

L'INTRICO DEL LUPO MANNARO
A SHORT PLAY
BY
NICOLÓ PIERO GRELLI

Characters:

Donnie Rae: 30s. Very Cowboy Elvis. Sincere, romantical, and mustachioed as all get out. Played by a woman/non-binary human in male drag.

Alexa Mae-30s. His girl. Very Blanche Dubois with an Anna Magnani flare. A passionate veterinarian. Played by a male/non-binary human in female drag.

It's their wedding night. Donnie has come clean on the one secret he's ever kept from Alexa Mae. And it could ruin everything. But goddam they love each other.

Style is Tennessee Williams meets John Waters in a Sergio Leone Spaghetti Western. Or a closeted, die hard republican's Oxycontin fever dream. The bigger, the campier, the faster, the higher stakes the better.

The Setting:

A parallel reality to ours. It's always hot. It's kinda the 1950s but also now. It's kinda the South, or maybe Appalachia. There's werewolves and sasquatches and stuff.

FIRST, IN THE DARKNESS, THE ACTOR PLAYING
DONNIE SAYS:

ACTOR PLAYING DONNIE

In my dream I was a werewolf.
My soul was filled with crystal light.
Lavender ribbons of rain sang,
Ridding my heart of mortal fright.
Of mortal fright...

Howls! Lightning! Oh shit!

Suddenly Lights Up On:

Alexa and Donnie, mid-dispute. Alexa is real pissed,
Donnie real sorry!

It's their wedding night. Donnie's in suit and Cowboy hat,
and well mustachioed. Alexa's in a white dress, pacing
and stomping about and holding her high heels, ready to
throw them for emphasis when the moment calls for it.

ALEXA

On our weddin night you tell me!

DONNIE

Forgive me, Alexa!

ALEXA

So afraid I'd leave you, you made it harder one me to do so!

DONNIE

Aw but that aint the case!
I'm putting it all on the line here!
That's gotta count for more than a hill a turkeys!

ALEXA

For how long's it been going on??

DONNIE

Recent. Very recent. Month ago 'bout.
Was out drinkin with Jo and Sam/

ALEXA

(Disdain.)

Jo and Sam

DONNIE

One night after work. It was late.

ALEXA

(Disdain!)

Late.

DONNIE

Not about to make excuses.
Giving you context is all.

ALEXA

(So much disdain!)

Context!

DONNIE

Full moon at the top of the month/ was when...

ALEXA

Why didn't you tell me sooner, Donnie Rae?
Why??
Why why why?
Why didntcha why???

DONNIE

At first I thought maybe it wouldn't be a big deal!
Quick healin wound, I figured.
And you were preoccupied with yer veterinary exams
And with the wedding.
Wasn't til two weeks later that...

ALEXA

How many times has it happened??

DONNIE

Just once. So far.

A collapse! A noise if dispair! Maybe she tosses her heels
to the ground!

I don't have much control over it.
But I *goddam* want to.

ALEXA

I bet you got off on it, Donnie Rae.

DONNIE

Whaddaya sayin, Alexa Mae?

ALEXA

I'm sayin you enjoyed it.
And THAT'S: why you didn't tell me.

DONNIE

...At first I was terrified of what I'd become.
Felt like going through puberty all at once.
The sudden hair in weird places. Acne in hard to reach crevices.
Felt my vocal cords stretch til I thought they'd snap.
My bones and my skin didn't feel like my own.
But when it was done...I felt
Powerful. Free. Wild!
It's left me spinnin ever since, Alexa Mae.
My turvy is topsy!

She collapses further. Donnie is sorry he'd shared it at all.

I wanna tell ya it won't happen again.
But it sure as shit probably *goddam* will.

Alexa rises to look far , far out her window--

ALEXA

This is my worst nightmare come alive, Donnie Rae.
Friends would say: Alexa Mae, you're so damn lucky
You've not had to endure the heartache
That our treachous beaux have put us through
And I'd shake my little head, make a humble face, going "no no no"
But deep down thinkin yes yes yes.
They're damn right: I AM lucky.
And I'd get WILD waiting for you to come home. WILD!
Like some dumb flamingo stuck in the lawn for you!

Donnie Rae's got a look she don't like. She sees it in the
window's reflection and turns to face him!

ALEXA

What's that look?

DONNIE

Nuthin.

ALEXA

DONNIE RAY WINSTONE WHAT IS THAT LOOK?

DONNIE

It's a look says: guess I'm the fool.

ALEXA

You said it not me.

DONNIE

The fool to think you'd be more sympathetic.

ALEXA

'Scuse me?

DONNIE

I'm the one got bit by a goddam werewolf!
Is it wrong to hope for a little compassion on the matter???
Who's to say it would never happen to you?!

ALEXA

I wound't let it!

DONNIE

Oh so I let it happen?

ALEXA

How else do you see it?

DONNIE

It's not any safer for me walking around alone at night than it is for you!

ALEXA

Bullshit!

DONNIE

It ain't bullshit and you know it.
The damn thing followed me into the locker room after my Zoomba class!
Wore sweat pants and bright pink sweatbands to fool me.
And when I did notice, I ran out into the gym, to be in plain sight
But it didn't care. No one at the gym cared.
And in my panic

I made the mistake of hopping onto an exercise bike to make my get away.
 And that's been the metaphor of my life ever since:
 Pedaling to nowhere on a bike bolted to the gatdang floor.

ALEXA

Was it a He-Wolf or a She-Wolf??

DONNIE

What blasted difference does it make!

ALEXA

It makes a difference to me!

DONNIE

WHY?I DIDN'T FUCK THE WEREWOLF!
 I wouldn't even have known how if I wanted to!
 I told you because I goddam love you.
 And I goddam wanna be with you forever!

ALEXA

You know it's a crime now. Us bein' married.

DONNIE

I know.

ALEXA

Me being a veterinarian, you being a werewolf.
 You know what they'll do to us when they find out.
 I don't know where I belong anymore, Donnie.

DONNIE

Well if you don't see that you still belong with me
 All I can hope is one day we can at least meet for coffee
 Somewhere in 'tween scared and don't belong.

ALEXA

Lord Have Pancakes!
 How'm I ever s'posed to tell my family that we're...
 Calling it all off...?!

Donnie goes for the door.

DONNIE

I'll give you some space.
Shouldn't be here anyways.
Full moon's a comin.

ALEXA

You'll have a great time I'm sure.

DONNIE

When you hear me howl, I'll be howling for you.
Not for some moon. Not for some stars.
For you.

ALEXA

Ya don't mean it.

DONNIE

I mean not just every word, but every letter spells it.
Aw geez I'm beggin' you here, Alexa Mae:
Be with me when it happens.

She considers with agony, then turns away!

ALEXA

I won't watch you ruin your suit!
That was Daddy's wedding suit.

She looks far far out the window. Donnie hesitates earnestly by the door, hoping she'll turn. Steps back in and looks out the window from a distance behind her. Alexa watches Donnie in the window's reflection.

Donnie decides to go for broke, and monologue:

Dramatic spot on Donnie Rae.

DONNIE

You talked about your nightmares....
Well--
In this one I had the night I got bit—
I was in a place surrounded by a fence, see.
And on the other side of the fence, was some kind of suburb.
There were others, and they seemed to just be...milling about.
Heads to the ground.
Kicking the dirt along.

Genial, but...fake.
 At one point I asked them, can we leave?
 Why doesn't anyone leave?
 And the response was: "why would you?"
 My gut turned sour,
 I knew this was an existence I could not bare
 So I high-tailed for the fence.
 I got close, but looked behind
 And saw twenty of the others closing in,
 Running like hell with expressionless faces.
 Like spiders on big cobweb.
 And they caught me.
 Found myself back where I started.
 Everyone milling about again, smiling dipshit smiles.
 So I get up the next morning, and I run again.
 And they catch me again--soon as I look back.
 Keeps happening over and over.
 Until one day I decide I'm not looking back.
 I climb over the fence- sure something terrible would happen.
 But not a damn thing stops me.
 Scale down the other side--lo and behold, a car appears.
 I hot wire it, cuz in this dream I can do such things.
 And start to drive.

A moment, then

I just had to not look back....

Donnie Ray steps in closer, so she can see he means it.
 Sometimes you get to turn nightmares around Alexa, Mae.
 That's what I'm gonna do now.
 Goodbye.

He turns to leave.

ALEXA

Donnie Rae Winstone Churchill Macklebean!

Lightining! Thunder! Rain!

Donnie pauses.

You don't get to quit so I can't fire you.

She approaches. He turns.

Don't fire me: I won't quit.

DONNIE

They embrace!

Donnie Rae?

ALEXA

Yes Alexa Mae.

DONNIE

When the full moon comes, I wanna be the car you hotwire!

ALEXA

THEY EMBRACE! THEY FUCKING SMOOCH
THEIR BRAINS OUT! WITH TONGUES!

HOWLS!! THUNDER!! LIGHTNING!!! OH SHIT!!

END OF PLAY.