



BROOKLYN *BLUES*

(A Movie adapted from the Play)

By
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BROOKLYN *BLUES*

Cast

ANG.....30, sensitive.

**RAFFY.....57, Old Italian. Speaks
with heavy, Italian accent.**

NICK.....55, Father, mean.

TONY.....35, Ang's brother.

(Actor speaking as an Italian immigrant is all that is required. The use of a after words is unnecessary.)

BROOKLYN *BLUES*

INT: NIGHT: Nightclub: 1

ANG, in nightclub, ends singing to the audience.

ANG

*"Lets get away from it
all..."* Thank you thank you
very much, you're very kind.
And now ladies and gentlemen,
I'd like to ask you all to
pray for my mother who's in
the hospital and is very,
very sick. Once again, thank
you. Thank you for making
this, such a special evening.

WE see and hear much applause:

CUT: INT: MOTHER'S apartment: It is the following 2
evening, as ANG looking disheveled, enters HIS mothers
home. Sadly HE walks to casket and kisses it. Photos and
memorabilia abound.

ANG

I told you I didn't want to
sing in Frankie's Lounge last
night, didn't I, didn't I?
So, I waited 30 years to
sing, I, could of waited
another day. I could of.
But, when Uncle Raffy said
you'll be fine and I saw you
smile for the first time in
months, I knew I had to sing
for you. 21 days, 21 days,
Uncle Raffy, or me never left
your side and look what
happened. I told you I
didn't want to leave you.

(MORE)

ANG (Cont'd)

I shouldn't have listened to
your smile. What could I do,
Mommy, what could I do?
Seems one of Franky's
waitresses shot Dion and can
you believe it, Frankie
literally begged me to fill
in 'til he get's better. I
hear he ain't never getting
better, so, I called up Monty
and I told him I'm not
bartending for him anymore.
He'll get over it 'cause he
knows how much I want to be a
singer. You were right
Mommy, that Frankie's got
some classy operation. It's
a regular Copa, unbelievable.
I gave 'em a little Sinatra,
a little Como, Jolson... Must
of been 300 people there and
they ate me up, Mommy, just
like you, but you weren't
there... So, now it looks
like I'm all alone, Mommy.
30 years old and I'm all

Sings and touches casket.

alone. "Ave Mari-a..." Ya
know, when you first told me
you had TB, I really didn't
believe you, 'cause no one in
our family ever had TB, not
even Gramps. All that
happened when he got old was,
he became a little "toozie
bahtz," "botso," but cancer?
No one in our family ever had
it. We're Italian. Whoever
heard of an Italian getting
cancer? Cancer... But when
I noticed that the gleam in
your eye was gone and then,
when you started to lose your

(MORE)

ANG (Cont'd)
beautiful hair, I got real
scared 'cause I knew, I knew
and I didn't know what to do,
who to turn to. I'm sorry
Tony wasn't here to say
goodbye. We haven't spoken
to him in months, 'cause you
know how busy he's been since
he left with Pop. He's
always been "*too busy*," for
you and for me. When Pop was
here he always treated him
like he was God... One time,
me too...

INT: Back in time: WE go back 20 years:

3

TONY is 13 years old and NICK who is 40 appear

TONY
I really hate it, Pop.

NICK
(Looking at report card.)
Five D's and a C in gym.
What happened in gym?...

TONY
I hate it Pop. I wanna quit
school.

NICK
So, quit, what are you making
a big deal about it?

TONY
But what's Mommy gonna say?
You know how she feels about
school.

NICK

(Feigns sparring with Tony.)
Ya know why I love you?
'Cause you're my son and I
think school sucks too.

TONY

And you're my Pop, but what
about Mommy?

NICK

Hey, I'll take care of it.
Your mother's no dummy. She
knows some kids are made for
school, like your brother Ang
and... God gives each one of
us different things and as
far as I'm concerned, he gave
you something more important
than brains. Any idiot can
have brains. You got some
guillones, big balls, just
like your old man and that's
what's important to me. Me
and you, we're like two peas,
like the time you beat the
shit out of those two Irish
bastards when they called me
a crook. To me, that's what
counts, balls...

CUT: INT: Back to casket and conversation:

4

ANG

...Remember when I started
school, first grade? I came
(Picks up photo and laughs.)
home crying 'cause those kids
said I had big ears like
Dumbo. I sure had big ears,
didn't I? They called me
elephant head, but you hugged
me and said God only chose

(MORE)

ANG (Cont'd)

very special people to have big ears, like elephants, 'cause they hear better than all the rest of the animals. They hear birds singing, even butterflies dancing. Suddenly, I was glad I had big ears... Then Uncle Raffy took me to see a Dodger game and boy, was I excited when (Recalling when HE was a kid, picks up ball and tosses it.) he caught a foul ball and gave it to me. This ball. Then we waited in the parking lot and he got Duke Snider to sign it. My friends stared at it for weeks... How come Uncle Raffy was always there, but my own father was always somewhere else, like at my communion? Where was Pop...? Driving his freakin' truck. He was always driving his freakin' truck. And how come we never saw his truck, Mommy? How come he never took me for a ride in it? Who cares, I never liked trucks anyway...

CUT: EXT: As before, WE go back in time:

8

WE see NICK standing near his truck delivering stolen T.V.'s.

NICK

Here they are, Vinny, just as promised, 4,000 RCA TVs in two trailers. I hope you got the 200 thou in hundreds this time. (MORE)

NICK (Cont'd)

I'll tell ya the truth,
counting 300 grand in 10's
and 20's the last time drove
me bananas... Hey Guido, will
you please tell your men to
get a move on, 'cause I gotta
another delivery in three
hours. I gotta go to the
docks, there's this freighter
coming in with I hear 200 of
the prettiest little Korean
nymphs you ever saw and then
I gotta take them to China
Town. They don't know it
yet, but they're gonna be
hookin' a long time... I must
of delivered a thousand
hookers to them the last two
years. Those Chinks are
horny little bastards aren't
they? They never seem to get
enough nooky... Hey, who am I
to complain. A 100 grand is
a 100 grand. \$1000 a chick,
ya know what I mean...? And
in case you feel like picking
up a few extra C notes, why
don't you call me? I think I
could use a big *gumbah* like
you on the team. In fact I
know I can, so you call me
tomorrow, *capish*? You call
me.

Cut: WE are back. ANG is alking to casket:

7

ANG

All the other daddies used to
go to their kids baseball
games but not my father.
*"Hey, Ang, is your father
coming to the game this*
(MORE)

ANG (Cont'd)

Saturday or what?" I used to laugh and say he's out on the road with his truck again. Some of them didn't even believe I had a father or that he had a truck, but we didn't care, did we Mommy? We had each other... Ya know, there was a time Pop loved me as much as Tony, so what happened...?

CUT: Again go back into time: ANG meets HIS FATHER
NICK, smiles as he looks at ANG'S report card.

8

NICK

(Looking at report card.)
Now this is what I call a report card. All A's.

ANG

And one B, I got one B.

NICK

Ang, who loves you more than your father? And don't tell me your mother, 'cause she got you brain washed, kid. She got us all brained-washed. Now get over here and give me a hug. All A's. Is thata genius or is thata genius?

ANG

I got a B in gym and gym counts in your average Pop.

NICK

Gym counts my ass. English, arithmetic, history, science, that's what counts, gym's for dummies like... Since the day you were born, I knew it. You just like your old man. You got hazel eyes and I got hazel eyes and your smart like me. Do I love this guy or what? But we have to do something about his nose. *Meenkeron*, where'd you get that *schnoz*?

Playfully spars with Ang.

ANG

(Both giggle.)

I'm just like you Pop, right? Just like you.

NICK

Yeah, your real smart, but that's not why I love you so much. It's your nose, 'cause it's so funny looking.

ANG

And I'm just like you, so your nose must look even funnier.

THEY both laugh heartily.

Cut: Casket: ANG looks at and speaks to photo and doesn't see RAFFY enter walking with cane and listen from afar. 9

ANG (cont'd)

And here's a picture of Mommy. Remember when you made Maria's thirteenth birthday party 'cause her
(MORE)

ANG (Cont'd)

father lost his job and they couldn't afford to make her one? That was the nicest thing I ever saw anyone do. Even my friends said it was the nicest thing they ever saw. We played spin the bottle and I kissed Maria. It was the first time I ever kissed a girl and who'd I tell? Not Pop, Mommy, I never told him anything, but I told you didn't I, 'cause you were my best friend... Even told you when I puffed on my first cigarette, I was 12. You said if I keep doin' it I'd become a midget. Thanks to you, Look how big I got; almost as big as Uncle Raffy... What a guy. He came to the hospital everyday, 'cause he's, a gentlemen, a real Italian. When he came from Sicily to live with us, he was always with us 'cause he felt so homesick. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, Christmas, Easter, you made him feel as if we were his family. Who's better than you Mommy, who's better than you? And even after he opened up all those butcher shops he still lived with us. I remember when you taught us how to play monopoly. Did I laugh. Boardwalk, he always wanted Boardwalk. *"You gotta Boardwalk? I a trade you."*
(Picks up photo and remembers.)
Here's a picture of the two of you dancing at the

(MORE)

ANG (Cont'd)

Palladium. You used to go dancing every Wednesday night and ya know, I was glad, 'cause at least you got a chance to go. Before he ran away Pop never took you anywhere.

Walking with cane RAFFY steps forward.

RAFFY

That's because you father was busy makinga money.

ANG

Uncle Raffy. I didn't hear you come in. Couldn't sleep, huh?

RAFFY

I can no sleep all night and you don't look so good Angie. maybe you should go home and get some sleep. I don't want you to get a sick.

ANG

I'm gonna sleep here tonight and never mind me, how do you feel?

RAFFY

Like I don't want to live no more.

ANG

You too, huh...? What a day we had. Getting the casket, going to the morgue. Bringing Mommy home... It was terrible.

RAFFY

You know how sorry I am for
you Angie 'cause I know how
much you love you mother.
She love you too very much.
'*Madonna mia,*' she love
everybody.

ANG

She did love everybody,
didn't she.

RAFFY

'*Que bella,*' she was the most
beautiful woman... When I
come to this country she took
me in like I was her
'*cowzin,*' not you father's,
but her own '*cowzin.*' '*E*
innamorato cotto di lei;' I
fall head over heels for you
Mommy 'cause she was so kind
to me. She used to sing all a
time 'cause she love '*la*
musica.' Since you was
little boy you always used to
sing with your mother too,
'*Que bela corsa.*'

ANG

Maybe that's why I always
wanted to be a singer.

RAFFY

So, she teach me English with
her records. Anyway, she
(Picks up record.)
plays this Al Jolson record
and I really like. She tell
me if I learn to sing the
song just like Jolson it will
pay for one weeks room and
board. Take me two weeks

(MORE)

RAFFY (Cont'd)

(Sings.)

and I learn, "Swanni, how I
love you, how I love you, my
dear old Swanni..." She
never charge me a dime.

THEY embrace.

RAFFY (cont'd)

Take me a year but I learn 41
songs. Then one night when
we drink a little too much
'grapa.' Mommy play Frank
Sinatra. Maybe I was little
tipsy but I forget all about
Al Jolson and I fall in love
with Frank. He's the best,
(Sings and touches casket.)
no? "*Fly me to the moon and let me play
among the stars, let me see what
(Hugs Ang, enthusiastic.)
spring is like...*" And then she
teach me Monopoly. I love
monopoly. I like to build
hotels. Even when I get
Boardwalk, she still win.
Then she teach me the Lindy.
Boy, I love to dance so she
take me dancing every...

ANG and RAFFY

...Wednesday night.

ANG

She loved to go dancing,
didn't she uncle Raffy?

RAFFY dances sadly as if with Lily.

RAFFY

She sure did Angie and she
was a good too. She was
everybody's best friend.

ANG

Especially yours.

RAFFY

She was so beautiful and everybody used to look at her... And now I no care no more, ya know what I mean? Without my best friend I no care.

ANG

I wonder what my brother is going to say if he ever finds out about Mommy? He'll say why didn't I tell him. I'll tell him all right. One day I swear to Christ, I'm gonna tell him, real good. But how could I tell him Mommy died when I never know where the hell he is!

RAFFY

You know, it's just you and your brother, Angie. maybe you oughta make up, no?

Rubbing his face ANG walks:

CUT: INT: CU: Bathroom: Back in time about
years ago:

12

Rubbing his face because it itches, ANG meet TONY
who examines ANG'S face:

TONY

(Examining Ang's face.)

Let me see what you're rubbing there. It's what they call peach-fuzz. You need a shave, that's all.

ANG

A real shave, me...? Ya mean it? Well, do ya? Do I really need a shave?

TONY

Of course I mean it. You're walkin' around like a hairy ass and now's the perfect time to teach you how to shave. You ready?

ANG

(Dreamy, because it's his first shave.)
Right now? My first shave... Guess this makes me sort of a man, don't it? Can you believe it, I'm finally a man.

TONY

Okay man, first ya turn on the water and ya make sure it's nice and warm. Then you wet your face real good. Go ahead, what are you waitin' for? Let's see. Okay, now
(Feigns Masturbating.)
you shake the can of shaving cream like this. Squirt some in your hand... Now rub it in real good.

ANG

How'm I doing?

TONY

Great, you're doin' great, now take your thumb and wipe the shaving cream from your lips. Cut your lips and you can bleed to death, so be careful you fuckin' *strunz*...

(MORE)

TONY (Cont'd)

Perfect. Now with your thumb
push the cream away from your
sideburn. Now put the razor
on the sideburn and go down,
nice and easy. You did it.
You're on your way to
becoming a man.

ANG

Like you, Tony?

TONY

(Starts to walk away.)
You're my brother,
aintcha...? And did you start
pullin' it yet, or what?

ANG

(Embarrassed.)
Ah, Tony...

CUT: INT: CU: We are back at casket.

13

ANG

Make up, make up? "*Bafongul*"
I should make up! So Tony
calls us every six months,
big deal... Who didn't say
(Emotional, looks at casket.)
goodbye to his dying mother?
Not me, right Mommy? Not me.

RAFFY

I know not you Angie, you
been a good boy. You always
(Looks at photo.)
been a good boy. Why I
remember when you wasa born.
It was the happiest day in my
life when in church your
mother say to Father
Robustelli I was your
(MORE)

RAFFY (Cont'd)

Godfather. I cry... We all
cry. Even you father.

ANG

(Hugs Raffy.)

You're the best Godfather
there ever was Uncle Raffy,
the best.

RAFFY

Thank you Angie, thank a you
(Picks up photo.)
very much... And here's a
picture when I come to
America. I look funny.
Skinny like a string bean,
no? So, what happened? But
because you father was my
cowsin, we become like
brothers. He take me
everywhere. Coney Island. I
sure love those Nathans
hotdogs. He, take me on a
Ferris wheel, the roller
coaster. And then he take me
to that haunted house.
'Meenkeron.' He laugh when I
get scared. Then he takea me
to the Bronx Zoo. He say I
look like a monkey and he
laugh. I say he look like a
gorilla and we laugh even
more. Then he used to take
me to the poolroom and
everybody there used to think
he was big man, 'cause they
all used to give him a money,
lotta money.

ANG

That's when he was shy-
locking.

RAFFY

In fact, wherever he take me,
in bowling alley, all the
bars, the liquor store,
people used to give him
money. I was proud everybody
like your father so much that
they give him money, so I ask
him why?

EXT: NIGHT - Poolroom - Back in time:

15

About to enter poolroom, walking, RAFFY meets NICK and
conversation picks up where it left off:

NICK

I'll tell you why, but you
gotta promise you'll never
tell anybody... It's a couple
of things, ones called loan
sharkin'. Sometimes people
run short of money and they
get desperate so they come to
me. I lend them the money
and they pay me back, but
with a little interest. The
other's called numbers.
People pick numbers, like
201, 567, 304. They make
bets in some of the places I
take you to and they give me
the money... If their number
comes in they win lots of
money, but they hardly win.
It's a sucker bet. That's
why I make all that money.

RAFFY

(Laughs.)

That's nice job, Nicka. I
like to make lotta money too.
maybe you got a job like that
for me?

NICK

I certainly do. But, I gotta tell you something. They're both slightly illegal. They're against the law and if you get arrested, you don't have to worry about a thing. I'll have you out of jail in three hours.

RAFFY

You want me to go to jail? I'm a too honest, Nicka, I no do things like that. But you no have to worry. I tell nobody 'cause me and you are *cowsins...*

NICK

Tell you what I'm gonna do for you dear cousin. Since you were a butcher in the old country, I got an idea. Ya know Mario's butcher shop on Avenue X? I think it would be perfect for you...

RAFFY

What about Mario? What if he no want to sell?

NICK

He owes me so much, he doesn't have a choice. Any way let's see what I can do. I think it's the least I can do for the guy that takes care of my family when I'm gone... and I'm gone a lot, ain't I...? Let me see what I can do.

WE are back at casket:

RAFFY

(Remembering.)

Take care of Lily he used to say. It's my pleasure Nicka, my pleasure. You father used to trust me, but ev'rybody else he no trust. He was a *molto* jealous man. Sometimes he was crazy. Likea one time we all go bowling and you father beat up the man that own the bowling alley 'cause he say he no like the way he look at you mother's *keesta* when she bowl.

ANG

Don't I, know.

RAFFY

He, have so many fights, even with the Postman. I think a husband that no trust his wife, maybe no trust himself, but he sure trusta me... After you was born, maybe 14, 15 years later, for some reason he no like me no more.

ANG

That's when it all started. I remember.

RAFFY

One day, he grab me, and he shake me real hard and say he want me out. *Per quartro mi sforzo*, I no understand. Just like that, he take all my things and throw them in street...

ANG

So, that's why you moved. Why didn't somebody tell me?

RAFFY

So, I move and buy the house
across the street and thank
God you still come to my
store after school and I give
you the best meat for you and
you mama. I'm you Godfather,
no...?

ANG

Ya know, I think I could go
for a little taste, want a
little *grapa*, Uncle Raffy?

RAFFY

No, maybe I have a little
vodka. I feel like getting
good and drunk. Maybe I
finally fall asleep.

ANG

I don't think Mommy had any
vodka.

RAFFY

It's in closet behind the
wine.

ANG goes to closet and gets vodka and fixes two drinks
and gives one to RAFFY, THEY toast and gulp it down:

ANG

To Mommy.

RAFFY

Yeah, to you Mommy. She was
everything to me... Here's a
(Picks up and shows photo.)
picture of you at your
eighteenth birthday party.
I buy that suit for you
party. You look so handsome.
See?

ANG

That was my favorite all-time
double-breasted suit Uncle
Raffy...

RAFFY

And then, maybe two or three
(Picks up and shows photo.)
days after you eighteenth
birthday party, after all
those years you father
suddenly show up.

ANG

How come nobody told me he
showed up? Secrets, secrets,
secrets. This is a family of
secrets.

RAFFY

I think he was a drunk 'cause
he was so mad.

EXT: Butcher store: Again we go back in time: 17

WE hear RAFFY'S voice-over as we see what is describes:

RAFFY (Cont'd)

He come to my butcher store,
not the one on Ocean Parkway,
but on Kings Highway. He
come into my store, he
grabbed me and he push me
outside. He was screaming
like he was crazy. *"I don't want
to ever catch you talkin' to my wife again or
I'll kill you,"* and everybody hear.

ANG

He, never kills anyone he has
his boys, remember?

RAFFY

I tell him everybody talk to Lily 'cause she's so kind and so beautiful. Luigi the grocer, Mario the cleaner, even Mr. Rosenberg, he like to talk to you mother. I tell him men like to talk to beautiful women, but he wasa *molto* jealous. He, smack me and throw me in the street just as a taxi was going by...

CUT: WE are back at casket:

18

ANG

Oh, Uncle Raffy, I'm so sorry.

RAFFY

I was in the hospital almost three months... That's why 'Manage' I have to use a cane.

ANG

That sonofabitch, I remember when you were in the hospital. You never told me it was Pop.

RAFFY

'Cause he's you father and you father is you father and all boys need a father. Even at my age... I don't understand how he can runaway from you beautiful mother... Couple years when he no come back, I tell you mother, Lily why you no marry again? But she say no, 'cause she was a too good a Catholic.

(MORE)

RAFFY (Cont'd)

As long as you father don't
divorce her she can no marry.
I don't understand my *cow*sin.
He been gone fifteen years
and poor Lily waste her whole

(Sad.)

life waiting for Nicka and
now she's gone.

ANG pours drinks and they down it quickly:

ANG

You asked Mommy to marry you,
didn't you...?

RAFFY

What you think, Ang?

ANG

I think you did. I can't
believe she never told me.

RAFFY

She, no tell you a lot of
things, 'cause she no want to
hurt you... Like she have a
cancer almost three months
before she tell you. First,
because she cough so much, I
tella her it was a TB, but it
wasa cancer. She was waiting
until you brother come home.
She didn't want you to be
alone, and the only reason
she finally tell you was
because she knew she no come
home from the hospital...

ANG

Thank God, I was with her
those last twenty-one days.

RAFFY

Like you I go to see her
everyday. I bring her the
most delicious food that I
make myself, but, she no eat
nothing. That's why she was
so skinny... And when she
could hardly breathe, I go
crazy. I go to the Brooklyn
Bridge and I want to jump,
buta God tell me no. Take
care of Lily's boy Angie, he
say, take care of Angie...
Maybe I should have jumped,
'cause not only can't I take
care of you, I can't take
care of myself...

ANG

(Embraces Raffy, both cry.)
I'm so sorry Uncle Raffy,
it's just not fair. How
could Mommy get lung cancer.
She never smoked and my
stinkin' father used to smoke
three packs of camels a day.
It doesn't make sense.

RAFFY

Lotta things no make sense,
like how can Mussolini join
Hitler. They kill my whole
famila, that's why I come
here and how can my own
cowsin try to kill me, his
own flesh and blood? Does
that make sense? And how can
he be so mean to you? You
his son too, no?

ANG

Don't remind me... Shit.

RAFFY

What's the matter, Ang?

ANG

I can't believe I wasn't with Mommy last night.

RAFFY

And I don't want you to feel bad about you not being with you Mama last night. Because you was a singing, you Mama was smiling when she die. You mama was a smiling... So, now, I want you to tell me how was last night, Ang?

ANG

I'm almost embarrassed to tell you.

RAFFY

You no have to be embarrassed, I'm you Godfather and I love you more than anything.

ANG

Franky's Lounge, it was unbelievable.

RAFFY

You Mommy told you it was beautiful, no?

ANG

(Almost embarrassed.)
Well, last night, I had such a blast.

RAFFY

Oh, I'm so happy for you Angie. That means they really like you, no?

ANG

I blew them out-of-the-water.

RAFFY

The next time you sing there
I want to come.

ANG

I'll be there next Friday,
Saturday and Sunday night.

RAFFY

I bring all my friends and
maybe Father Robustelli too.

ANG

Even though I was dying
inside, the minute I started
to sing, the minute I heard
the applause, I forgot about
everything... Tell you the
truth, afterwards I hated
myself for feeling so good...

RAFFY

You supposed to feel good
when you dream come true.
How long you wait for a you
dream, you whole life?
Believe me, you mama knows
and she's a smiling. She was
smiling 'cause she always
wanted you to be a singer and
now, thank God, he make you
one. Jesus, take care of all
good people.

ANG

Why couldn't it happen when
she was a live? Then it
would have mattered.

RAFFY

It still matters Ang, 'cause
you alive and maybe one day,
I buy you your own lounge.

(MORE)

RAFFY (Cont'd)

Ang's Lounge. Sounds nice,
no? Ang's Lounge.

ANG

Aw, you don't have to do
that, Uncle Raffy. Just come
see me sing. You've been
buying me everything for as
long as I can remember, like
that Buick when I graduated
High school. I'll never be
able to pay you back.

RAFFY

You no have to pay me back
for nothing. It's my
pleasure. For you I do
anything. That's why, when I
go to my darling Lily, I
leave everything to you,
Angie. I leave everything to
you, but you have to do me
one favor.

ANG

Don't say it, please don't
ask me again.

RAFFY

Don't be so mad at Tony and
you father, even though he
run-a-way 15 years ago...
jealousy drive him crazy...

CUT: INT: CU - HOME - Again we go back in time:

19

TONY and NICK appear.

NICK

I thought I told you to pack,
where's your bags? Where's
your freakin bags?!

TONY

I really don't want to leave Mommy, Pop... and what about my brother Ang?

NICK

How many times do I have to tell you, he's not your brother, he's a freakin' bastard!

TONY

(Remorsefully picks up photo.)
You're wrong, Pop, here's a picture of me when I was fifteen, he looks just like I did.

NICK

(Takes photo, and throws it.)
Don't, give me no shit about him lookin' like you. Your mother banged my cousin understand? And he's his kid, not mine, not mine.

TONY

I really don't want to go, I really don't. I don't want to hurt Mommy...

NICK

If she loved you so much, how could she do this to you, to me? Whose fault is it that they're all laughing at you, calling your mother all kinds of names behind your back and mine? And if you're not coming I want the Caddy back and where's a genius like you gonna make, a thou a week at your age? This is 1953 and people are lucky to make 50

(MORE)

NICK (Cont'd)

bucks a week. 2-to-1 you kill
yourself when the whole damn
neighborhood laughs in your
You coming with me or are you
staying with your whore
mother and your bastard

(Starts to walk away.)

brother... See ya around kid.

TONY

Hold on Pop, I'm coming, I'm
coming.

CUT: INT: CU: We are back at casket.

20

RAFFY

...All fathers love their
sons more than anything so
something must be the matter
with him. I think you should
feel sorry for him. Try to
find him. Tell him you
forgive him. You feel
better, Angie, 'cause the
pain you carry inside is a no
good. Tell him you love him.

ANG

Love him, that's funny.
That's exactly what my
shrinks been telling me to do
for years. "*Esfaschim*," how
could I love him? What did
he ever do for me or Mommy?
"*Ugatz*" is what he did. And
I don't understand you. That
sonofabitch threw you in
front of a cab and tried to
kill you and you tell me I
should love him. I should
love him?! You love him!

RAFFY

The reason why you go to
'*psichiatrista*' all these
years is because you think
you father no love you and
believe me I no blame you.
Nicka was never nice to you
since you was fifteen years
old anda he get even worse.
I never understand how an
Italian father cana be like
that, but all I can tell you
is that if you don't work out
all you anger you will never
be happy and I want you to be
happy more than anything...
God tell me I should take
care of you.

ANG

You've taken care of me my
whole life and as far as
being happy... I don't know.

RAFFY

I know Ang, but you have to
be happy with or without you
father's approval.

ANG

Without my father... Without
my father I wouldn't have
been born and maybe I would
have been better off.

RAFFY

Oh, no say that Angie, you
mother love you more than
anything. She was a so proud
of you and me too when you
get your B.A. Tony no go to
college 'cause he not smart
like you. But you, I thank
God every day that he give me
you, 'cause you all I have.

ANG

Sorry about that.

RAFFY

You are the best Godson
anyone ever had. You always
remember my birthday.
Christmas, Easter Sunday we
all go to church. I hope
from the bottom of my heart,
when you no more hate you
father, you become happy and
get married.

ANG

(Pours two drinks.)

I'll never get married Uncle
Raffy... 'cause I don't want
to end up like him...

RAFFY

You a not like you father,
Angie. You kind, you a
gentleman, and you father is
a...

ANG

Don't tell me, I know, I
know...

RAFFY

Why you no take a nap? If
anyone come, I wake you.

ANG

Ya know, now that Mommy's
gone, there's something I've
wanted to ask you for the
longest time... It's
something I always talk to my
shrink about. I have to
know. You gotta tell me the
truth.

RAFFY

To you I always tell the
truth.

THEY stare at each other. After a beat.

ANG

Are you my real father?

After a beat.

RAFFY

I wish I was, Ang. More than
anything, I wish I was you
father, 'cause I would be a
so proud.

ANG

I wish you was too, more than
anything... Ya know, this is
getting a little too heavy
for me, Uncle Raffy. Maybe I
better take a little walk.

RAFFY

You take a walk Angie, you
take a walk. Then you come
back and you go to sleep and
you dream about being happy.

ANG hugs RAFFY and exits. RAFFY looks around, 46
and remembers, kisses photo, goes to closet and removes
one of Lily's dresses. He smells it, then holds it close
and dances with it. He sings Jolson's "Anniversary Waltz."

RAFFY

*"Oh how we danced, on the
night we were wed. We vowed
our truea love, though a word
wasn't said."*

Emotional he notices a little box that he rummages
through and finds a letter addressed to him. Sadly he opens
it and reads it as WE hear LILY'S voice over.

(MORE)

RAFFY (Cont'd)

To my dearest, dearest
Rafael, I can never repay you
for all you have been to me
and Angie all these years.
Without your love and
kindness, I believe I would
have committed suicide when
Nick left fifteen years ago.
Since that one and only night
that we were together... I
shall always remember your
tenderness... I have loved
you more than any man I have
ever known. I know I should
have married you... I wanted
to more than anything, but
you know how dumb Catholics
can be. There is no way I
can ever repay you for being
the father that Angie always
needed and especially paying
for his college education. I
am about to tell you
something that I should have
told you years ago. In fact
the only other person in the
whole world that knows,
thanks to going to confession
everyday is Father
Robustelli. My darling
(Looks at photo and holds
head in amazement.)
Raffy, here is a picture of
your true son. Yes you are
his real father. Please
forgive me for not telling
you sooner. I will always
love you. *Lily*.

RAFFY

Lily, my darling Lily. Why
you no tell me all these
years?

(MORE)

RAFFY (Cont'd)

And now it's too late. I madea one mistake and I pay for it my whole life because I can never have the only woman I ever loved. It's too late... Even though I go to confession I still have such guilt. Such guilt I live with. maybe you too, no? We only make a love one time. I no think you can make a baby one time... People try for so many years and nothing. One time... We were two lonely people who needed each other... One time... It was my fault not yours, Lily because I am the man. When Nicka throw me in front of the taxi I should have died... I wish I die... I deserve worse than what Nicka do to me because I was a wrong... I never see nothing.

RAFFY cries as he takes match, strikes it, burns letter and exits.

CUT: INT: ANG'S livingroom:

22

TONY wearing a black suit enters. HE notices ANG sleeping on couch, looks around, and remembers his past, stares at the casket then at ANG. After a beat.

TONY

(Shakes Ang.)

Ang, Ang wake up, it's me.

ANG

You...? What the hell are you doing here? Why, I'd like to break your Goddamn head off you creep!

Angry, grabs Tony's shirt.

Although bigger, he puts face forward.

TONY

Go, ahead, take your best shot...

ANG hauls off and pushes TONY to floor. After a beat, TONY smiles, approaches ANG, lifts him up, shakes and then releases HIM.

TONY

Not bad... I hope that makes us even...

ANG

We'll never be even asshole!

TONY

I heard about Mommy...

ANG

Well you're too late. You're too damn late!

TONY

I know and I'm real sorry.

ANG

You're sorry? What a crock of shit, you're sorry. You haven't seen her since last Christmas and you're sorry?

TONY

I fucked up, what, can I tell you...

ANG

You sure did you sure did and
I wish you wouldn't talk that
way in front of Mommy.
What'd you forget...? Ya
know, even on her deathbed,
she asked for you.

TONY

Really?

ANG

She even asked about that
low-life. Can you imagine,
he hasn't seen her in fifteen
years and she still asked
about him. *"Forgive and
forget."* That's Mommy for
you, *"Forgive and forget."*

TONY

You know what they say
happens just before you die;
Your whole life passes before
you. That's probably the
only reason why she'd still
think of Pop. Anyway, what
happened? It's like she died
just like that.

ANG

Just like that, huh. She's
been dying for six months and
you think she died just like
that. It doesn't matter that
she was in the hospital for
the last three months, had
three transfusions, it
happened just like that, huh?

TONY

Up yours, Ang, *"Menza
lagorsh."*

ANG

Where you breathe... Where
you breathe.

TONY

So, you gonna tell me or
what? How'd Mommy die?

ANG

Why the hell should I tell
you? You never cared. You
never gave two shits about
her...

TONY

That's not true, I swear to
Christ that's not true.

ANG

Oh, yeah... If it's not true
how come you only came to see
Mommy on Christmas? Since
when did you become Santa
Claus's elf?

TONY

The funny thing is, Pop never
asked where I went on
Christmas and I wasn't gonna
tell him.

ANG

Otherwise he wouldn't let you
out of your cage.

TONY

I came 'cause I loved her,
even though I knew what she
did.

ANG

What'd she do, what the hell
did your mother ever do to
you besides love you to
death? She idolized you
Tony. You were her oldest
son. To her, you were the

(MORE)

ANG (Cont'd)

closest thing to God, "My Tony" don'tcha remember how she used to say your name? "My Tony." What the hell did she ever do to you?

TONY

What'd she do, what she do? Pop told me she did it to Uncle Raffy, and you're his kid.

ANG

Uncle Raffy? You're out of your fuckin' snap! He told me he's not my father and we both know Uncle Raffy never lies... Well, for your information Mr. Know-it-all, I finally asked him and he swore he not my father, are you satisfied now?

TONY

He really told you that...? Well, I'm not here to talk to you, okay? Where is he? Where's Uncle Raffy?

ANG

Why? Since when did you start caring about Uncle Raffy?

TONY

Pop said, now that Mommy's gone he's coming back later to even up the score, so I took an earlier plane to warn him. We gotta warn him. He's gotta get out of town 'cause Pop said he's gonna "do" him personally. I never

(MORE)

TONY (Cont'd)

saw Pop do anyone himself.
He usually gets one of the
guys. But this time he's
crazy and he's packin.

ANG

If that's the case, he's
gonna have to kill me first,
because Uncle Raffy is a
saint. Who was more
religious, who was kinder,
who did more than Mommy,
Sister Theresa? And you
believed him? You still
believe him... Why you're a
bigger asshole than he is...
How could a woman that went
to mass every morning, work
in the old age home, raise
money for those Jewish
orphans in Poland, how could
she screw around with Uncle
Raffy no less... God will
punish you Tony and I'm gonna
be glad 'cause you deserted
us, you left us flat. And
personally I don't give two
shits about Pop, but you, my
own brother? I always looked
up to you...

TONY

Really, you looked up to me?
You really mean it, Ang? I
didn't even finish High
school.

ANG

Who cares about High school,
if it wasn't for Uncle Raffy
I don't know what would of
happened to us... He's the
kindest, the nicest, he's the
most honest person there ever
was. (MORE)

ANG (Cont'd)

You know that. Do you know he even paid for my college education? I got a B.A. Not that I could get a job, that's why I've been tending bar. Uncle Raffy did what Pop stopped doing 15 years ago, he took care of me and Mommy because he really cared.

TONY

Probably took care of you 'cause he was guilty...

ANG

...Guilty shit! I told you he's not my father and Pop's the one that ran away, 'cause he's the one that was and still is guilty. Without Uncle Raffy I don't think we would of made it and Pop thinks he screwed Mommy. I swear to Christ, I wish Uncle Raffy was my father, 'cause he was always there for me. Not only me, he was always there for Mommy while your father, your father was screwin' every bimbo in existence. Don't think I don't know, I know plenty and ya know what they say about cryin' wolf? He's probably the biggest whore-master that ever lived and you know, instead of blaming himself for screwin' around, to clear his own conscience, he blamed the sweetest person that ever lived, Mommy.

TONY

So, you gonna tell me what she died from or what?

ANG

First we thought it was TB because she coughed so much but it was Lung cancer, can you believe it, lung cancer and that bastard used to smoke three packs of Camels a day.

TONY

Now it's Marlboros, four packs and Mommy dies of lung cancer. Go figure it out... When's the funeral? I'd like to tell all the guys to make sure they send lots of flowers.

ANG

It's Thursday.

TONY

Shit, Pop said we got business in Detroit on Thursday.

ANG

So, don't come. I'm sure she won't miss you.

TONY

What kind of way is that to talk? She was my mother too. And all I know is I'm staying for Mommy's funeral... And I know you're not gonna believe me and I don't blame you Ang, but my heart is breaking and I'm truly sorry...

ANG

Sorry for what?

TONY

(After an emotional beat, he touches casket.)
For everything... Was she still beautiful Ang? Tell me she was still beautiful.

ANG

Yeah, she was beautiful alright.

TONY

(Goes to open casket and looks at his mother.)
I got to see her, I gotta see here one more time.

ANG

Don't do it, trust me, you wouldn't recognize her... She could hardly breathe... It was terrible... Ya know, Uncle Raffy told me she didn't tell me she had it for three months 'cause she didn't want me to find out by myself. She was still hoping... she always held out hope that you'd wake up, that you'd know, that you'd come back so we could face it together, as a family.

TONY puts arm on Ang.

ANG (cont'd)

Don't you dare touch me, now all of a sudden you want to make up? Well it's too late mister asshole, it's too late.

TONY

Ang, what could I do? Not only did he badmouth her everyday, he called the both of you every name he could think of. (MORE)

ANG (Cont'd)

I really couldn't take it...
After awhile I started to
believe him. He made me
crazy.

ANG

You were always crazy, crazy
to go into business with your
father.

TONY

Hey, don't knock it. We're
making a shit-load of money.
I mean Pop's in the big time
and I mean BIG TIME.

ANG

What about all the people
that get the clap and
syphilis from your fuckin'
hookers? How many poor slobs
have lost everything because
of your loan sharking and how
many have died from your
smack, your freakin' heroin
and all the other shit he
deals?

TONY

What are you making such a
big deal for? Smack's
nothing. I snorted little
smack myself. For a while I
even liked it.

ANG

Liked it...? I always knew
you were crazy.

TONY

It was easy, I
was selling two, three kis at
a pop. Sometimes I'd have
four, five hundred pounds in
my garage. I had more shit
than the King of Siam... I
did it for (MORE)

TONY (Cont'd)

almost a year when Lewie the
lip found out and told Pop
that I was doing it. I was
never so scared in my life...
He took out his 45,

NICK points gun at TONY'S knees.

Pointed it at my knees and
said that if he ever heard I
was doing it again he'd blow
both my knee caps off... I
never did it again.

ANG

And I hope the two of you
lived happily ever after.

TONY

You don't understand; with
all the money he has, he
lives like a king. Top floor
of the Fontainebleau, and you
should see all the showgirls
he knows. Ya know, Pop owns
two banks in Miami and one in
the Caiman Islands and I
can't tell you how many
restaurants and night clubs,
but somehow he never seemed
that happy... Always talkin'
about Mommy... I guess, so
did I?

ANG

Do you really believe I buy
all this shit? You want to
erase fifteen years just like
that? Are you trying to say
all of a sudden you care?
Will you give me a fucking
break. You both stink. And
as far as I'm concerned, if I
never see you again that will

(MORE)

ANG (Cont'd)

be soon enough, so why don't
you leave before I throw-up,
because you make me nauseous.

TONY

Ya know, I don't blame you
for being so pissed. No
matter how many times I tell
you I'm sorry it don't matter
'cause I wasn't there when
you needed me.

ANG

Never.

TONY

But most of all I wasn't
there for Mommy... I always
(Looks at casket and after a
beat takes out photo.)
loved you Mommy. Even though
I didn't come to see you

Turns to Ang.

enough, I always loved you...
And you too, Ang. I know you
don't believe me, but you
were my baby brother and...
(Sobs.)
all these years you saw her,
I didn't. You hugged her, I
didn't. You heard Mommy
sing... You used to sing with
her. I never sang with her.

ANG

Not everybody's born a
singer, ya know.

TONY

Not as good as you Ang. You
were always the best singer,
the best student, the
smartest, the best looking,
the best everything, but that
don't mean that I didn't love

(MORE)

TONY (Cont'd)

Mommy just as much as you,
'cause I did. I probably
loved her even more 'caused I
missed her... Shit, remember
when we went to the Bronx zoo
with Mommy and we saw the
elephants doing it? Did we
laugh our balls off or did we
(Starts to laugh.)
laugh our balls off?

ANG

(Starts to laugh.)

That's because Mommy got so
embarrassed. The more they
did it and they were really
doing it, I mean it felt like
the whole zoo was shaking,
the more Mommy cried, "*Oh I
can't look, children don't
look.*" the more we laughed.

TONY

(Laughs.)

And we couldn't stop
laughing...

ANG

(Laughing.)

'Meenkeron,' it was as big as
a tree trunk...

TONY

Starts to cry - And when Mommy told us not to
look, I almost peed in my
- touches casket.
pants. She was so funny...
So funny. I'm sorry Mommy,
please forgive me, I'm so
sorry.

ANG

You really did care about
her, didn't you.

TONY

Always, always...

THEY hug and cry as NICK enters ominously.

NICK

Am I actually seeing my son
hug his half breed brother?

TONY

Oh, hi ya Pop.

NICK

Hi ya Pop your ass you
ungrateful cocksucker.
What's this I see you huggin'
your bastard brother?

TONY

Don't you understand?
Mommy's dead Mommy's dead.

NICK

So what do you think I'm here
for, my health?

ANG

I'd like to know that too.
WHY THE FUCK DID YOU COME
BACK?!

NICK

HEY! Don't raise your voice
to me you little cockroach.
I came back to pay my
respects. I always pay my
respects.

ANG

Well pay 'em and get the hell
out. Seems like Mommy ain't
gonna cry for you no more, so
you are not needed. Not
needed... You were never
needed.

TONY

He's hurt, Pop, that's why he's talkin' like that. He told me he missed us both real bad all these years. Maybe we was wrong, ya know what I mean? Maybe we was wrong?

ANG

I told him I only missed my brother, not you. Never you.

NICK

He's not your brother he's your half brother, half breed, your half brother! Your a bastard don't you understand? You were never my son, never.

ANG

I'd give anything if it were only true.

NICK

Well it's true, it's true 'cause I'm not your father.

ANG

I wish you weren't... I swear to Christ I wish you weren't.

TONY

Can'tcha take it easy on him, Pop? You haven't seen him in 15 years and you're treating him like he's a stranger.

NICK

He is a stranger, he's always been a stranger in our family as far as I'm concerned...

TONY

We hardly have any family
left now that Mommy's gone...

ANG

Don't worry about me, Tony.
After all these years I can
take care of myself.

TONY

You sure can Ang. He looks
fuckin' great, don't he Pop?

NICK

I was hopin' to run into that
fuckin' cripple, I wanted to
say hello, ya know what I
(Smiles.)
mean? Tell him how much I
missed him.

ANG

Tell him they say only fools
carry grudges...

NICK

Are you saying I'm a fool are
you saying I'm a fool? Why I
oughta teach you a lesson
once and for all you *chadrul!*

TONY

You ain't doin' nothin' Pop,
and there's nothing you can
say, this guy's my brother,
Ang's definitely my kid
brother.

NICK

You stay out of this you
nitwit! I'm not talking to
you.

TONY

Oh, so now I'm a nitwit, huh?
I'm a nitwit. I'll remember
that.

NICK

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to
call you a nitwit.

ANG

That's called a Freudian
slip.

TONY

I know what a slip is and
that wasn't a fuckin' slip.
He meant it. You meant every
word you said, didn'tcha?
You think I'm a fuckin'
nitwit, don't you?

NICK

I didn't mean to call you a
nitwit. I was thinkin' about
that two-timin' guinea
bastard, when I was talkin'
to you. Raffy's the nitwit,
not you. I swear to Christ.

TONY

You're always swearin' to
Christ and every time you do
means you're lying, like what
you told me about Mommy and
how Ang's not my brother...
Well, for you information,
Ang told me that he finally
asked Uncle Raffy and ya know
he said? he wasn't his
father... you are... What a
dummy. I have to be a nitwit
for believing you all these
years.

NICK

Who else would you believe in if not me. Who dropped out of high school? Who couldn't get a job except pumping gas. Who took you with them? Who made you a fuckin' millionaire? Not your bastard brother.

TONY

Please don't talk about Ang like that. I'm beggin' you. I don't like it. I just don't like it.

NICK

All right, let's skip this subject will you please. Right now I'm more interested in...

RAFFY enters.

ANG

...Uncle Raffy...

TONY

It's real good to see you Uncle Raffy, but I don't think you should of come right now.

NICK

I told you the *skeeve* would show up, didn't I Tony? This time I'll break his other fuckin' leg and as a gesture of goodwill maybe I'll even get him a nice motorized wheel chair.

TONY

Why don't you forget about it, Pop? It's over... Mommy's gone and I wish, you wouldn't talk like that, he's my Uncle ya know, Uncle Raffy's still my uncle.

NICK

YOU'RE UNCLE? WHAT KINDA UNCLE SCREWS YOUR MOTHER?

ANG

Mommy never slept with anybody but you, and as I hear it, you're the one that screwed around. But you were always so damn jealous that you'd even accuse Jesus Christ if he said hello to Mommy. You were crazy when you left and you've become even crazier.

NICK

I'll give you crazy, I'll give you crazy, you little bastard! Are you trying to tell me that this low-life didn't bang your mother?

Outraged , he Grabs Raffy.

Well did you? Admit it, admit it!

RAFFY

You was a big fool, Nicka. You runaway from the woman you loved you whole life and she a love you. She tell me Nicka. She tell me she love you and you runaway. Why? Because you get some '*stupido*' idea that I, maybe not only me, maybe everybody in the whole world touch your

(MORE)

RAFFY (Cont'd)

beautiful Lily. Why not, you think all men want to make *push* just like you, no? 'Manage.' *Strunz ala menz.* You waste your whole life because you gotta pride. The hell with you and your '*stupido*' pride. Who gives a shit what anybody thinks. You think somebody care, besides your two boys? Nobody give two shits about you.

NICK

Well I give a shit about you, you '*Beste merde!*'

RAFFY

You cannot talk like that in front of Lily. Have you no respect?

ANG

He never had respect for Mommy. Never.

TONY

But you should have some respect now, don'tcha think Pop? Mommy's gone.

NICK

I'll give you respect!
Living in my own house with Lily... I even gave this bastard money to open up his shops and behind my back, he did it to my old lady and now
(Pulls out gun.)
it's my turn to do it to him.
GRAB HIM TONY!

TONY

What are you crazy? This is
uncle Raffy, you can't do,
Uncle Raffy, you can't, you
just can't.

NICK

Why not, who's gonna stop me,
you...?

TONY

Yeah, me Pop, maybe nitwit's
gonna finally stop you.

NICK

Am I hearing this correctly,
"You" are going to stop "Me?"

ANG

(Stands in front of Raffy.)
...And me, if you kill Uncle
Raffy then you're gonna have
to kill me too.

NICK

Don't tempt me you little
bastard, don't tempt me.

ANG

I'm not afraid of you. You
can kill me, but you can't
hurt me. You already did
that. 15 years ago.

RAFFY

(Pushes Ang and Tony away.)
'Arrabbiato! Nicka you are a
mad! You have become crazy!
I can no believe that me and
you are from the same blood.
You would hurt you two sons?
You want to shoot me, be my
guest. That's what you must
tell Tony all these years.
That when you see me, you

(MORE)

RAFFY (Cont'd)

killa me, go ahead, I really
no care now that my best
friend is no more here, you
wife Lily... Not my wife, but
you wife Nicka... And what do
you think Lily would have
wanted? That her husband,
the father of her sons fight
with them? Lily always want
'*La pace. Pace di animo,*' a
peace of mind between father
and son, '*L'amore...*'

NICK

I'm gonna give you love all
right, between your fuckin'
eyes. I told you to grab
him, didn't I?

TONY

I ain't doin' nothin'.

NICK

Outraged because TONY didn't listen to him he slaps Tony.
'*Omertá!*' '*Omertá!*' **You turn your back
against me and the family!** I told you
to do it, didn't I?! So DO
IT!

For the first time in HIS life TONY responds violently and
pinning HIS FATHERS arms, HE gains much confidence.

TONY

I told you I ain't doing
nothing, you understand?!
Never. I'm through doing what
you want, what you tell me.
I'm through listening to you
bad mouth my mother and my
family.

ANG

That's right, Tony's
through... He's through.
Tony's not a nitwit, you are!

TONY

Ang knows I mean it 'cause
he's my brother, understand?
Like it or not! Now, Ang,
get the gun and why don't we
tie the fuckin' nitwit up?

ANG

(Gets gun and throws it out
the window.)
Now we don't have to tie
anyone up. How's that for
(Smiles.)
being equal for a change Mr.
Nitwit?

RAFFY

Yeah, maybe for the first
time we are all equal. maybe
give Ev'rybody chance to say
the truth, make 'pace'
because we are equal!

NICK

That's one of the few things I
liked about you. You always
hit the nail right on the
labonza, sounds like it's
time for the truth, huh...?
Okay, so I used to fuck
around, when ever and
wherever, 'cause I'm Italian
and Latins need, they always
need a little... Hey, that
was okay for me, but for
Lily? Who the hell did she
think she was banging my own
cousin, my own flesh and
blood, Lady Godiva? When
you came here I treated you
like my brother and what does
Brutus do? I still say I
should of killed this prick
when I had the chance and I

(MORE)

NICK (Cont'd)

tried, unfortunately he only became a cripple... And you can call it pride, call it whatever the fuck you want, but to tell you the truth I couldn't take looking at the both of you. It was driving me crazy, so I left... and for the last fifteen years who'd I think about, who'd I talk about everyday?

TONY

Mommy and Ang, and Uncle Raffy. That's all the nitwit ever spoke about... Mommy and Ang, and Uncle Raffy.

NICK

I ran away from her, from you, yet all I ever did was, all I ever thought about was... You don't understand, Ang. Before I figured it out, I was the happiest guy in Brooklyn. I was married to your mother, better looking than Ava Gardner and Lana Turner, she was more Catholic than my own mother. And when Tony was born, I couldn't give two-shits about Rockefeller 'cause I had it all. I was making a bundle with my truck, moving little things from here to there for the boys.

TONY

Then you started with the union, right Pop?

NICK

Exactly. Then, one day they tell me to run the trucking union. What did I know about unions, but I learned real fast, ya know what I mean?. Made half a mil in two years, under the table and after that there was no stopping me. That's when we bought this house free and clear. I loved your mother more than I could stand... I bought her caddies, mink coats, diamonds, you name it and she returned everything. So, I stopped, ya know what I mean? I'm no dope. She said she felt better sending small donations to, whoever, whatever made her happy made me even happier, 'cause I worshipped the ground she walked on and then you were born, I remember it like it was yesterday. When you was born, I thought I died and went to heaven. I had two sons and I named you Ang after my grandma Angela. I think I loved her even more than I loved my own mother. Every time I heard your name, Ang, I smiled. You immediately became my all time favorite.

TONY

WHAT? You always said I was your favorite.

NICK

You too you too,
unfortunately, in those days
I did a lot of running 'cause
the boys had bigger plans for
me. I was traveling all
over. Chicago, Atlanta,
L.A., Frisco, Vegas, Boston,
Philadelphia, Detroit. But,
because I was so in love with
your mother, I called her
everyday, no matter where or
what I was doing. I was too
smart. Unfortunately,
sometimes I was gone for
weeks, even months. And one
time, like an asshole, seems
I forgot her birthday, and
believe me, I know how pissed
she got. She had this thing
about birthdays... I was out
of town and she must have
been feeling pretty shitty
'cause I forgot to call her
on her birthday, that's when
I think he... Living in my
own house, that's when this
fuckin' *skeong* nailed her...

TONY

Your wrong, Pop, Uncle Raffy
didn't do it. Don'tcha
understand? He told Ang he's
not his father and he never
lies. He's too honest,
remember? You're really his
old man, I'm telling you, so
why don't you wake up?

NICK

(Into recalling, doesn't hear
anything.)

One day Ang, we went to Coney
Island. We were on the

(MORE)

NICK (Cont'd)

Ferris wheel and laughing our balls off. Whenever I was with you we laughed our balls off... All of a sudden, I don't know what it was, but I saw this strange look on your face. A Raffy look. I couldn't believe what I was seeing, but there was no doubt about it. Hey, I wasn't crazy. If I saw it, I knew the whole freakin' world would see that you looked like my cousin Raffy more than me. And look who I was. What would the boys think of me, the Don? I was so embarrassed, but I knew you'd understand. That's why I loved you right, Tony.

TONY

Yeah, you loved me all right. The only reason you took me with you when you left Mommy was you needed someone on your side, didn't you? But, now I'm gonna tell you the truth. At first I wasn't on your side, 'cause I didn't think Mommy or Uncle Raffy would do such a terrible thing. You forget, he'd been living with us all those years. If it would of happened, it would happened much sooner, don'tcha think? But that was yesterday. Today, we're finally all together.

ANG

Ya know, my whole life I wanted you to love me, to be the father I once knew, cared about, loved, and suddenly, it doesn't matter. I don't care if we're all together. I really don't.

RAFFY

Lily is a gone. The past is the past. Better you forget everything. The only thing that matters now is '*La famiglia*' and... since Ang was little boy, all he ever wanted, all he ever needed was his father's *amore*... Not my love Nicka, but you love... So he go to '*psichiatista*' his whole life trying to find '*Il cielo*.' Can the whole world, you two sons be wrong and you right? Open you eyes Nicka before it's too late. I beg you Nicka, let's make '*Pace*.'

TONY

Even if you don't, Ang is definitely my kid brother, so, as far as I'm concerned you don't know what the hell you're saying and I'm glad I'm back. In fact, I just might move back. What do ya say, Ang, maybe we'll split a duplex that is if you're in the mood... Far as I'm concerned, I never felt better. Don't ya wish Mommy could see us all together

Ang smiles and hugs Raffy.

right now Uncle Raffy... Ya know I've always loved you.

RAFFY

And I love you Tony, like a my
own son. To see all of you
together makes an old man
very happy, especially you,
Ang. I always wanted you to
be the most happy, don't ask
me why.

RAFFY offers hand. NICK pulls HIM face to face.

NICK

Okay, *'coogheen, mano-to
mano*. Tell me the truth, you
Ang's father?

RAFFY

...I wish I was but I'm
not...

NICK

You're telling the truth,
aren't you? Always. You
never lie.

RAFFY

How long's it been, Nicka?

NICK

Gotta be fifteen years no?

RAFFY

Feels like forever, no?

NICK

At least, maybe longer.

RAFFY

Seem the last time I see you,
you look like Tony-Ang, now
you look like...

NICK

...Don't say an old man. So I got a few gray hairs and put on a few pounds but who's counting? and except for poor (Touches casket.) Lily, here things couldn't be better.

TONY

You're right, Pop. Except for Mommy and all, things couldn't be better, 'cause it's the first time in a long (Hugs Nick and Ang.) time that we all been together and I sure like the way it feels, don't you?

NICK

Please, don't start gettin' sentimental on me.

TONY

(Touches casket.) I feel real sentimental Pop... and seeing Ang. Don't he look great? He's a fuckin' man. The last time I saw him he was a young punk, and now he's gorgeous. Looks just like me, don't he? Look at him... If this guy ain't my kid brother then no one is. Pop, am I crazy or what?

NICK

You're only a little crazy, that's all. You've always been like that, but that don't matter 'cause I still love ya.

RAFFY

So, what do you say Nicka,
like the old times? Let's
drink to your sons? They all
you have left.

NICK

(Looking at casket.)
Yeah, I may have screwed a
lotta broads in my life, but
Walks away from casket.
there's only one woman that I
loved... truly loved...
Returns and opens casket.
Oh, my God, what happened to
you? What happened to my
Cries and shakes throughout.
beautiful Lily...? Oh, Lily,
I'm sorry... I'm sorry for
ever leaving you and...

RAFFY

Ang, go to your father... He
needs you.

ANG'S goes to NICK and puts HIS arm around HIM. TONY
hugs THEM both.

ANG

It's all right Pop, It's all
right, I understand., I
really do.

RAFFY talks to casket. Lights dim and spot lights Raffy.

RAFFY

(Emotional - aside.)
Wella Lily my darling, looks
like it's goodbye, but don't
worry; I come to see you
every Sunday and I bring you
your flowers; Yellow
Tulips... And I don't go
dancing no more... And I
(MORE)

RAFFY (Cont'd)

never lie to Nicka. It's a shame that he waste his whole life thinking I was Ang's father when Tony is my boy. Tony is my boy, not Angie... Angie was hisa son, not Tony. He take my boy and believe he was his boy all these years, it's crazy no? Waste whole life... So, looks like you family make 'pace'... I'm so happy they make 'pace,' so
(Starts to exit.)
maybe I go.

NICK

Hey 'cowzin,' where you going...? Yeah, so, eh, maybe I'm the fuckin' nitwit but don't tell anyone, but I was wrong. maybe, but that don't mean that we ain't still family. Blood's blood, *capish*...?

TONY

(Goes to Raffy because he loves him.)
That's right. *'Tutta la famiglia!'*

RAFFY

(Hugs Tony and cries, then Nick feigns punching Tony.)
'Tutta la famiglia,' my Tony... *'Tutta la famiglia.'*

THE END