

THE BOYS IN THE BAND

"If you ask me, I will tell you"

2 actors
Man/Man

(Drama)

INT. A LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

LARRY, 42, and HANK, 54, are arguing about their relationship in front of their friends.

LARRY

What do you think it's like to live with a goddamn Gestapo, huh? Can't even take a breath without getting the third degree. And I am so sick of this let's-be-faithful-and-never-look-at-a-nother-person routine. That doesn't work. If you want to promise that, fine. Then you promise it and you stick to it. But if you have to promise it, as far as I'm concerned, nothing finishes a relationship faster. Freedom! You gotta have it! It doesn't work any other way. And - and the ones who swear their undying fidelity to each other are lying. Most of them, anyway - 90% of them. They cheat on each other constantly and then they lie through their teeth. I'm sorry I can't be like that. It drives Hank up the wall.

HANK

There is that 10%.

LARRY

The only way it stands a chance is with some kind of understanding.

HANK

I've tried to go along with that.

LARRY

Come on!

HANK

I agreed to an agreement.

LARRY

Your agreement!

(Beat)

A ménage. I know a lot of people think that's the answer, but that's not my style.

HANK

Well, I certainly didn't want it!

LARRY

Well, then who suggested it?

HANK

It was a compromise!

LARRY

Exactly!

HANK

You agreed!

LARRY

I didn't agree to anything. You agreed to your own proposal and then informed me that I agreed!

HANK

It works for some.

LARRY

Well, I'm not one for group therapy. I can't relate to anyone or anything like that. I'm old-fashioned. I like 'em all, but I like 'em one at a time.

(Beat)

Don't look at me like that, Hank. You've been playing footsie with that penguin all night. Oh! Oh, I suppose you want the three of us to have a go at it.

HANK

At least that would be together.

LARRY

Well, that point eludes me.

HANK

What kind of an understanding do you want?

LARRY

Respect! Respect for each other's freedom without any need to lie or pretend. Hank, in my way, I love you, but you have to understand that even though I wanna go on living with you, sometimes there might be others. And if that happens, I know I'll never mention it, but if you ask me, I will tell you.