

The Hollow Dinner

By

Ashutosh K. Gupta

Ashutosh K. Gupta

[krzyfilms@gmail.com](mailto:krzyfilms@gmail.com)

BLACK SCREEN CUTS TO SCENE

INT.LIVING ROOM.NIGHT

Close up of a record player. Hand of a man appears and puts the needle onto the vinyl record. Music starts playing.

INT.DINING ROOM.NIGHT

The same music is heard playing from a short distance. A man, Roger, with a tired and saddened expression, joins his wife, Betty, in the dining room. As he sits down, his wife, already sitting, quickly gives him a small forced smile and starts eating her dinner. The man starts eating as well, but at slower pace than his wife. We see her wedding ring.

BETTY

How was your day?

Roger reaches for his drink. As he gets a hold of his glass, the hand of a woman, decorated with jewelry and ornaments, gently poses itself on his wrist. He quickly looks at his wrist and the hand of the woman is gone. Troubled, he takes sip of his drink.

ROGER

It was... It was fine.

Betty looks at him, as if she is waiting for him to ask her the same question. She gives him a small smile and continues eating.

ROGER

How was yours?

BETTY

(smiling) It was a pretty average day. Bland and boring.

HEAD SHOT OF ROGER

Roger looks at his plate: steak, peas and mashed potatoes.

Suddenly, as Roger is immobile, the hand of a lustful woman caresses his face while she approaches her lips towards his cheek only to quickly retreat.

BETTY

Oh actually, I found out today, through Joan, that the Robinsons are getting divorced.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Well... That's interesting.

BETTY

Apparently, the mister had a mistress. Shameful isn't it? I think Mr. Robinson is a coward. Only a weak coward would cheat.

Roger's face freezes. The hand of a woman starts crawling up his leg.

BETTY

But I don't really care though, We didn't really know them...

Roger starts breathing heavily.

Betty notices

BETTY

Is something wrong? What's wrong?

CAMERA SLOWLY ZOOMS INTO ROGERS FACE

ROGER

You know...

The hand, going up rogers leg, stops moving.

ROGER

Why is cheating such a big deal? Why is it considered as something that's morally wrong to do. Something that people should feel guilty about? I mean, Why is it wrong to like or love more than one person at a time? I have more than one best friend and I equally appreciate both of them. Why is it that one can't happily be in a relationship with two individuals at a time. (the hand of the woman withdraws itself from his leg) I love my wife and I like someone else. It doesn't mean that I like someone else that I don't love my wife anymore, or love her less. Being with someone else hasn't changed anything with my wife. Well, she hasn't noticed anything. Isn't it selfish to only want your partner to yourself?...

(CONTINUED)

Betty, that was cutting her steak, freezes.

ROGER

Or... is it selfish for one to want things without thinking of others, to sleep with other women without realizing how it could or would hurt my wife... Being Easily tempted, weak and Disregarding her feelings.

Roger pauses.

ROGER

(about to cry) I'm, I'm so sorry... Betty I'm so, god damn, sorry... I'm just an idiot... Weak, selfish, coward. Don't even forgive me...

Betty rests her hands on the table.

HEAD SHOT OF ROGER

Roger is breathing heavily.

BETTY

Roger. Roger!

Roger, distracted, looks at Betty.

BETTY

Roger, What's wrong?

He stares at Betty in a slight distracted confusion.

BETTY

Is something wrong?

After a long pause, Roger seems to have made a decision in his mind.

ROGER

Nothing... Nothing Betty, I'm just... just really tired. I had a long day.

BETTY

Oh... Alright.

Betty smiles and resumes eating her dinner.

Roger watches her eat innocently.

CONTINUED:

4.

HEAD SHOT OF ROGER, CAMERA THEN SLOWLY AND ENDLESSLY STARTS ZOOMING OUT.

(as camera is zooming out) Roger, with a guilty expression, starts eating his dinner and the lustful woman is slowly revealed, standing behind him and grabbing his shoulder with one hand (the one that is decorated) and smoking a cigarette with the other.

CUTS TO BLACK

THE END