

She sits against the wall, a glass of white wine in front of her. She is dressed simply and no longer has a tan. Nevertheless, Joanna is still stunningly beautiful. as she looks up, smiles.

He stands watching her, his knees weak. It is impossible not to fall in love with her all over again.

JOANNA

Hello, Ted. You look well.

TED

So do you.

The waiter appears, carrying a scotch and soda. He sets it down on the table in front of Ted.

WAITER

The usual, Mr. Kramer.

TED

(not taking his eyes off Joanna)

Thanks, Gino.

The waiter nods and promptly disappears.

JOANNA

How's the new job?

TED

Fine.

There is a self-conscious pause. From the bar, the piano player begins playing a new song. From Ted and Joanna's reaction, it is clearly a song that has meant a great deal to them in the past. They listen for a moment, then:

TED

Look at us, Joanna. Just like any old married couple having dinner. Who would believe it.

JOANNA

Yes...How's Billy?

ON TED--The question he has been dreading.

TED

He's great...except...

(not looking at her)

...Except he had...he fell and he cut his face. He...He has a scar, Joanna, from about here to here.

(indicating where and how big)

There is a beat of silence. A moment of shared feeling.

TED

(he has to say it to someone)

I can't help but feel somehow...it's my fault. I keep thinking I could've done something--stopped it...

JOANNA

You can't tell it from a distance, Ted.
For the first time he looks up at her.

TED

What?

CROSS-CUTTING BETWEEN THEM

JOANNA

I've seen him.

TED

You have?

JOANNA

A few times. Sometimes I sit in that coffee shop across the street and watch when you take him to school.

ON TED--speechless.

JOANNA

He looks like a terrific kid.

TED

He is...

(he still can't get over it)

You sat in that coffee shop across from school--

JOANNA

(completing the sentence)

Watching my son...Ted, I've been living in New York for the past two months.

TED

(amazed)

You've been living here, in the city?

JOANNA

(a deep breath)

Ted...The reason I wanted to see you...I want Billy back.

TED

You want what?!

JOANNA

(firm)

I want my son. I'm through sitting in coffee shops looking at him from across the street.

I want my son.

TED

Are you out of your mind?! You're the one that walked out on him, remember?

JOANNA

(trying to explain)

Ted, listen to me...You and I, we had a really crappy marriage--(hastily) Look, don't get so defensive, okay? It was probably as much my fault as it was yours... Anyway when I left I was really screwed up--

TED

Joanna, I don't give a--

JOANNA
(she will be heard)

Ted, all my life I'd either been somebody's daughter or somebody's wife, or somebody else's mother. Then all of a sudden, I was a thirty-two-year-old, highly neurotic woman who had just walked out on her husband and child. I went to California because that was about as far away as I could get. Only...I guess it wasn't far enough. So I started going to a shrink.

(leaning forward, very sincere)

Ted, I've had time to think. I've been through some changes. I've learned a lot about myself.

TED
(like a shot)
Such as?

Silence.

TED
(boring in)

Come on, Joanna, what did you learn? I'd really like to know.

Silence.

TED
(relentless)

One thing, okay? Just tell me one goddam thing you've learned.

There is a beat of silence, then:

JOANNA
(quiet, determined)

I've learned that I want my son.

ON TED--He reacts as though he has been slapped.

TED

Joanna, go be a mother. Get married, have kids. Don't get married, have kids. Do whatever you want. I don't give a damn. Just leave me out of it--and leave my baby out of it.

JOANNA

Ted, if you can't discuss this rationally--

TED

(getting to his feet)

Joanna, go fuck yourself!

And with that he turns on his heels and stalks out of the restaurant.