

MOONSTRUCK

1987

MGM/UA. Screenplay by John Patrick Shanley. Directed by Norman Jewison. Produced by Patrick Palmer and Norman Jewison.

Setting: Brooklyn, 1980s

Loretta Castorini is a thirty-seven-year-old widow who blames her empty life on a run of bad luck. When Johnny Cammareri, an older "mama's boy" proposes, Loretta accepts, thinking that if she follows proper procedure, her luck will change for the better. Loretta's father, Cosmo, is a wealthy plumber who lords over the Castorini family in their Brooklyn brownstone. Cosmo doesn't like Johnny Cammareri but reluctantly gives his blessing to the upcoming nuptials.

When Johnny receives news that his mother is on her deathbed in Palermo, he flies to Italy to be with her. Before he leaves, he asks Loretta to find his brother, Ronny, with whom he hasn't spoken in many years. Johnny wants to reconcile with his brother and directs Loretta to invite Ronny to their wedding.

When Loretta finds the hot-blooded Ronny, she falls instantly in love with his volatile and handsome young man whose only passion, after losing his hand in a freak accident, is opera.

After a night of lovemaking, Loretta returns home, where she decides to meet with Ronny one more time. They meet at the opera, and Loretta is swept away by the emotional power of *La Bohème*. Ronny convinces her that love is all important, and the following morning a day of truth commences for the Castorini and Cammareri families as all parties converge on the Castorini kitchen.

LORETTA

Loretta follows Ronny to his apartment immediately following their first meeting in the bakery. She is obviously captivated by his intensity. She proceeds to cook him a steak and tries to calm him down by telling him about her first marriage and suggesting that he isn't the only person to ever suffer a broken heart.

What's the matter with you? I mean, you think you're the only one to ever shed a tear? You got any whiskey? How about you give me a glass of whiskey? You really are stupid, you know that? Look, I was raised that a girl gets married young. I held out for love. I got married when I was twenty-eight. I met a man. I loved him. I married him. And then he wanted to have a baby right away and I said no, that we should wait. And then he gets hit by a bus. So, what do I got? I got no man, no baby, no nothing. You know, how did I know that this man was a gift — I couldn't keep my one chance of happiness? You tell me the story, and you act like you know what it means, but I can see what the true story is and you can't. That woman didn't leave you, OK? You can't see what you are and I see everything. You're a wolf. The big part of you has no words and it's a wolf. You know, that woman was a trap for you — she caught you and you couldn't get away, so you chewed off your own foot. That was the price you had to pay for your freedom. You know Johnny had nothing to do with it. You did what you had to do — between you and you. And now, now you're afraid because you know the big part of you is a wolf that has the courage to bite off its own hand to save itself from the trap of the wrong love. That's why there's been no woman since the wrong woman. OK? You're scared to death of what the wolf will do if you try to make that mistake again. I'm telling you your life.