A Radical Design

Ву

PS King

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INT. LENNY AND GILDA'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

LENNY (20 - 25) sits on the floor, starting at a PAINTING that's propped against the wall. He looks as if he's meditating.

The painting has no background and features just one character. It's a DEMON. It has a human body with four arms and legs. The demon is bent over backwards like a spider. There's a THICK RED PASTE coming out of the demon's mouth. It oozes down the painting like bile.

The room suddenly fills with GREEN LIGHT. It becomes completely empty. Not even the painting remains.

Lenny is standing. He's NAKED. He has FINGERNAIL SCRATCHES all over his body. Blood trickles from wounds on his face, hands, arms. He screams. He claws frantically at a WINDOW. He pushes hard against it with his shoulder. The thing won't break.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

GILDA (20 - 25) stands on a sidewalk, a STOP SIGN a few feet away. She's looking past the sign, a faraway look on her face.

Lenny approaches from behind. Tentatively. He kisses her on the cheek.

LENNY I've been looking all over for you, honey.

No response.

LENNY Jesus, Gilda, are you high again? You promised.

GILDA (slowly coming out of her trance) Oh -- Lenny. Hey, baby.

LENNY I hate it when you do this. You get high and it's like you become someone else. I hate it, Gilda.

GILDA

Lenny, I'm not high. You don't understand. It was -- incredible. You've got to believe me. Right there at the stop sign...God. God himself standing right there. Right there by the stop sign.

LENNY

Right.

GILDA

I had a vision, Lenny. Like how you told me about that feeling you get when you're about to start a painting. I've finally had a vision.

LENNY Let's just go home, Gilda.

INT. LENNY AND GILDA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lenny and Gilda are in bed, embracing, kissing passionately.

LENNY I want to believe you had a vision. I really do.

GILDA

It's true.

LENNY The visions I have before I paint -- they've been intense, but I've never seen God. But one day. Maybe.

GILDA It'll happen. I promise.

INT. LENNY AND GILDA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lenny, inspired, flips the living room lights on quickly, then heads to a STACK OF BLANK PAINTING CANVASES in a corner of the room. He picks a canvas up and holds it up, smiles.

> LENNY So it's you. You don't look a thing like I'd imagined. But I've been waiting for you. Goddamn, I've been waiting for you.

INT. LENNY AND GILDA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Still in bed, Gilda rolls over and drapes her arm where Lenny's body should be. Noticing that he's missing, she wakes up.

Gilda gets out of bed and walks sleepily out of the bedroom.

INT. LENNY AND GILDA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

As Gilda walks out of the living room, she sees Lenny sitting cross-legged in front of his painting. He's staring at the thing with his eyes open, zoned out.

Gilda sits down next to him. She puts her arm around his shoulders.

GILDA So inspiration struck again, huh?

Gilda notices the grotesque figure that Lenny has painted.

GILDA Yuck. That thing's creepy. Whatever makes you happy, though. I guess.

Lenny remains silent.

GILDA You okay? You deep in thought or something?

Gilda notices the red paste that's leaking out of the demon's mouth and down the canvas.

GILDA Interesting effect. But won't it dry before long? What is it?

Gilda dabs a little with her pinky finger. She holds the stuff up to her nose. A look of repulsion on her face.

In a panic, Gilda puts her arms around Lenny and holds him close.

GILDA Lenny. Wake up. Please. The room turns green. Everything in the living room, including the painting, disappears. Shocked at the change, Gilda stands up.

She sees Lenny, naked, covered in bloody scratches, standing in the opposite corner of the room.

LENNY Gilda. You've finally come for me.

GILDA Jesus, Lenny, what is this?

LENNY I don't know. All I know is suffering.

GILDA This doesn't make any sense.

LENNY You abandoned me.

Gilda walks a step closer to Lenny.

LENNY

Stay back! Unless you know how to save me, stay away. I'm so hungry. I want to feed.

GILDA You wouldn't hurt me.

LENNY Maybe not. But my hunger is powerful.

GILDA What the hell happened?

LENNY

That night after you saw God by the stop sign I stayed awake in bed, begging God to send me a similar vision.

GILDA Lenny, this is insane. I never saw God. I just said that because...I used to scare you... LENNY When you got high.

GILDA Right. Because I got so intense.

LENNY So now I'm suffering because of your lies.

GILDA I -- I don't know what any of this is. I don't know what's happening.

Lenny walks a step closer to Gilda.

LENNY

I'm so hungry. I want to rip your fucking skull off your neck.

Lenny takes another step closer. Gilda takes a step back. Lenny takes another step. But as he edges closer, the same thick red substance that had been leaking from the demon in the painting starts to bubble out of Lenny's mouth.

GILDA

Lenny...

Lenny starts to choke on the red stuff, some of which he spits out onto the floor.

LENNY (struggling with his words, gagging) I asked for a vision. Then the terrible creature came to me in a dream. He tricked me. By painting him, I gave him life. As thanks, he put me in this prison.

Lenny walks another few steps toward Gilda, spilling the thick red substance down his chin with each step.

Gilda's not afraid. She steps forward.

GILDA Come closer. I'm not afraid. We'll get out of here together.

She holds her arms out. Lenny hugs her, puts his head on her shoulder, spilling bile down her back.

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LENNY I'm so hungry.

GILDA It's okay. We're here together now. Let's go back to bed.

Lenny sinks his teeth into Gilda's neck, taking a huge bite out of it. Blood pours down her neck. Lenny pushes her to the ground.

> LENNY (choking on the bile and Gilda's flesh) I'm so afraid...

INT. LENNY AND GILDA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gilda sits in their living room, cradling Lenny's body in her arms. He stares at the ceiling, his gaze still vacant.

GILDA Lenny. Jesus, Lenny. Wake up. Please. Wake up.