

LONELINESS

Written by

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Based on a story by

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EXT. SAN FOCA'S PORT - MORNING

Overview of the San Foca's port early in the morning.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN FOCA'S STREETS - MORNING

Some empty streets.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANTONIO'S HOUSE - MORNING

A shutter opens.

ANTONIO (38) comes out from the door with a metal bowl in hand.

He looks around.

He puts the bowl on the floor and a couple of stray dogs approach it.

Antonio bends to pet the animals while they eat the meat inside the bowl.

VITTORIO (O.S.)
Antonio, you always look after
dogs...

Antonio, surprised, turns toward the voice.

VITTORIO (62) is passing behind him with his wife ADA (58).

ANTONIO
Vittorio! Good morning!

VITTORIO
Eh... Good morning. You should eat
a bit, instead of feeding the dogs.
You're getting too skinny!

Antonio smiles.

ANTONIO
I've become a vegetarian. I don't
like meat anymore. But I don't want
it go to waste.

ADA
You're right. It would be a pity to
throw away food, it is always a
gift from God.

Antonio smiles.

VITTORIO

Then, see you.

ADA

Bye Antonio, have a nice day.

ANTONIO

I hope it will be, thanks.

They continue on their way, while Antonio enters the house, closing the shutters behind him.

ADA

Antonio is really a good man. I'm very sorry that he found a wife like her.

VITTORIO

She was crazy! Thank goodness that she's gone away. Finally he has a bit of peace.

ADA

Who knows what he has suffered because of her.

VITTORIO

Where a woman reigns, the devil is the prime minister.

ADA

Here you are, always with these stupid saying. Am I as bad as you say?

VITTORIO

In this case, you have nothing to do with it, you are a different kind.

ADA

What? Are you saying that I'm not a woman?

VITTORIO

No! But who governs in our house? I do, don't I?

ADA

Let it go, come on! Don't talk anymore, otherwise you'll eat crumbs today.

They continue on their way.

The dogs keep eating their meal.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SAN FOCA - DAY

Overview of the town.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANTONIO'S HOUSE STREET - DAY

Antonio leaves the house, closes the shutters and walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN FOCA'S PLACE/BAR - DAY

The man goes through the square, tight in his coat.

He doesn't look around him.

Three men are sitting at a table outside a bar.

They look at Antonio while he goes through some square.

MAN 1

Hey look, there's Antonio.

MAN 2

Finally, he has come out from his house.

MAN 3

I haven't seen him around for more than a month.

MAN 2

Since his wife has left him, he never leaves his place anymore.

MAN 1

I've heard that he lost his mind, he's gone mad.

MAN 2

These are the usual town rumors.

MAN 1

No, they're not. It seems that he said to Mario---

MAN 3

Who? The butcher?

MAN 1

Yeah. He told him he doesn't want to eat meat because he's become vegetarian.

MAN 2

And so? Now, why to be vegetarian means being crazy? I also cannot eat mozzarella...

MAN 1

But you are intolerant!

MAN 2

Anyway, everyday I see him feeding the dogs near his house.

MAN 1

He said it is a surplus that he has in the fridge and he just wants to get rid of it as soon as possible.

MAN 3

Here, everyone has something to say, because you like talking people.

MAN 2

True, I've never seen him hurting a fly.

MAN 1

Listen buddy! It's the good people who go crazy first. His wife was cheating on him every time she wanted, and that's driven him crazy.

MAN 3

Wow! So, you're going to go crazy too!

MAN 1

Why?

The other two laugh.

Antonio comes to the bar where the three men are sitting.

MAN 3

Oh, oh! Silence! Shut up. He's coming our way.

Antonio passes next to the three.

ANTONIO

Good morning.

The three respond in chorus "Good morning."

Antonio enters the bar.

MAN 2

Did you see who is not at all
crazy? Can a fool say hello in this
way he did?

MAN 1

Why? Crazy men don't greet anyone?

MAN 3

When a man is crazy, he doesn't
greet anyone.

Antonio comes out from the bar with a paper bag in his hand.

ANTONIO

(to men)
Have a good day.

MAN 1

You too.

The three follow him with their eyes as he walks away.

MAN 3

No, why did you greet him?

MAN 1

And what could I do? Be rude?

MAN 2

Let it go, man.

Antonio continues to walk towards the seafront.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN FOCA'S SEAFRONT - DAY

Antonio sits on a bench and looks at the sea. He extracts a
candy from the paper bag.

ANNARITA (O.S.)

Antonio...

Antonio, surprised, turns toward the voice. He sees a woman,
ANNARITA (36), with a child GIACOMO (7).

Antonio gets up.

ANTONIO

Annarita, hi...

ANNARITA

It's been so long since we last saw
each other!

ANTONIO
 (embarrassed)
 Lately, I don't get out much.

ANNARITA
 Yeah, I've heard about Elena.

Antonio nods.

ANNARITA (CONT'D)
 It's just as well, trust me. People
 like her, better to lose than to
 find.

ANTONIO
 I know.
 (beat)
 And you? What are you doing?

ANNARITA
 I've been to the grocery store and
 then we wanted to go for a walk.
 (to her son)
 Didn't we, Giacomo?

The child nods.

Antonio smiles at the baby, then turns to the woman.

ANTONIO
 Mauro?

ANNARITA
 He works occasionally, but nothing
 permanent. It's the crisis, isn't
 it?

ANTONIO
 I'm sorry for him, and for both of
 you.

ANNARITA
 (smiling)
 Better to get by than to kick the
 bucket.

GIACOMO
 (to his mother)
 Mommy, can you buy me one like
 that?

Child indicates Antonio's cake.

ANNARITA
 No, my love. Today it's not
 possible. We've already spent much
 money at the mart.

The child saddens.

Antonio offers his cake to the child.

ANTONIO

Take it.

Child looks at his mother as if asking her permission to take that offer.

ANNARITA

(to the man)

No Antonio, there's no need---

ANTONIO

Don't worry.

Antonio extends his hand with the cake to the child, who takes it happily.

ANNARITA

(to the child)

Don't you have to say something to Antonio?

GIACOMO

Thank you.

ANNARITA

(to Antonio)

You didn't have to...

ANTONIO

Well, I'll buy another one.

They sit on the bench.

ANNARITA

Do you still work in Lecce?

ANTONIO

No, I don't. For now, I prefer to stay at home.

ANNARITA

Got it but... I believe this is no good for you, this loneliness.

ANTONIO

Confusion is not good for me either.

ANNARITA

Is that why you come here alone?

ANTONIO

Here, I can turn my back on the world every time I want and, in front of me, I have infinity.

Antonio and Annarita smile.

Then they remain silent for a moment.

ANNARITA

Elena has always like that, since she was a child.

(beat)

She took, she loved... she left. She could be gone with the first man who passes. Or with the second... or with the third...

(beat)

You've only been unlucky to fall in love with her.

ANTONIO

So, I've heard.

Annarita smiles with bitterness.

ANNARITA

Anyway, don't lose heart. There is plenty more fish in the sea, isn't there?

ANTONIO

I keep hearing that too.

ANNARITA

(embarrassed)

Yeah.

(beat)

Well, now I have to go. It's late.

The woman gets up.

ANNARITA (CONT'D)

(to her child)

Giacomo, come here. Let's go.

She takes the child by the hand.

ANNARITA (CONT'D)

(to Antonio)

Bye then.

ANTONIO

Have a nice day, Annarita.

ANNARITA

You too.

Annarita walks away from Antonio. She is intimidated a bit by the attitude of the man who turns to look at the sea.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET OF ANTONIO'S HOUSE - DAY

Antonio is near the front door and opening it.

He's holding a plastic shopping bag.

A sound of SCRAP METAL.

Antonio turns quickly towards the sound.

A man, BRUNO (50), has hit the steel bowl at the foot of the door.

BRUNO
(embarrassed)
Oh, excuse me, I didn't see the bowl.

ANTONIO
(smiling)
Oh sorry, it's my fault. I left it out there, you're almost fallen because of it.

BRUNO
Don't worry, I'm okay.

ANTONIO
I take it away right now.

Antonio bends to pick the bowl up.

BRUNO
Do you have cats?

ANTONIO
(surprised)
What?

BRUNO
I said, do you have cats? The bowl, do you use it to feed your cats?

ANTONIO
Oh no, I don't. I feed some stray dogs living around here. I can't stand to see them hungry.

BRUNO
Nice thing.

Antonio nods and resumes to insert the key into the door.

BRUNO (CONT'D)
You don't have a wife, do you?

ANTONIO
(amazed)
Sorry?

BRUNO
No, I said... you don't have a wife, do you?

ANTONIO
(breathing)
No, no longer.

BRUNO
I'm sorry.
(beat)
However, I asked you, because if you had a wife, you wouldn't have had the possibility to be so kind for animals.

ANTONIO
You say?

BRUNO
Yes, of course. Wives don't want to see clutter around their house. If they see someone who puts out food for the animals, they go crazy and scream like damned.

ANTONIO
(smiling)
Here, there isn't screaming here.

BRUNO
Yes, I've noticed. It's so isolated.

ANTONIO
Yeah.

Antonio opens the door and is about to enter.

BRUNO (O.S.)
It looks like an old house.

Once again Antonio turns toward the man and observes him harshly.

BRUNO (CONT'D)
(frighten)
It's old... the house.

ANTONIO
It belonged to my father.

BRUNO

Yes, it looks like very old. It should be whitewashed.

ANTONIO

I'll look into that.

BRUNO

Yes, because if you don't, the sea air tends to damage walls. And then, it's a pity because---

ANTONIO

(bored)

I'm sorry. I must go.

Antonio comes into his apartment and closes the shutters behind him with violence.

Bruno remains puzzled.

Then he starts walking.

BRUNO

(to himself)

Bah! People are strange.

CUT TO:

INT. ANTONIO'S HOUSE - DAY

Antonio put the keys on the cabinet next to the door.

Near the keys, there is a picture of him and Elena.

The house is dark.

The windows are shut.

The man enters into the apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. ANTONIO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A) Antonio comes into the kitchen and puts the shopping bag on the table.

B) He takes the vegetables from the bag and brings them into the sink where he begins to wash them.

C) The water is boiling in a pot on fire he and puts pasta inside it.

D) He eats alone in the kitchen.

E) There are dirty dishes in the sink.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANTONIO'S HOUSE - TERRACE - DUSK

Antonio is sitting on the terrace of his apartment.

The terrace overlooks the sea.

A half full glass of whiskey is placed near an ashtray on a small table.

The man smokes a cigarette as he watches the sea.

From inside the house, some sounds of SCRATCHES on the shutters, and a soft BARKING.

Antonio smiles.

The man puts out his cigarette and stands up going back to the apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. ANTONIO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DUSK

The man puts the steel bowl on the table.

He opens the freezer, which is full of stuff, and pulls out a white plastic bag. Inside it, there is a paper bag with some meat.

Antonio puts the bag on the table, then opens it.

He takes a knife and strikes the meat with a sharp blow.

The man cuts a big piece of meat.

Then, he puts it in the bowl, takes it, and leaves the room.

From the paper bag, a woman's severed finger rolls out and it stops on the table.

CUT TO:

INT. ANTONIO'S HOUSE - DUSK

Antonio takes the keys placed near the photo of his wife, opens the shutters and gets out.

He places the steel bowl on the ground and the dogs greet him happily.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE END