

COUCH POLITICS

a play in one act

by

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COUCH POLITICS character list

ETHAN: Young man. Likes LILY.

JOHN: Young man. Likes MIA.

ARTHUR: Young man. Oblivious.

MIA: Young woman.

LILY: Young woman.

Tag Line

5 people. Only 4 spots on the couch. Feelings are involved.

SCENE 1

SETTING:

(Living room interior at night. The room has a single couch in the center. Imaginary door offstage on the right, stool on the left.)

AT RISE:

(ETHAN and JOHN sit centered on the couch.)

ETHAN

John. You ready for 'Realm of the Eldertide'?

JOHN

You mean the greatest fantasy series to ever exist? I was BORN ready, Ethan!

ETHAN

I can't believe this is the finale.

(ARTHUR walks in the door.)

ETHAN

Arthur!

JOHN

Arthur!

(ARTHUR walks up behind them on the couch and places a hand on each guys shoulder.)

ARTHUR

Heeyyyyyyy. So I know how important this show is to you guys and it's usually just us guys. But how would you feel about having some guests?

JOHN

I don't mind if Toby wants to watch with...

ARTHUR

It's not Toby.

ETHAN

Than who...

ARTHUR

Friends from work...

(ETHAN and JOHN stare daggers)

..girls.

(ETHAN stands up in shock.)

ETHAN

GIRLS!?! Does this day mean nothing to you?

JOHN

(laughing hoping it's a joke)

Arthur, this event is sacred. 'Realm of the Eldertide' and girls don't mix!

ARTHUR

Well, I ran into them on my way here and mentioned this and they seemed like fans so inviting them just kinda happen-

JOHN

-You already invited them?!

(The doorbell rings and all of the boys go quiet. ARTHUR goes up to greet MIA and LILY while JOHN and ETHAN hang back unexcited. The girls walk in from the right. JOHN and ETHAN's jaws drop when they see the girls. They try to pick themselves back up.)

LILY

Nice place you got here. Very... simple.

(ETHAN swoops in and goes for a handshake while gently touching LILY's elbow.)

ETHAN

We're in the middle of decorating. I'm Ethan and you are?

(LILY and ETHAN shake hands.)

LILY

Lily.

MIA

I don't mind the place. It's decorated better than most bachelor pads I see.

(JOHN swoops in to shake MIA's hand. Gently touching her shoulder.)

JOHN

I'm John. A bachelor pad this this. One-hundred-percent bachelors. I welcome you to our movie night miss..

MIA

(smiling)

No miss. Just Mia.

(During this talk the boys and girls shift toward the couch and sit down in this order (from left to right): ETHAN, LILY, MIA, JOHN.)

ARTHUR

(Checking his watch.)

It's starting!

(ARTHUR comes over and sits right between MIA and JOHN. Everyone look a little uncomfortable because it's so tight. This pushes ETHAN off the small couch. ETHAN pulls a very tall stool in trying to still sit near LILY. The show begins.)

In order from left to right:

STOOL:

ETHAN

COUCH:

LILY

MIA

ARTHUR

JOHN

(No one is very happy with the seating arrangement except ARTHUR who is completely invested in the show. Fade to black with movie sounds in the background then a transition to a commercial break and the lights come back on to show the passing of time. Everybody is in the same spot but slightly shifted.)

(ARTHUR immediately shoots up and heads for the door.)

ARTHUR

That's commercial break number one, I'm off to pick up pizza, time me!

(ARTHUR exits.)

MIA

Ethan, would you like to sit down, there's a spot on the couch now. I imagine that isn't very comfortable.

(ETHAN looks at LILY then LILY looks at him and he looks away and LILY continues to look at him. ETHAN stands up.)

ETHAN

You know, I think I need to throw my laundry in the dryer. While I'm gone why don't you all take a break? Stretch your legs, (waving his arms) move around a little.

(ETHAN exits.)

LILY

(leaning toward MIA)  
A man who does his laundry.

(JOHN shifts toward MIA.)

JOHN

You know, I... also do my laundry.

(MIA giggles and she and JOHN start cuddling  
and flirting. LILY sighs then stands up.)

LILY

(To JOHN)  
Where's your restroom?

JOHN

(Still looking at MIA)  
Down the hall to the left. There should be two of them.

MIA

Actually, I have to go to. (Flirtily) I'll be right back.

(MIA and LILY exit the stage. ETHAN comes  
back and sits next to JOHN on the center of  
the couch.)

ETHAN

(Low voices) So. ARTHUR. Inviting random people over. Not cool.

JOHN

Super annoying.

ETHAN

Mm-hmm... .. (long pause) They're so hot.

JOHN

Smoking.

ETHAN

I call dibs on Lily.

JOHN

I like Mia better anyway.

(LILY and MIA's walking/chatting can be heard offstage and the boys shut up. MIA sits next to JOHN and LILY sits next to ETHAN. Everybody is happy and flirting. Then ARTHUR walks in with pizza.)

ARTHUR

(To JOHN and ETHAN)

What's my time?!

ETHAN

Uh... (no idea) 3 and a ½ minutes?

ARTHUR

Yes! That's a new record.

(The show starts back up and ARTHUR heads to take a seat. Fade to black.)

(The second commercial break. When the lights come back on the girls are on each side of ARTHUR (who's taking up a lot of space on the couch) cuddling him. ETHAN sits on the floor on the right while JOHN sits on the stool to the left. With the lights on the girls look to see who they're cuddling. LILY and MIA lock eyes in shock and shift up to a normal seated position.)



(ETHAN and JOHN both look a little dejected.  
ARTHUR stretches.)

ARTHUR

I ate way to much pizza. I'll be right back. Ethan, John, you should get some popcorn going!

(ARTHUR exits.)

JOHN

(Standing up)  
Popcorn sounds great.

ETHAN

I'll help you.

(JOHN and ETHAN exit. The girls scooch in to sit centered on the couch.)

LILY

So, what do you think of Arthur?

MIA

Arthur? I... (whispering) I thought I was cuddling with John!

LILY

I thought he was Ethan!

MIA

Ethan is soooo your type.

(ETHAN and JOHN enter with popcorn and the girls shut up. The boys see the two perfectly open spots, look at each other, smile/nod knowingly, then go to sit next to their respective girl.)

(ARTHUR shows up again and takes a seat between the girls. This time nobody moves. The show begins again.)

In order from left to right:

COUCH:

JOHN

MIA

ARTHUR

LILY

ETHAN

(It's cramped and LILY shifts to sit on ETHAN's lap. ARTHUR notices and turns toward LILY.)

ARTHUR

Are you uncomfortable Lily? We have that other chair (pointing to the stool).

(LILY looks at ETHAN then looks to ARTHUR.)

LILY

You know I...

ARTHUR

You're right, that doesn't look comfortable at all. Give me one second.

(ARTHUR bolts up and runs off stage left. Loud banging/rummaging sounds off stage. He comes in dragging a large, very comfy-looking chair. Replaces the stool's spot with it.)

ARTHUR

This is the chair I keep in my room, super soft, yet supportive. (Hands motioning over the chair pointing out its great features like a salesman.)

(ARTHUR heads back to his seat. MIA stops him.)

MIA

Arthur. I think you should sit there.

ARTHUR

You and Lily are the guests, I insist one of you take it. It really is the best.

LILY

All the more reason. You got the pizza, after all, you deserve the best seat.

ARTHUR

Well, if you insist.

(ARTHUR takes a seat in his chair. Very content.)

In order from left to right:

COMFY CHAIR:

ARTHUR

COUCH:

JOHN

MIA

LILY

ETHAN

(Lights fade to black one more time. Movie ends. Lights up. Everyone is freaking out about the ending to the show as they get up and inch toward the door.)

JOHN

I can't believe Torin would turn like that.

LILY

I called it. From episode one he's been acting fishy.

ETHAN

I'm with you there. Kept trying to tell my boy John here not to trust him.

ARTHUR

Ok, but that dinner scene?

(Everybody laughs.)

MIA

(Coming out of laughing)

What am I going to do without 'Realm of the Eldertide' every week?

JOHN

I have some ideas.

(JOHN and MIA share a look. They exchange numbers. ARTHUR starts cleaning up the room in the background.)

LILY

(Looking at the time) I'm always surprised by how late the show goes.

ETHAN

If, next week, you uh, find yourself with nothing to do on a Thursday night, maybe we could grab something to eat and discuss the last season?

LILY

It's a date.

(The boys wave bye to the girls as they exit. ETHAN and JOHN make their way to the center of the room giving each other knowing looks. Strong breaths out.)

JOHN

You know, I was worried, Arthur, but your coworkers seem to really know their stuff.

ETHAN

And they are very... friendly.

(ETHAN and JOHN look at each other. ARTHUR walks up between the two guys and slings an arm around each shoulder.)

ARTHUR

They are pretty nice. As coworkers... I hate to hurt them but I just don't see them that way. (Looking off into the distance.)

(ETHAN and JOHN look confused.)

JOHN

You... what?

ARTHUR

They basically invited themselves over, first of all. And then the cuddling, the looks, making sure I was comfortable.

(ARTHUR leans very close to ETHAN and JOHN and makes deliberate eye contact with both before finishing.)

ARTHUR

(Quiet, definitive tone.) They're into me.

CURTAIN