

Honey Brown Eyes March 2008 draft

Denis Side #2

DENIS

Well, somebody has to stand up, don't they? Or try. (beat)  
After what they did to my son.

*Beat.*

JOVANKA

I didn't know.

DENIS

(almost unable to get the words  
out)

They... kicked him... Down the street... like a soccer ball.

JOVANKA

I didn't realize-

DENIS

Made my wife watch. I was out buying cigarettes. I needed  
cigarettes. So I wasn't home when they came looking for me.  
My wife said I was gone, so they took my boy. They broke her  
arm because she wouldn't let go of him-

JOVANKA

How old-

DENIS

Ten months. (beat) Third stupid thing: went to buy  
cigarettes.

JOVANKA

You couldn't have known-

DENIS

I knew they were looking for people. I knew they would be  
looking for me, but I went to buy cigarettes.

JOVANKA

It's not your fault.

DENIS

After she told me what they had done, my wife hung herself.

JOVANKA  
You poor boy-

DENIS  
People were still looking for me. I didn't care. I was actually hoping someone might shoot me in the head. But my sister asks me to come and stay with them. Live with them. I'll be safe there, and I can work in the bakery.

JOVANKA  
I'm sensing another stupid thing.

DENIS  
They're good people. My niece, she's a funny kid. Watches TV and then does all the parts for you after the show. Anyway, I stayed, but I'm doing nothing there, so I tell Alma, I have to go. I have to fight these people.

JOVANKA  
Of course-

DENIS  
I have to defend our people. Children. Innocent people-

JOVANKA  
I can understand that-

DENIS  
Somebody has to fight back. Why hadn't I already?

JOVANKA  
You had a child-

DENIS  
She's telling me I can't. She can't bear it. I told her I have nothing left to lose. Nothing left. She said if that's how I felt then I was already dead to her.

JOVANKA  
She can't bear the thought of losing you is all.

DENIS  
She has no idea. She has her family. And what am I? A useless fucking coward. Useless. Look at me.