

WEDNESDAY'S CHILD
Leopold Atlas
Act 1, Scene 3

Ray
Kathryn

Ray: Hello.

Kat: Oh. Aren't you in bed yet?

Ray: No. I thought I'd wait up for you tonight.

Kat: You didn't need to, you know.

Ray: Have a nice time at the club meeting?

Kat: Nothing to talk about.

Ray: Play bridge? Win? Lose?

Kat: Neither.

Ray: Just as well so long as you enjoyed yourself. Meeting just break up? Who'd you come home with?

Kat: No one. Why?

Ray: Weren't you afraid?

Kat: Of what?

Ray: Coming home alone so late.

Kat: I'm able to take care of myself.

Ray: Of course.

Kat: What time is it?

Ray: Must be tired. Want to go to bed, I suppose.

Kat: No. Ray—since you're up I'd like to talk to you about—about—

Ray: About what? The club meeting?

Kat: No.

Ray: What about then? Anything important? Think I'll be interested?

Kat: Ray, I can't speak with you if you're going to keep popping questions at me as though—

Ray: As though what?

Kat: Ray, please.

Ray: Before we talk about anything else, suppose you tell me a little about this club meeting. What did you do there? Might be interesting. Tell me about it?

Kat: I didn't go to the club meeting.

Ray: I know damn well you didn't.

Kat: Oh, you know?

Ray: Of course I know. What do you think I am, an utter fool?

Kat: I don't suppose you'll believe me if I tell you I'm glad you know at last. I've been almost crazy wanting to tell you about it, to talk it over with you.

Ray: Well, that's rich. Now that I've found out for myself you want to tell me about it. I certainly appreciate that. What's the matter, has he thrown you over and you've decided to come back to me? Well, that's not the way it's going to be, see. Now what have you got to say to that?

Kat: It you'll only listen to me for a minute instead of shouting and let me explain—

Ray: There's nothing to explain—I know everthing—

Kat: For God's sake, Ray, will you please listen to me?
Ray: And hear some cock and bull story you've made up on the way home. What I want to know is how long this cheap affair has been going on?
Kat: It's been nothing of the sort.
Ray: Who is he? What's his name?
Kat: I thought you knew everything.
Ray: Well, it doesn't make a damn bit of difference who he is.
Kat: Ray, believe me--
Ray: Do I have to start believing you too now--?
Kat: I've been just as miserable as you are about the whole thing.
Ray: Oh, I thought you were having a good time. So you've been miserable. Isn't he so hot? As miserable as me, huh? I marry you, fix up a good home for you—it isn't a mansion—but it's home, even though you've never liked it—
Kat: So you've finally realized that at least.
Ray: You've been willing to live in it for more than six years--
Kat: Well, I'm not willing any more. Listen, Ray. There's no need for us to fight and battle over this. We can talk it over quite calmly. There's no need for you to act the way you are.
Ray: How do you want me to act? Take this lying down?
Kat: Ray, we're not suited to each other. We should never have married in the first place--
Ray: This is a fine time to come to that conclusion.
Kat: Just because we made one mistake doesn't mean we've got to go on making it for the rest of our lives.
Ray: Mistake, huh? I suppose having Bobby and Frankie was a mistake too. You were willing to have my children--
Kat: It was unfortunate that we had them so soon. You know as well as I do that they just happened, that we hadn't planned for them, that we weren't ready for them.
Ray: You mean you didn't want them.
Kat: Don't say that. It isn't true.
Ray: you shouldn't have had them. Children get in the way of women who want to play around.
Kat: No—no—stop saying those things!
Ray: Why not, because they are true?
Kat: In a way it's your fault as much as any one's.
Ray: Oh, so you can go behind my back and have an affair for God knows how long and then come back and blame it on me!
Kat: Ray, if you'd try to understand for only one minute--
Ray: What do you want me to understand? That you've lied to me, made a fool out of me, deceived me and then told me that it's all my fault? Well, that's good. That's rich. That's the cream.
Kat: Ray. All I ever meant to you was someone to come home to and sleep with, a housekeeper. Anyone else would do as well.
Ray: Better, from the looks of it.

Kat: Well, go out and hire someone in my place. I'm not going to be a housekeeper any longer. That isn't enough for me. My life and happiness mean something to me too. I'm not happy with you. I haven't been for years. I tried to tell you again and again--

Ray: you never tried to tell me anything until you were caught.

Kat: Until I was caught! There's an example of the way your mind works. You'd never try to understand. You're too well satisfied with yourself.

Ray: Never mind how my mind works. How long has this been going on?

Kat: I've known him for seven months.

Ray: Oh! Oh!

Kat: I thought you realized by now that everything between us is over. I'm going to leave you. That's what I wanted to talk to you about when I first came in.

Ray: Oh, so that's the way it is. All right. Go ahead, leave me. Go back to your boy friend. We'll see how long that lasts. I know a little about these fellows who play around with married women.

Kat: He's not that kind.

Ray: That's what you think. Wait till he gets tired of you.

Kat: He loves me.

Ray: Is that what you call it? That's rich.

Kat: Stop laughing.

Ray: He is just using you for what he can get.

Kat: No, that's not true.

Ray: You're just a nice, little--

Kat: Ray, if you don't stop saying these things I'll--

Ray: What does he give you for his little fun?

Kat: Stop it.

Ray: Jewelry? Money? Good times?

Kat: Oh.

Ray: Why, you rotten--

Kat: Ray don't you dare--

Ray: Think you can make a fool out of me and get away with it?

Kat: Stop it.

Ray: Well, you can't.

Kat: Let go of me.

Ray: I'll show you what.

Kat: Stop it. You're hurting me.

Ray: Get out. I don't ever want to see you again.

Kat: Don't worry, you won't. This is the end of everything.

Ray: Good. That's fine. I'm through.