

THE ANGEL

a novella by
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helene woke me up to tell me that frank falco wanted me on the phone and that it's very important falco says that he's in trouble and wants to come over rightaway i tell him not to worry and come on over fifteen minutes later i got helene making us some coffee and something to eat in the kitchen and me and falco are sitting on the couch in the living room rapping

falco is all agitated and nervous and he's blowing his broken nose and he's running his hands through his wavy black hair and his jaw is on a twitch and his teeth are clenched tight as he tells all about how last night in the vivere lounge downtown on the lower east side he shot some dude dead over some bullshit this dude had been running there were all kinds of people around who saw him take this dude in the back room he said so they knew he killed him but he warned them with death and destruction if they ever said anything to

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anyone ever falco said he carried this dead dude out into his car then drove down to the east river and dumped the dude into the water and how the cops are looking for him he says

falco says that the cops sent a message to his wife saying they would kill him on sight and falco sent back a message that he would kill them first he says the heat is very bad and everybody he went to for help told him no and he says we will get them for that one by one when we have the time he says he has nowhere to turn and nobody to turn to because the way his life was run was tough and hard and he fucked over everybody so he never did make any friends for real

falco starts into telling me how i am the only friend he has and how the cops will bust him for sure if he dont lay low for a while and i tell him dont worry you have a place to stay for as long as you want i go out to helene in the kitchen and say look helene falco needs someplace to stay for a while the cops are looking for him for some murder and i told him he can stay here until some of this heat wears off okay? helene cries NOFUCKINGGOOD! are you crazy or something? what if the cops come here and start shooting? those cops

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want to shoot him on sight and they know youre
a friend of his WHAT IF THEY COME HERE?
what about our baby in that room there? but
honey look i say look my ass she says and
dont honey me do you want the baby to get
killed? you know there will be a shootout if
them cops come here youll get the baby killed
have you forgotten that we have a five month
old baby in that room there she says pointing
toward our bedroom where our son is sleeping
in his crib and she starts crying

i hug her and i start into stroking her hair
and her back and she is crying on my chest and
she says you dont worry about anything else
besides your phony gangster friends and i say
dont cry honey stroking her hair dont cry
there aint nothing to worry about i tell you
there aint a thing to worry about those cops
wont come here and there wont be no shootouts
and nothing will happen to you or the baby
i'll be here all the time so you have nothing
to be afraid of

i kiss her some more and hug her close and she
says all i'm afraid of is what is going to
happen to you and she kisses me hard and says
she loves me and doesnt want anything to ever
happen to me because it would kill her it

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really would kill her dead nothing's going to happen like that and dont you worry so is it all right i mean for him to stay here? i'm rubbing her and holding onto her and she is crying now and she says i dont want to i say listen helene when somebody's in trouble you got to help them and then i kiss her and say get us the eats ok? i go back into the living room and tell falco to put away the gun he's cleaning and dont let helene see that shit and then i say it's all right for him to stay

falco stays over at my house eating and sleeping there on the living room couch and going out in the evenings on some tricks after about a week or so of this shit i am thinking about where else he could go and what he could do when he splits but he is mostly into not giving a fuck whether he lives or dies then one morning he asks me is it all right for him to bring this guy rocky over to my house he wants to talk to this worm rocky who was in comstock with us about getting a broad for his work and a place for his wife and kid out in new jersey

so rocky with the grease in his hair and the snake in his face and the mafioso talk out of

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the side of his mouth comes walking into my house and he and falco start talking falco tells rocky he is looking for a broad who has a lot of smarts one who wants to get into some money with him and he also tells rocky he is looking for a place in new jersey to lock his wife and kid in rocky says he knows just the bitch frank is looking for she's good looking and she's got smarts and she can be trusted then he says falco's wife and kid could stay at his place which is an apartment in a two family house next to the angel lounge in lodi dont worry rocky says the noise aint nothing and nobody wont ever bother ya there cause they all know who i am ya know?

so falco meets J and starts her into going out with him on these jobs soon falco moves in with J at her apartment in new jersey and he calls me up about a week later and he says everything is just perfect he tells me this chick is dynamite for his purpose which is to get all dressed up he sometimes in tux and she in fancy dress with furs and jewels and go into these luxury apartment houses and big hotels all over new york where the doormen never stop them because they look like they belong there they go up to any apartment and falco loids the door and he goes in and

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sometimes she goes in with him or sometimes she just stands outside and he gets all the jewels and furs and sometimes the silver in the apartments then falco fences the stuff and the money was a lot because i went out a few times like that with him and her

after a while falco says to me look i want to move my wife and kid over to rocky's place and i ask him if he is really serious about leaving his wife and kid with that dog falco says all he cares about is getting his wife out of the city we argue about this creep rocky living with his wife but falco dont give one fuck about her or the kid he says so he moves them out to lodi next to the angel lounge and every once in a while he goes around to see his wife and makes drops into the angel but pretty soon he stops going and she cant find him for love or money

i am living with helene and my son in brooklyn and i'm not seeing falco very often and after a while i stop going out to new jersey i'm going out bouncing every night in new york and doing some tricks on people who have too much money for their own good and i am fighting with my wife who wants me to stay home and be a husband and a father and work and be good

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and stop my animal behavior and drinking one afternoon after a long hard night i come home bounced out so i shower and i'm about to get a few hours sleep but just then the phone rings my wife answers it and says it's for you with a look that could freeze the sun and she slams the phone into my chest and walks away on some angry stilts because her orders are not to listen in on any of my conversations

i ask falco's wife what she wants no wonder helene got pissed she heard a woman's voice falco's wife asks me if i know where he is staying and i say no and she calls me a fucking liar and i say is anything the matter? she tells me the sonofabitch left her stranded in lodi with that creep rocky and no money for the kid or anything where are you now i say and she tells me that she's now living with this woman M who owns a house in allendale and has two daughters but is separated or divorced from her husband i have no money falco's wife says and that kid needs clothes and i aint got nothing she says not a goddamned thing and all men stink and should only die and i cant go on living off M like this and she is crying wait a minute i say i'll call helene and you give her a list of the things you need okay and i'll send her out to buy

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them because i dont understand this shit no way yes yes yes yes falco's wife says she could come into new york tonight and pick it all up because M has a car i tell her dont worry i'll have some money too and i tell her where to meet me at ten that night and call helene over to the phone

helene comes back later with all these goddamned big boxes and christ do i have to carry all this shit? it might wrinkle my suit or ruin my image or something I get dressed and tell helene i'll catch her tomorrow TOMORROW she screams always tomorrow but honey i say this is business monkey business she says kissing me out the door i grab a cab and make it to third avenue and forth-seventh street in manhattan a block away from the joint where this fox i was specialing it with at the time worked as a bunny

it's almost ten o'clock and i'm standing on this corner waiting for falco's wife holding these big packages of clothes and feeling stupid as hell when i see this blond beautiful head pop out a car window calling my name and the car goes HONK HONK they park and i tell the driver whose name is M the one falco's

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wife is living with to open the trunk so i can put these goddamn packages in she does and i notice her ass bending over to open the trunk and i make a mental note to feel that as soon as my hands are free falco's wife is hugging and kissing me and joying whoops and i tell her not to lose that money and she giggles and puts it into her bag i say look i gotta go and i tell her about this chick i'm specialing with and who i'm going to pick up right now and then we are going to the brasserie for some late breakfast like we always do all french and stuff wooh wooh and then i'm going to take her uptown for some after hours joints so like i said see ya wait she says wait she wants to introduce me to her friend

M is tall and put together fine and i knew she danced by them legs and her hair is short but i wont hold that against her because her legs are long and good and so are her hips and she is tall and slim and she looks at me ripe like she is supposed to but falco's wife interrupts this little ball and starts into telling me about how she is so lonely and she dont ever go anywhere and how this is really the first time she's been out since falco split on her then she gives me the soft eye and the puffed lip and says just one drink

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please tommy cmon i'm all so lonely and she hugs on me saying please please falco's wife is petite but titty and her body is silksmooth and her hair long and soft and blond and her eyes warm and childlike and please tommy please i'm so lonely she says eyes wetting up fast okay i say okayokay but just one drink and thats it and she jumps on me kissing and i say cmon and i take her and M into this lounge of cocktails down the block where my fox works

M starts into talking to me as we drink away and her voice has a real good taste and she takes me into some hots and wriggly feelings looking eyes with me like that after about a half hour of this kind of cooking looking in and stalking she says if youre not doing anything why dont you take a ride back to jersey with us i like the way she moves her hands when she talks and her body sends me waves of warms and she is smiling good white teeth at me so i say i'll meet you in the car i want to go pay this tab and then i have to talk to someone i wont be long and she says yes you are and we both laugh

they leave and i go pay the tab and tip out and call my fox over to the side she comes over happy and kissing on me and i say look i

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have to split and her face goes werewolf and darkness on me and i say this is business and i got some important business to take care of and i'll meet you up at your place at about nine this morning she pulls away and says in a sad low voice okay i'll wait up for you and she is tensing and her hands are moving everywhichway and her eyes are wetting and her mouth is breaking circles and she says okay tommy okay i know it must be some very important business okay you gotta go she says so go ahead then she kisses me hard holding me tight and she says iloveyou i'll be waiting for you i love you too i say and i kiss her and walk away blowing kisses and waving and that was the last time i ever saw her

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