

INT. REDBEARD'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Barrett kneels over Redbeard's decapitated body. Redbeard's head is nowhere to be seen.

BARRETT

That is a helluva thing. A helluva thing...

COMBS

Yucko me bucko.

Combs kneels next to Barrett. She makes a visual examination of the body.

COMBS

Poor old Redbeard. This is a surprising turn of events.

Barrett points to the neck stump of the body.

BARRETT

Look at this.

Combs winces as he looks on.

BARRETT

Notice how the skin barely folds over the muscle and it appears to be a single grain clear through.

Combs nods.

BARRETT

This was done in one cut with a very sharp blade. Given the width of this hallway, probably a small sword or a machete.

Combs rises.

COMBS

One cut -- damn! This guy must have Popeye forearms!

Barrett rises.

BARRETT

No marks on the walls either. I can guarantee you the cutter has done this before -- many times.

COMBS

He'll probably be doing it again, too.
Hey, wasn't there a serial killer in
Kentucky or somewhere thereabouts
that chopped off a bunch of folks heads?
Killed an entire family this way –
grandma, even a baby.

BARRETT

The Head Hunter. Sick stuff.

They stare at the body for a bit. Combs shakes his head.

COMBS

Do you think seeing stuff like this ...
dehumanizes people? I mean, this kind
of violence -- do you think we are
getting desensitized --

BARRETT

Aw shit! Where's his fucking head?!

Combs looks around. He opens up the hallway closet and looks in. No head there.

COMBS

Merchant can recognize him without it?

BARRETT

Bull shit -- this guy was a ghost. There
is nothing but his looks to identify him.
That's the point and that's why he's
eluded Merchant for 20 years.

COMBS

Those S&M Goons took it? -- what the
fuck, huh?

BARRETT

If we don't bring that head back with
us... I think you know what Merchant
will do --

Barrett and Combs hear a noise as if someone is trying to come in the backdoor.

Barrett turns off the light.

INT. REDBEARD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

GOON 1 and GOON 2 enter the living room. It's very dark with no light on.

GOON 1
Where's the light –

Goon 2 knocks over an end table.

GOON 2
Ow!

GOON 1
Dammit –

Goon 1 is feeling around near the entrance to the hallway where Redbeard's body is.

The light comes on.

Barrett pins Goon 1 to the wall next to the light switch. Her gun is at his head.

Goon 2 runs into the living room.

Combs shoots him in the upper back of his left leg and Goon 2 goes floundering down over the corner of the sofa then onto the floor.

Goon 2 rolls onto his back and grabs his leg.

Barrett pushes Goon 1 toward Combs.

Combs grabs Goon 1 and puts him in a half-nelson, with one arm behind his back, and Combs' arm around his neck.

Combs sits in a barstool with Goon 1 up against him.

Barrett walks over to Goon 2 who is on the floor writhing in pain.

BARRETT
Now boys, you need to tell us where
your friends took that fat guy's head.

GOON 2
Fuck you!

Barrett steps on Goon 2's chest with her right leg and pins him down. He groans.

GOON 1
You can ask my lawyer, pig!

Combs laughs.

COMBS
Ha ha ha! He thinks we're cops!