

INT. RONNY'S APARTMENT - DAY

It's a two-bedroom apartment. The decor reflects Ronny's love of the opera. The furniture is overstuffed, fringed in the colors of Italian passion. But it is all a bit faded, the remains of an old flamboyance. The walls are decorated with opera posters; and over the fireplace there is a painting depicting a scene from "La Boheme": Mimi is standing in the snow. Ronny stares at the picture of Mimi in the La Boheme poster. Loretta comes in from the kitchen and sets down a cup of coffee.

LORETTA

You ready for the coffee?

Loretta moves back into the kitchen. Ronny turns and watches as she walks down the hall.

RONNY

Loretta. What's that smell?

LORETTA

I'm making you a steak.

RONNY

You don't have to help me.

LORETTA

I know that. I do what I want.

RONNY

I like it well done.

LORETTA

You'll eat this bloody to feed your blood.

INT. RONNY'S APARTMENT -DINING ROOM - DAY

CU of Ronny's artificial hand, holding a fork stuck in a steak. With his right he is cutting his steak. He switches hands and eats hungrily. Loretta watches.

RONNY

This is good. Uhh...

LORETTA

Loretta.

RONNY

Where'd Johnny find you?

LORETTA

He knew my husband who died.

RONNY

How'd he die?

LORETTA

Bus hit him.

RONNY

Fast.

LORETTA

Instantaneous.

RONNY

When you get engaged?

LORETTA

Yesterday.

Ronny drops his knife and fork and turns away. Loretta is not surprised and does not move.

RONNY

Why?

LORETTA

Why what?

RONNY

I don't know.

LORETTA

(smiles)

So. Five years ago your hand got cut off and your woman left you for another man. No woman since then?

RONNY

No.

LORETTA

Stupid.

RONNY

When your husband get hit by the bus?

LORETTA

Seven years ago.

RONNY

How many men since then?

LORETTA

Just Johnny.

RONNY

Stupid yourself.

LORETTA

No. Unlucky. I have not been lucky.

RONNY

I don't care about Luck, you understand me? It ain't that.

LORETTA

What? Do you think you're the only one ever shed a tear?

RONNY

Why you talking to me?

LORETTA

You got any whiskey? How 'bout giving me a glass of whiskey?

EXT. STREET NEAR BAKERY - DAY

SHOT OF COSMO & MONA IN THE BUICK

The car has just come to a stop. We see Cosmo & Mona kiss.

She exits car. Cosmo glances around with a slightly guilty look and pulls away.

LORETTA AND RONNY AT THE TABLE WITH A BOTTLE OF WHISKEY

Camera is close on Scotch being poured into two glasses.

Loretta picks up her glass and swallows a healthy dose.

RONNY

She was right to leave me.

LORETTA

You think so?

RONNY

Yes.

LORETTA

You really are stupid, you know that.

Loretta pours herself another shot.

RONNY

You don't know nothing about it.

LORETTA

I was raised that a girl gets married young. I didn't get married until I was twenty-eight. I met a man. I loved him. I married him. He wanted to have a baby right away. I said no. Then he got hit by a bus. No man. No baby. No nothing! I did not

know that man was a gift I could not keep. I didn't know... You tell me a story and you think you know what it means, but I see what the true story is, and you can't.

(she pours them both
another drink)

She didn't leave you! You can't see what you are. I can see everything. You are a wolf!

RONNY

I'm a wolf?

LORETTA

The big part of you has no words and it's-a wolf. This woman was a trap for you. She caught you and you could not get away.

(She grabs his wooden
hand)

So you chewed off your foot! That was the price you had to pay to be free.

(throws his hand down)

Johnny had nothing to do with it. You did what you had to do, between you and you, and I know I'm right, I don't care what you say. And now you're afraid because you found out the big part of you is a wolf that has the courage to bite off its own hand to save itself from the trap of the wrong love. That's why there has been no woman since that wrong woman. You are scared to death what the wolf will do if you make that mistake again!

RONNY

What are you doing!

LORETTA

I'm telling you your life!

RONNY

Stop it!

LORETTA

No!

RONNY

Why are you marrying Johnny? He's a fool!

LORETTA

Because I have no Luck!

RONNY

(pounding on the table)

He made me look the wrong way and I
cut off my hand. He could make you
look the wrong way and you could cut
off your whole head!

LORETTA

I am looking where I should to become
a bride!

RONNY

A bride without a head!

LORETTA

A wolf without a foot!

Ronny stiff-arms everything off the dining table and grabs
Loretta. They kiss passionately. He pulls her up on the table
and over the table to him. They are in each other's arms.
They are on fire. Loretta pushes him away, gasping for air.

LORETTA

Wait a minute! Wait a minute!

She changes her mind and lunges into another kiss. They stop
again after a long moment. They really haven't breathed.

They both suck in air and look at each other in wonder and
fear and passion.

RONNY

It's like I'm falling! It's like I'm
in the ocean!

They kiss again. When they pull apart again, Loretta is
crying.

LORETTA

I have no Luck!

He picks her up in his arms.

RONNY

Son of a bitch!

LORETTA

Where are you taking me?

RONNY

To the bed.

LORETTA

Oh. Oh God. I don't care about
anything. I don't care about anything!
Take me to the bed.