLANA

Just hold them up and I'll spray
them quick.

APOLLO

Well they are still pretty frozen.

SOLANA

We'd both have to jump at the same
time?

APOLLO

This fence is really high.

SOLANA

Not that high.

APOLLO

Ok... I'll try.

Apollo bend over and picks up a patty.

From the other side of the fence we hear water starting to
spray.

SOLANA
Hose works great.

APOLLO
I know.

Apollo stands in front of the fence burger patty held high but they don't reach the top.

APOLLO (CONT'D)
I'm ready with the burgers. Jump on three or four?

SOLANA
Three.

APOLLO
One two then jump on three or one two three jump on four.

SOLANA
Three.

APOLLO
Ok, one, two--

APOLLO (CONT'D)
Hold on.

SOLANA
What?

Apollo moves a foot, bends down and picks up a Frisbee he's standing on.

SOLANA (CONT'D)
What?

APOLLO
I was standing on one of the boys toys.

Apollo almost puts a patty in his mouth to hold it but holds the frozen burger with one hand and with the other flings the frisbee high over the houses roof into the front yard.

SOLANA
Nice launch. Ready now?

Apollo reaches over to the grill.

APOLLO
Hold on let me grab another one.

Apollo, patty in each hand, squats up and down bending his legs at the knees.

SOLANA

Now?

APOLLO

I think I'm ready, you ready?

SOLANA

Noah's building the arch, squirrels coming out of the trees in twos.

APOLLO

One, two--

SOLANA

THREE!

Apollo jumps up, arms shooting high, hands holding the patties just over the top of the fence.

A blast of hose water double taps the meat cleaning them.

SOLANA (CONT'D)

Got 'em!

Apollo lands uneven on the ground, stumbling out of breath.

SOLANA (CONT'D)

Ready?

APOLLO

Let me grab the other ones.

SOLANA

No the other side.

APOLLO

Oh yeah.

Apollo flips the patties around.

SOLANA

(quickly)

One, two, THREE!

Apollo vaults up again not quite ready.

He barely gets the burgers above the fence as two short blast of water knock the final bits of grass skirt off the now naked patties.

Apollo frumps down hard to the ground.

SOLANA (CONT'D)
Yeah! I'm gettin' good at this.

Apollo examine the patties and blows one small blade of grass off.

APOLLO
Looks good, I'm impressed

SOLANA
Teamwork makes the clean work.

Apollo sets the nude burgers on the grate.

SOLANA (CONT'D)
Lets go I gotta itchy trigger
finger now.

Apollo looks down.

APOLLO
Hold on my shoes untied.

Apollo bends down and ties his shoe.

SOLANA
Yeah you don't want to jump out of
your shoes come down and hurt
yourself.

APOLLO
I'm still in pretty good shape.

SOLANA
I never work out, I'm a natural.
All natural.

Apollo stands up stretching.

The Frisbee come flying in souring over the roof without him noticing it.

APOLLO
I used to be able to bench press a
couple hundred.

THUNK!

The Frisbee plunks Apollo right in the groin.

APOLLO (CONT'D)
OH...

Apollo grabs his groin and heaps to the ground, writhing in pain.

APOLLO (CONT'D)
(strained)
Cumbubble...

SOLANA
What?

APOLLO
(moaning)
Nothin'

SOLANA
What happened I was fiddling with
the hose?

APOLLO
(strained)
Frisbee... Over house... Right in
the--

SOLANA
Cumbubble... You Ok?

Apollo slowly bowl leg stances to his feet.

APOLLO
I'm great. Still in shape.

SOLANA
Ok! You good to go? My hose is
ready.

Apollo reaches of to the grill and turns the flame on high.

APOLLO
I'll just blaze them clean... I
feel the burn.

SOLANA
Auhh, I was ready--

SOLANA (CONT'D)
Incoming!

Apollo glances fast over the roof, winching.

Two squirrels scramble suddenly over the fence hopping into
Apollos tomato patch.

APOLLO
Get out of here you damn tree rats.

SOLANA

Not a fan of the squirrel.

APOLLO

They eat my tomato's just when they get ripe. They're like canteens to them.

SOLANA

A nice backyard beer to the little treasures.

APOLLO

Oh yeah, little treasures.

The twins come flying around the house blasting there super soakers.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

I eat them green and fried so they never get any now.

SOLANA

I'm thirsty for a beer now.

APOLLO

Hey! One of you two trouble magnets go in and get me some of Daddies medicine. Make it two.

The twins continue laughing and shooting each other.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

NOW!

Still laughing they both run in the back door.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

No shooting in the Damn house!

APOLLO (CONT'D)

One beer coming up.

SOLANA

You're so sweet, thanks.

APOLLO

I have my own wait staff, somewhat reluctant but you don't have to tip.

The boys come exploding out the door and as they run past Apollo laughing. One suddenly launches a beer at Dad and hurl the other up over the fence.

APOLLO (CONT'D)
(juggling to catch his
beer)
INCOMING!

Apollo twist off the top of his beer.

APOLLO (CONT'D)
You get it?

SOLANA
Yeah sort of.

APOLLO
Did it break, I didn't hear
anything?

SOLANA
No it landed in my pie a bit just
as I caught it.

APOLLO
Your pie?

SOLANA
My apple pie. It broke my spork.

APOLLO
Spork?

SOLANA
You gotta have a spork to get all
the cinnamon sugary gooey goodness.

APOLLO
There's science to it?
(pause)

APOLLO (CONT'D)
So that's your dinner?

SOLANA
I bought two, but I'm only hungry
for one now.

APOLLO
That would fill me up, I wouldn't
be able to eat my burg.

SOLANA
It's been awhile since I've had
good cleaned burg.

APOLLO
I've gotten a lot more
sophisticated at cooking. Burgers
are my best dish.

SOLANA
Beer looks like it taste good.

Apollo smiling, flips the patties with a hint of char.

APOLLO
Oh Damn!

SOLANA
What?

Apollo bends over and starts shaking his head.

APOLLO
Dang Robin crapped on my head.

SOLANA
I hear that's good luck.

APOLLO
For the bird.

SOLANA
Well for you too.

APOLLO
I stand here like a statue enough
I'm surprised it doesn't happen
more.

Apollo grabs his beer off the grill shelf and pours some on
his hair rinsing it a bit.

SOLANA
You should shower.

APOLLO
Just poured some beer on it. I'd
prolly spill some brew anyway.

SOLANA
A beer shampoo. I think I remember
me Mom doing that. What kind of
suds is this? What a name.

APOLLO
BrewDog Tactical Nuclear Penguin.

Apollo runs a hand through his hair quickly, back and forth trying to dry it a bit then takes a long swig of his beer.

SOLANA

Sugartit! Take a big gulp and that's strong.

APOLLO

Thirty two percent alcohol, did you taste the hint of roasted coffee and chocolate?

SOLANA

Three of these and I'll taste whatever you want me to taste.

APOLLO

It's not to offensive is it?

SOLANA

When you stop offending people you die the first time. This kicks in the life. Woo!

Apollo flips the burgers with even more char and presses down on them with the spatula.

SOLANA (CONT'D)

So...

APOLLO

Yes you can have another one, but only two.

SOLANA

So what's your name? Adam?

Apollo mid bottle tilt does a small spit take.

APOLLO

You are funny. No it's Apollo.

Solana laughs out loud.

SOLANA

Named after the Greek God of the sun?

APOLLO

No, not the Greek God.

SOLANA

Apollo's an old family name?

APOLLO

Uh...

Apollo takes another long draw of the Brewdog.

SOLANA

Well we can't be quiet now.

APOLLO

Ok... My folks were fans of the space race... Super fans... Super, super fans.

SOLANA

So you're a rocket.

APOLLO

Uh...

SOLANA

That's cute... Oh what was it? One small step for a man?

APOLLO

That is the RIGHT way to say it.

SOLANA

Isn't there more?

APOLLO

Their was so much teasing.

SOLANA

Teasing wasn't a bit of fun?

APOLLO

As you age you grow out of it thankfully.

SOLANA

Well don't be embarrassed, we all have something. My name is Solana. Means sunlight.

APOLLO

That's so cool it's actually untearable.

Apollo slaps the burgers with the back of the spatula.

SOLANA

I have not one but two shitty birthmarks.

Apollo looks over towards the fence.

SOLANA (CONT'D)
I have a little heart shaped thing
just above my butt crack AND a
hickey looking conversation piece
right here on my neck.

Apollo wipes his forehead with the back of his hand.

APOLLO
Grill is finally getting hot.

SOLANA
There's a nice cool breeze over
here.

Apollo snaps the burgers over and take a guzzle of roasted
coffee and Chocolate.

SOLANA (CONT'D)
So what do you do for work God of
the Sun?

APOLLO
Oh... I just run and own the Video
Video store off of Main.

SOLANA
For Hub Kinda stuff?

Apollo hears Solana slap a drumbeat on her skin from over the
fence.

APOLLO
I don't get it?

Solana laughs out loud snorting.

SOLANA
A video store is like a museum to
me. I've never been in one.

APOLLO
Oh... Never?

SOLANA
Nope never.

APOLLO
Do you like foreign films?

SOLANA
Readers?

APOLLO
Yes the readers.

SOLANA
Yeah I do, they tend to have real endings, more humanity human.

APOLLO
We have a lot of those.

SOLANA
But you go out feeling the same way as when you went in.

APOLLO
I guess...

SOLANA
When I'm down I watch horror films, I'm always pretty happy when they're over.

APOLLO
Scare the blue out with the black.

SOLANA
The dark rainbow you know it.

APOLLO
And the fools gold is at the end of the Netflix and chill world.

SOLANA
Oh I don't know about that.

APOLLO
Think about it. Videos stores are the best. You and your date have to go somewhere. How do you get there? Who drives.

SOLANA
They'd better have a car.

APOLLO
When you get there you have to pick some snacks.

SOLANA
It had better be Red Vines and popcorn if I'm paying.

APOLLO
Who's paying?

Apollo flips the burgers almost losing one to grill hell through the gap on the end of the grate.

SOLANA
Better yet you can.

APOLLO
And then your first major decision
as a couple.

SOLANA
No couple yet.

APOLLO
Movie do you want to watch? What
movie are left and you have to
compromise on.

SOLANA
You just pick one.

APOLLO
You say that but a lot of the ones
I would like are checked out
Because we got there right before
closing, because I was waiting for
you to get ready.

Apollo wipes his sweating brow with his T-shirt sleeve and peers up at the setting sun

SOLANA
No that's not it, it's Because I
danced the late mid shift but had
to hang around the club Because you
were late picking me up Because the
babysitter bailed and you had to
talk your Mom into it but she was
reluctant Because she doesn't like
what I do, though if she were a 7-
Eleven ten like me she would have
done the same thing for the rain,
but she wants more grandchildren,
maybe a Jezebel or Mary Magdalene
this time around but she was late
Because she stopped off at the
liquor store to buy you a six pack
of the Nuclear Penguin to put a
tuxedo on the movie reading party
and help chaperone it along to her
desired new Grand conclusion.

Apollo flips the burgers in silence.

SOLANA (CONT'D)

Well?

Apollo gazes at the fence.

SOLANA (CONT'D)

Nothing?

APOLLO

That is exactly to a T how that might go.

SOLANA

But? There's always a but.

APOLLO

But we still have to pick a movie.

SOLANA

Ok let's pick.

APOLLO

There are only two choices left.

SOLANA

Two? You better have a nice car.

APOLLO

And of these two we have "Breathless" and "Eight and a Half"

SOLANA

A girl can hope.

APOLLO

"Breathless" a bad romance in Paris or "Eight and a Half" sexed up fantasies of a director.

Apollo crushes down on the burgers with the spatula and buries them into the grill.

SOLANA

Those the only two left?

APOLLO

Only two.

SOLANA

Right at closing time?

APOLLO

Three minutes to go. The clerk has his car keys in his hand.

SOLANA
Well that's easy.

APOLLO
How is that easy? They are two of
the best movies ever made.

SOLANA
Is it a weekend?

APOLLO
It can be the weekend.

SOLANA
(Apollo takes a swash of
beer gargling a bit)
Well your Mom is watching the
twins, so you won't have to take
the babysitter home and I live next
store so we can be up all night
reading movies and taking breaks
and it's closing time so there's no
guilt about anyone coming in after
you and being left with nothing to
watch, so we get them both. Well
you get both, you're paying.

Apollo just stares at the grill perfectly still.

SOLANA (CONT'D)
Ok, Ok I'll pay, but you're getting
free babysitting and I have to push
a couple kids out.

Apollo opens up a pack of buns and positions them in a
perfect square on a plate.

SOLANA (CONT'D)
Hello?

Apollo flips the burgers, his mouth tightly closed.

APOLLO
The burgers are done! A little too
done. You want one?

The twins come dashing around from the front yard with heavy
water balloons in their hands.

SOLANA
I thought you'd never ask.

APOLLO
Hey slow down.

SOLANA
I didn't think I was going fast.

The boys bolt up to there Dad screaming with laughing as they heave catapult their weighty balloons at him.

SOLANA (CONT'D)
Hello?

APOLLO
No!!

One of the balloons smashes into Apollo drenching him in water soaked to the bone.

He deflects the other soring water dirigible away from him up and high over the fence.

SOLANA
I've been smelling them this whole time, I'm pretty hungry.

A large SPLASH!

Silence.

APOLLO
Did they get you? I'm so sorry.

SOLANA
Oh...

Apollo jumps up high by the fence, then plummets down and stumbles.

APOLLO
Oh what? Are you soaked? Did they get the pie? I was thinking that could be dessert.

SOLANA
Oh I'm got good, and how.

APOLLO
(shaking the spatula at the twins)
You two waffles back to the front yard and no more water balloons you heathens.

Apollo swats one on the butt as they take off.

APOLLO (CONT'D)
So you're drenched?

SOLANA
(laughing)
I'll dry pretty quick no worries,
so I do get a burger?

APOLLO
You can have them all.

SOLANA
Just one, the biggest one.

APOLLO
Want me to toss the bun then the
burger over? On three?

SOLANA
Actually there is a door latch
thingy right here on my side of the
fence.

APOLLO
Huh?

Apollo side eyes over towards Solana's voice.

SOLANA
Yeah I think this panel of the
fence just opens up.

Apollo walks up to the fence spatula in hand and pushes on
the fence a couple of times, it doesn't move.

SOLANA (CONT'D)
Cane and Abel are out front?

APOLLO
Oh I don't think they'll be back
for a while, Why?

SOLANA
Hold on let me grab dessert.

Apollo pushes on the fence a few more times, a little harder
with each increasing nudge.

There is a clink.

Suddenly the fence patrician swings in wide open.

A very pretty young women, late twenties with long wet hair
is standing totally nude in the opening, glistening beads of
water dripping off of her as she holds her all American
dessert.

APOLLO
That pie looks pretty good.

THE END