

~~FRIEDA~~

~~There's some guy who wants to talk
with ya.~~

~~ROCKY~~

~~Kinda late...~~

~~FRIEDA~~

~~Want me to tell him you already
left?~~

~~ROCKY~~

~~I got it.~~

34

INT. ADRIAN'S RESTAURANT

34

Upstairs Adonis stares at the many pictures depicting Rocky's career. On the wall are his title belts too.

His eyes settle on a large dynamic painting of Rocky and Apollo, about to exchange blows.

Because of the hour, there are only four remaining diners as usual, opera music is faintly heard.

Adonis hears heavy footsteps coming up the basement stairs. His eyes travel from the vibrant painting to Rocky appearing at the top of the stairs. Rocky removes his glasses as he approaches.

Adonis is slightly taken aback by the "present" Rocky, and the colorful youthful image seen on the painting.

ROCKY

How ya doin'?
(off Adonis' non- answer)
I hear you wanna talk to me?

ADONIS

(glancing at the painting)
Painting's cool... who landed
first?

ROCKY

That's a secret...

Rocky notices the stitches.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

You a fighter, huh?
(off Adonis' nod)
That from a punch or a butt.

ADONIS

Butt.

ROCKY

Terrible feeling, you know? Like ya
been kissed by a rock...

ADONIS

I seen a lot of your old fights.

ROCKY

Don't ya got nothin better to do?
What's ya name?

ADONIS

Adonis. Everybody calls me Donnie
though.

ROCKY

Different-

ADONIS

I didn't pick it. It's Greco-
Roman. My grandfather had a name
like that.

ROCKY

That's nice-

ADONIS

I never met him. But you did.

ROCKY

Oh yeah?

ADONIS

They say you never really know
somebody till you fight them, so
you probably knew him better than
anybody.

Rocky does the math, while Adonis looks back towards the
painting.

ROCKY

Where you say you were from, kid?

ADONIS

Los Angeles.

Rocky stares.

ROCKY

Apollo? Apollo's your GRANDfather?!
Wait, he had two little girls and..

ADONIS

Lisa.

ROCKY

Little Lisa? You're Lisa's kid? Has
it been that long...

Rocky smiles and covers his hand with his mouth. He can't believe it. Then it hits him.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

What are you doing fighting?

Adonis looks around for a beat.

ADONIS

You think we could sit down
somewhere and talk?

35

ADRIAN'S RESTAURANT- LATER

35

Everyone is gone, only the back lights are on. Rocky and Adonis sit at a table. Rocky drinks wine, Adonis water.

ROCKY

Apollo was something that was like
invented. Had all the good stuff,
heart, brains, power, forget it.
Hit so hard, you felt like you were
on a rocket to planet pain. And he
had this mental thing... called it
"The Eye of The Tiger"

ADONIS

Eye of the Tiger? Sounds corny.

ROCKY

Corny? It saved my life. The
hunger, the drive. He could make
things happen out of nothing. He'd
be losing, then BAM, one shot, one
special move, now he's won- it was
magic.

ADONIS

Then how'd you beat him?

ROCKY

It was just my time. He had won fifty fights. Nobody stays strong forever.

(beat)

So why'd you come here?

ADONIS

I want you to train me.

ROCKY

Train ya? I'm no trainer.

ADONIS

Be my teacher, then. Why should I have to go to some other lame, when we could keep it in the family.

ROCKY

Family? Well...

He's at a loss for words.

ADONIS

You gotta miss it...

ROCKY

Miss it? No. I got it all outta my system, and I don't look back.

ADONIS

Why'd you do it in the first place?

ROCKY

I had nothin. Less than nothin.

ADONIS

And it gave you something, right? And I'm not talking about the money.

ROCKY

Yeah it gave me something. But it made me loose a lot of things too. That's the thing about boxing, it takes more than it gives, you know?

ADONIS

Can say that about life.

(beat)

Look, it's something inside of me, telling me I gotta do this. But I'm missing something that can take me to the next level.

(MORE)

ADONIS (CONT'D)

I think that's you. You can show me how to do it right.

ROCKY

Y'know- Apollo died in my hands. I watched my friend die, knowing I shoulda stopped it. That was what it was; now you're here. I don't want it. He wouldn't either.

Adonis takes this in. Digs into his bag and pulls out a VHS tape. He sits it down in front of Rocky.

ADONIS

Brought you this, check it out, if you still got something that can play it.

Adonis stands up.

ADONIS (CONT'D)

I'll be at your old gym tomorrow. Check me out if you feel up to it.

ROCKY

Sold that place, haven't been there in years.

He starts towards the door, and on his way out he stops by the painting again.

ADONIS

So who landed first?

ROCKY

He did.

ADONIS

Figures...

Adonis exits as Rocky stares after the departing young man, trying to make sense of it all.

Adonis lays on his back in his bed struggling to sleep as LOUD music can be heard in the room above his head.

He pulls the pillow from over his ear, and looks up at the ceiling.