THE PEPPERONIS

A radio/stage play

By

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ANNOUNCER

AS WE RESEARCHED THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, WE STUMBLED ON A STUNNING, LITTLE-KNOWN RADIO PROGRAM WHICH SEEMS TO MIRROR A MUCH MORE WIDELY-KNOWN TELEVISION SERIES ENTITLED "THE SOPRANOS". AND NEVER BEING ONES TO SHY AWAY FROM CHEAP RIP-OFFS, TONIGHT WE PROUDLY PRESENT AN EPISODE OF THE SOON-TO-BE-LITIGIOUS PROGRAM: "THE PEPPERONIS"

(SFX: MUFFLED GUN SHOTS. BANG BANG BANG!)

BRUNO

THERE YA GO, TONY. THAT RAT FINK LOUIS "LOOSE LIPS" LUIGI WON’T BE DOIN’ ANY MORE TALKIN’ TO THE FEDS.

TONY

YEAH. TOO BAD LOUIS "LOOSE LIPS" WASN’T THE ONE TALKIN’ TO THE FEDS.

BRUNO

HE WASN’T?

TONY

NAW, IT WAS HIS COUSIN LENNY "LOUSY ORAL HYGIENE" LACONI. HE’S THE GUY WE SHOULDA WHACKED.

BRUNO

AH, WELL. THESE THINGS HAPPEN. WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH LOUIS’ BODY?

TONY

DROP IT IN THAT DITCH WHERE WE DUMPED MARIO "MISSING EAR", FRANK "FUNGUS TOE" AND NICKY "NO NICKNAME".

BRUNO

THAT'S GETTIN’ TO BE A CROWDED DITCH.

TONY

YOU TALKIN’ BACK TO ME, YOU LAZY S.O.B?

BRUNO

NO, TONY, NEVER, TONY.

TONY

OKAY THEN. LISTEN, I GOTTA GO.

BRUNO

WHERE YOU RUNNIN’ OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY? WE STILL GOT BUSINESS.

TONY

LISTEN, I DON’T-
BRUNO
WE GOTTA DEAL WITH THOSE NUNS THAT DIDN’T COUGH UP THEIR
INSURANCE MONEY, WE GOTTA MAKE OUR F.O.P. DONATIONS, AND WE
GOTTA UNLOAD THOSE 58 CRATES OF PROPHYLACTICS WE STOLE.

TONY
YOU CAN-

BRUNO
PERSONALLY, I DON’T THINK THAT WAS SUCH A GOOD IDEA IN THE
FIRST PLACE, TONY. I MEAN, TWO CRATES OF PROPHYLACTICS I CAN
SEE, BUT 58, THAT’S A LOT OF BOINGY-BOINGIES TO UNLOAD, YOU
KNOW WHAT I’M SAYIN’?

TONY
BRUNO-

BRUNO
MAYBE IF WE SOLD’EM AS BALLOONS AT KIDS’ BIRTHDAY PARTIES-

BRUNO-

BRUNO
I MEAN, THE CHUCKIE-CHEESE GUYS MIGHT-

BRUNO!

TONY
WHAT.

TONY
YOU’RE THE DEPUTY OF THE ASSOCIATION. YOU TAKE CARE OF IT.

BRUNO
WHERE YOU GOIN’ IN SUCH A HURRY? WHAT’S MORE IMPORTANT THAN
THE ASSOCIATION?

TONY
NOTHIN’! I JUST... I GOT SOME OTHER BUSINESS, OKAY? DO YOU
FRICKIN’ MIND?

BRUNO
SURE THING, TONY. SURE THING.

(MUSIC. DOOR OPENS WITH LITTLE
ENTRANCE BELLS TINKLING. SOUND OF
ACCORDION MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND)

PETEY
TONY! TONY PEPPERONI! HOW YOU DOIN’, MAN?
TONY
CUT IT, PETEY. YOU THINK I WANT EVERYBODY KNOWIN’ I’M HERE?

PETEY
BUT IT’S YOUR PIZZA PARLOR, TONY. YOU OWN IT! YOU RUN IT!
YOU DA MAN!

TONY
AND WHAT HAPPENS IF ANYBODY FINDS THAT OUT? FAR AS THE WORLD
KNOWS I’M A NICE RESPECTABLE MOB BOSS. WHAT HAPPENS TO THAT
REPUTATION IF WORD GETS OUT I ACTUALLY RUN A PIZZA PARLOR ON
THE SIDE?

PETEY
IT’S A NICE PIZZA PARLOR, TONY.

TONY
IT’S STILL PIZZA, PETEY! YOU CALL IT WHAT YOU WANT, IT’S
STILL TOMATO SAUCE, DOUGH, CHEESE AND TOPPINGS. AND GOD HELP
ME, I LOVE IT. I GOT PIZZA SAUCE IN MY BLOOD. IT’S THE ONLY
THING I’M REALLY GOOD AT.

PETEY
YOU’RE A PERFECTLY FINE MOB BOSS TOO, TONY.

TONY
DON’T TRY TO FRICKIN’ PLACATE ME, OKAY, PETEY? DON’T YOU
HAVE SOME CALZONES TO STUFF?

PETEY
ACTUALLY THAT’S WHAT I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT. WE GOTTA
MAKE A DECISION ON WHETHER TO GO WITH THAT THICK CHICAGO DEEP-
DISH STYLE OR THE CRISPY CRUST. OR BOTH.

TONY
WE GOTTA DECIDE TODAY?

PETEY
NEW MENUS GO TO THE PRINTER NEXT WEEK.

TONY
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH.

PETEY
AND ACTUALLY WE GOT WORSE NEWS.

TONY
WORSE? YOU’RE BUSTIN’ MY STROMBOLIS HERE-

PETEY
THERE’S A NEW PIZZA JOINT GOIN’ IN DOWN THE STREET.
...IN OUR TERRITORY?

ON OUR BLOCK.

IS IT THAT CAP’N TONY? CAUSE IF IT IS, THEY’RE GONNA FIND MORE THAN SAUSAGE IN THEIR MEAT-LOVERS COMBO-

IT’S WORSE.

WORSE?

IT’S DOMINOES.

...NO. DEAR GOD, TELL ME YOU’RE YANKIN’ ME.

SWEAR TO GOD, TONY. SAW THE BLUE AND RED LOGO IN THE WINDOW THIS MORNING MYSELF.

OH GOD... OH GOD...

(SOUND OF A BOTTLE POPPING OPEN AND PILLS POURING OUT, FOLLOWED BY MASSIVE DRINKING)

TONY

TONY! TONY! WHAT’S WITH THE PILLS? YOU OKAY?

MY DOC PRESCRIBED’EM. TO HANDLE THE STRESS. I CAN TAKE FIFTEEN AN HOUR. DOMINOES. MOTHER OF MARY, DOMINOES, THOSE GUYS ARE GONNA CRUSH US LIKE FRICKIN’ BUGS! I THOUGHT THE FBI WAS BAD -- BUT DOMINOES -- THEY GOT THOSE CHEESE STICKS NOW, THEY GOT CINNAMON STIX WITH ICING! IT’S OVER! WE’RE TOAST! CLOSE THE FRICKIN’ DOORS! BLOW OUT THE PILOT LIGHT, GRACIE, WE’RE HISTORY!!

BRUNO

HOW LONG’S IT TAKE FOR THOSE STRESS PILLS TO KICK IN?

I HAVE NO FRICKIN’ IDEA, MORON! I CAN’T BREATHE. I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE -- I GOTTA SEE MY WIFE AND KIDS-
PETEY
YOU GONNA TELL’EM ABOUT OUR PIZZA PARLOR?

TONY
WHAT DO YOU THINK, I’M INSANE? AND LOSE WHAT LITTLE RESPECT THEY STILL GOT FOR ME? OUTTA MY WAY!!

(TINKLE OF THE BELLS ON THE DOOR)

PETEY
HE NEVER SAID DEEP DISH OR THIN AND CRISPY.

(ACCORDION MUSIC STOPS. A DOOR OPENS)

CARMELLA
WELL, IF IT ISN’T MR. MAFIA.

TONY
CAN IT, CARMELLA. I GOT A LOT ON MY PLATE TODAY.

CARMELLA
NOT JUST ON YOUR PLATE -- YOU GOT STAINS ON YOUR SHIRT TOO. WHAT IS THAT?

TONY
NOTHIN’. JUST A STAIN.

CARMELLA
IS THAT... IS THAT PIZZA SAUCE, TONY?? YOU BEEN HANGIN’ AROUND A PIZZA JOINT?

TONY
NO! IT’S JUST... BLOOD. PROBABLY LEFTOVER FROM LOUIS “LOOSE LIPS”. WE HADDA WHACK HIM TODAY.

CARMELLA
YOU SURE IT’S NOT PIZZA SAUCE?

TONY
LOOK, A MAN’S SHIRT IS HIS BUSINESS, STAINS AND ALL, CAPICE?

CARMELLA
WHAT ABOUT HIS FAMILY LIFE, IS THAT HIS BUSINESS TOO, HUH?

TONY

CARMELLA--

CARMELLA
THE BEAUTY SHOP IS STILL CHARGIN’ ME FORTY BUCKS FOR THE TINT AND STYLE, PLUS SIXTY FOR THE NAILS AND PEDICURE.
I TOLD’EM IF THEY DIDN’T BACK DOWN ON THE FEE THAT ALL THE PAPERS IN TOWN WOULD BE RECEIVING COMPROMISING PHOTOS OF DARIUS THE HEAD BEAUTICIAN AND HIS BLOW DRYER. THEY LAUGHED IN MY FACE. NOW I WANTA KNOW WHERE THOSE PHOTOS ARE!

TONY
I DON’T GOT’EM YET. DONNY “DEVELOPING FLUID” DRACO STILL HASN’T COME THROUGH YET.

CARMELLA
CAN YOU AT LEAST ARRANGE A LITTLE “ACCIDENT” WITH THEIR CONDITIONER?

TONY
NO!

CARMELLA
YOU CALL YOURSELF A MOB BOSS??

A.J.
HEY, POPS.

TONY
A.J.! MY BOY! HOW YOU DOIN’ -- COME GIVE YOUR OLD MAN A HUG!

A.J.
THAT’S OKAY, POPS. I GOTTA RUN.

TONY
NO TIME FOR YOUR OWN FATHER?

A.J.
ACTUALLY... THERE IS ONE THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU.

TONY
SHOOT.

(SOUND OF A GUN SAFETY CLICKING OFF)

TONY (CONT’D)
I MEANT IT FIGURATIVELY, YOU LITTLE DIP!

A.J.
OH.

CARMELLA
A.J., YOU’RE NOT HOLDIN’ THE GUN RIGHT ANYWAY. KEEP YOUR GRIP HERE, WITH THIS FINGER RESTING ON THE TRIGGER. AND KEEP YOUR TARGET HALF AND INCH ABOVE THE SIGHT-LINE, LIKE THIS...

A.J.
THANKS, MA.
TONY
WILL YOU PUT THAT THING AWAY??

A.J.
WELL, WHAT I WANTED TO ASK YOU WAS, TODAY AT SCHOOL IN LUNCH LINE, TODD WILKERSON CUT IN FRONT OF ME TO GET A CHOCOLATE MILK.

TONY
YEAH?

A.J.
IT WAS THE LAST CHOCOLATE MILK.

TONY
YEAH?

A.J.
SO CAN YOU WHACK HIM?

TONY
WHAT??

CARMELLA
OH, PLEASE, YOUR FATHER CAN'T EVEN EXTORT A PONCEY HAIRDRESSER -- WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE’S GOT THE GORGONZOLAS TO OFF TODD WILKERSON-

TONY
WILL YOU BUTT OUT?

CARMELLA
PAGING DON CORLEONE! PAGING DON CORLEONE!

A.J.
SO YOU’LL LET THIS KID DISRESPECT ME IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL AND EVERYBODY?

IT WAS MILK!

A.J.
CHOCOLATE MILK!

CARMELLA
THE LAST CHOCOLATE MILK!

TONY
WHERE ARE MY PILLS-

(A DOOR OPENS)
MEADOWS

OH, HI, DAD!

TONY

MEADOWS -- THANK GOD -- I NEED SOMEONE WHO TALKS SENSE IN THIS HOUSE--

MEADOWS

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU TOO, DAD.

GIMME A HUG--

TONY

THAT’S OKAY. LISTEN, I GOT MY GRADES BACK FROM COLLEGE--

YEAH--

MEADOWS

AND IN MY “THRREATS AND GRAFT 101” CLASS, THE TEACHER TOTALLY GAVE ME A “C+” ON OUR “MONEY LAUNDERING FOR FUN AND PROFIT” EXAM.

YEAH?

TONY

SO CAN YOU WHACK HIM?

NO!

CARMELLA

YOU MIGHT AS WELL ASK HIM TO PUT A HORSE’S HEAD IN YOUR PROFESSOR’S BED -- NOT OUR MR. QUEASY–WEEZY.

MEADOWS

WHAT’S THE POINT OF BEING A MOB BOSS IF YOU CAN’T EVEN CHANGE YOUR DAUGHTER’S G.P.A.?

TONY

IS THAT THE ONLY THING THIS FAMILY CAN THINK ABOUT? MOB, MOB, MOB! THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN THE ASSOCIATION, YOU KNOW!

(BEAT.)

CARMELLA

CHILDREN. GO UPSTAIRS.

A.J.

WHAT’S DAD TALKING ABOUT, MOM?
CARMELLA
I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU’D SAY SUCH A THING IN FRONT OF YOUR OWN OFFSPRING!

TONY
WHERE’S MY STRESS PILLS-

MEADOWS
BENNY “NO CUTICLES” BANANO’S DAD NEVER ACTS LIKE THIS!

A.J.
I HATE MY LIFE!

MEADOWS
ME TOO!

A.J. AND MEADOWS
WAAAAAAAA-

CARMELLA
YOU SEE? YOU SEE WHAT YOU DO TO THIS FAMILY? YOU THINK PAULIE “CAN’T FIND THE REMOTE CONTROL” ROMANO PULLS THIS SORT OF CRAP?

(KIDS KEEP CRYING. SOUND OF TONY POURING LOTS OF PILLS AND DRINKING)

CARMELLA (CONT’D)
HOW MANY PILLS IS THAT??

TONY
DOC SAYS I CAN TAKE THIRTY AN HOUR. I GOTTA... I GOTTA SEE MY SHRINK-

(DOOR CLOSES. KIDS KEEP CRYING)

CARMELLA
CHILDREN. CHILDREN, SIT DOWN. SIT DOWN. WE GOT WORK TO DO. WE’LL HAVE SOME DINNER. AND THEN WE STILL GOTTA FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH THESE 58 CRATES OF PROPHYLACTICS BRUNO UNLOADED ON US.

(GENTLE MUSIC PLAYS)

DR. MELPHI
(IN A VERY CALM, HUSKY VOICE)
SO WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM THIS WEEK, MR. PEPPERONI?
TONY
IT'S LIKE I'M BEIN' TORN IN TWO. LIKE I'M A PIECE OF A CHICKEN THAT'S LEFTOVER AFTER IT'S EATEN, THAT HAS TWO PARTS, WHERE HALF THE PEOPLE I KNOW GOT ONE PART AND THE OTHER HALF GOT THE OTHER PART AND THEY BOTH PULL TO MAKE A WISH AND I SNAP -- I'M LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW?

DR. MELPHI
YOU FEEL LIKE A WISH BONE.

TONY
A WISHBONE! YEAH! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I FEEL LIKE. IT'S LIKE I'M A SPONGE-LIKE THINGIE THAT JUST FILLS UP AND FILLS UP AND FILLS UP AND THEN I'M PRESSED AGAINST A WINDOW TO CLEAN IT AND ALL THE STUFF JUST COME POURING OUT-

DR. MELPHI
YOU FEEL LIKE A SQUEEGEE.

TONY
A SQUEEGEE! EXACTLY! I'M LIKE A GUY WITH TWO BRAINS IN ONE HEAD -- LIKE THAT MUTANT CALF I SAW IN A MUSEUM ONE TIME, ONLY BOTH MY BRAINS ARE ABOUT TO EXPLODE OUT OF MY FRICKIN' EARS-

DR. MELPHI
YOU FEEL LIKE A MOB BOSS WHO SECRETLY RUNS A PIZZA PARLOR.

TONY
NO, NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.

DR. MELPHI
YOU FEEL LIKE A SQUEEGEE.

TONY
YES!

DR. MELPHI
IT SEEMS TO ME THE PROBLEM IS YOUR UNCONSCIOUS SELF USING EVERY METHOD OF DENIAL AND SUBLIMATION TO HOLD TOGETHER TWO DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED FACETS OF YOUR PRE-VERBAL PERSONALITY, BUT YOUR STUNTED INNER LIFE IS NO MATCH FOR YOUR INCREASINGLY INTOLERABLE EXTERNAL REALITIES.

TONY
I'M LIKE A SQUEEGEE.

DR. MELPHI
YOU'RE LIKE A SQUEEGEE. WHY NOT GIVE UP ON THE PIZZA BUSINESS? WALK AWAY.

(TONY LAUGHS)
DR. MELPHI (CONT’D)

WHAT.

TONY

YOU DON’T “WALK AWAY” FROM THE PIZZA BUSINESS. YOU GO OUT FACE-FIRST IN A MOUNTAIN OF MOZZARELLA AND GREASE. OR YOUR SLEEVE GETS CAUGHT ON THE PIE PAN AND YOU’RE DRAGGED INTO A 400 DEGREE TO BAKE LIKE A ZITI. OR YOU’RE SPEEDING TO DELIVER SOME PIES DOWNTOWN AND BROADSIDE A LIVESTOCK TRUCK AND YOU’RE CRUSHED BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF CATTLE AND POULTRY. THAT’S THE WAY A PIZZA MAN DIES! THERE ARE A HUNDRED WAYS TO GO, BUT NO ONE EVER -- EVER -- “WALKS AWAY” FROM PIZZA.

DR. MELPHI

I SEE.

TONY

“WALK AWAY”.

DR. MELPHI

THEN I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU, MR. PEPPERONI.

TONY

SHOOT.

DR. MELPHI

I DON’T HAVE A FIREARM, MR. PEPPERONI.

TONY

IT’S A FRICKIN’ FIGURE OF FRICKIN’ SPEECH!

DR. MELPHI

NO NEED TO SHOUT, MR. PEPPERONI. I’VE BEEN TALKING TO MY OWN PSYCHIATRIST ABOUT TRYING TO COUNSEL A MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF...

TONY

YEAH, I’M A HANDFUL, AIN’T I.

DR. MELPHI

—AND HE KEEPS TELLING ME MY PROBLEMS AREN’T REALLY WITH YOU, BUT WITH MY OWN FATHER.

TONY

YEAH?

DR. MELPHI

SO I WAS THINKING...

TONY

WHAT.
DR. MELPHI

COULD YOU WHACK MY FATHER?

TONY

WHAT??

DR. MELPHI

OR AT LEAST MY PSYCHIATRIST. HE’S DRIVING ME UP THE FRICKIN’ WALL.

TONY

NO! WHAT IS IT WITH YOU PEOPLE??

DR. MELPHI

THEN I THINK THIS SESSION IS OVER.

TONY

I JUST GOT HERE-

DR. MELPHI

HERE ARE 400 MORE STRESS PILLS, MR. PEPPERONI. GO NUTS.

(QUIET MUSIC FADES. A DOOR OPENS WITH TINKLING BELLS. ACCORDION MUSIC STARTS UP IN THE BACKGROUND)

PETEY

TONY! WELCOME BACK TO THE PIZZA PARLOR!

TONY

...THANKS, PETEY...

PETEY

YOU DON’T LOOK SO GOOD. CAN I GET YOU SOMETHIN’? LASAGNE? LINGUINI? MOO GOO GAI PAN?

TONY

WHAT?

PETEY

I’M KIDDIN’. HERE, HAVE A SLICE OF ONION AND ANCHOVY. MANGIA! MANGIA!

TONY

I AIN’T... I AIN’T HUNGRY...

PETEY

SOME VINO? IT’S FROM THE OLD COUNTRY. OUT NEAR ASHTABULA.

TONY

NO! NO WINE.
PETEY
OKAY. BUT AS LONG AS I GOT YOU HERE, I GOTTA ASK YOU SOMETHIN’-

TONY
I’M NOT WHACKIN’ ANYBODY!!

PETEY
...OKAY. THAT’S GOOD TO KNOW. I WAS ACTUALLY JUST WONDERIN’ IF WE SHOULD ORDER MORE OF THESE RED AND WHITE CHECKERED TABLECLOTHS OR IF WE SHOULD GO WITH SOMETHIN’ A LITTLE MORE HIP. I CAN GET THESE CUTE LITTLE LACY NUMBERS -- LIKE DOILIES -- PAPER DOILIES, YOU KNOW? BUT BIGGER?

TONY
I DON’T CARE...

PETEY
ALSO PEOPLE ARE BEGINNIN’ TO SUSPECT.

TONY
(ALARMED)
SUSPECT WHAT?

PETEY
THAT ALL THESE AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS ON THE WALLS MAY NOT BE LEGIT. LIKE THAT ONE OF FRANK SINATRA THAT SAYS “TO PETEY AND THE GANG -- BEST PIZZA IN TOWN.”

TONY
WHAT’S WRONG WITH IT.

PETEY
WELL... YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN’T HAVE SIGNED IT IN CRAYON. LOOKS FISHY, YA KNOW? AND IT’S DATED 2000. OLD BLUE EYES BOUGHT IT IN ’98. YOU KNOW, LITTLE TIP-OFFS LIKE THAT.

TONY
SO TAKE DOWN THE PICTURES -- RE-FORGE’EM, I DON’T CARE...

PETEY
AND THE NAME OF THE RESTAURANT, TONY.

TONY
WHAT’S WRONG WITH OUR NAME?

PETEY
I KNOW YOU DON’T WANNA HAVE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS PLACE AND YOUR ITALIAN HERITAGE -- LIKE YOU’RE ASHAMED OF US-

TONY
I’M NOT ASHAMED-
PETEY
IT’S OKAY IF WE’RE SOMETHIN’ YOU SWEEP UNDER YOUR RUG—

TONY
YOU’RE NOT UNDER MY RUG—

PETEY
YOU WANTA BE A CLOSETED PIZZA MAN, THAT’S YOUR—

TONY
I’M NOT CLOSETED!

PETEY
OKAY. FINE. BUT THE NAME -- ESPECIALLY SINCE DOMINOES IS MOVIN’ IN—

TONY
WHERE’S MY PILLS -- WHERE’S MY PILLS—

PETEY
I THINK WE NEED A MORE ITALIAN NAME FOR OUR RESTAURANT.

TONY
WHAT’S WRONG WITH THE NAME WE GOT?

PETEY
“SAUL HERSKOWITZ’S KOSHER DELI” JUST DON’T SAY “PIZZA”, TONY.

TONY
I GOTTA COVER MY TRAIL!

PETEY
YOU’RE COVERIN’ IT TOO WELL.

TONY
I NEED MORE PILLS. I GOTTA CALM DOWN -- AND WILL SOMEONE SHUT THAT ACCORDION PLAYER UP BEFORE I WHACK HIM?!

(ACCORDION MUSIC STOPS)

SORRY.

VOICE IN THE DISTANCE

(SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY. DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES)

PETEY
OH, SURE, YOU’LL WHACK JOE “SQUEEZE BOX” MANCOTI, BUT YOU WON’T WHACK THAT KID WHO TOOK YOUR SON’S CHOCOLATE MILK.

TONY
HE TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT?
PETEY
HE STOPPED IN EARLIER. DON'T WORRY. I DIDN'T TELL'IM NOTHIN'.

TONY
I GOTTA GET HOME -- I GOTTA LIE DOWN...

PETEY
SO YOU NEVER ANSWERED ME ABOUT THE CRUSTS--

TONY
(FROM THE DISTANCE)
I DON'T CARE!

( DOOR SLAMS)

PETEY
AND FOR A NAME I WAS THINKING A COMPROMISE: SAUL "THE SICILIAN" HERSKOWITZ’S KOSHER PIZZERIA. HOW'S THAT SOUND? HA?

(MUSIC. DOOR OPENS. IN STAGGERS TONY)

CARMELLA
WELL, WELCOME HOME, MR. WUSSEY-MAN.

TONY
I DON'T... WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BALLOONS?

A.J.
UNCLE BRUNO BROUGHT'EM BY. 58 CRATES FULL. SO WE BLEW'EM UP AND DECORATED THE HOUSE.

TONY
THOSE AREN'T... BALLOONS...

CARMELLA
CAN'T YOU ENJOY ANY FRICKIN' NICE THING WE DO FOR YOU, YOU PIG?

TONY
...I DON'T GOT... ANY PATIENCE FOR YOUR LIP... RIGHT NOW, CARMELLA...

CARMELLA
FINE, YOU DON'T WANTA HEAR MY APOLOGY, YOU WON'T HEAR MY APOLOGY.

TONY
YOU WAS GONNA... APOLOGIZE?
CARMELLA
LISTEN, HONEY. ME AND THE KIDS, WE WAS ALL THINKIN’ YOU’RE OUT BUSTIN’ YOUR RIGATONI 24/7 TO PUT FOOD ON OUR TABLE AND A ROOF OVER OUR HEAD—

MEADOWS
—AND A 60 INCH PLASMA HDTV IN EVERY ROOM, INCLUDING THE GARAGE.

TONY
YEAH...

CARMELLA
WE REALIZED THAT EXTORTION, MURDER AND RUININ’ PEOPLE’S LIVES WAS YOUR DAY JOB -- HOW COULD WE ASK YOU TO DO IT IN YOUR FAMILY TIME TOO?

TONY
YEAH.

A.J.
WE LOVE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE, POPS. NOT WHAT YOU DO FOR US.

TONY
...YOU DO?

CARMELLA

TONY
OKAY—

MEADOWS
—AND JUST HAVE A NICE MEAL. JUST THE FOUR OF US.

CARMELLA
AND YOUR UNCLE JUNIOR AND SILVIO LUGNUTS AND AUNT STILETTO AND RICHIE “PAPER OR PLASTIC” AND THE REST OF THE FAMILY.

TONY
THAT SOUNDS GREAT! THANK YOU, GUYS!

A.J.
AND WE ALREADY ORDERED IN SUPPER! SEE?

TONY
IS THAT... IS THAT...

A.J., CARMELLA, AND MEADOWS
PIZZA!
TONY

OH MY GOD.

CARMELLA

DO YOU LIKE IT? IT’S FROM THAT NEW DOMINOES DOWN THE STREET!

TONY

ERG... GURRK... HURRRR...

MEADOWS

YOU OKAY, DAD?

A.J.

HE LOOKS KIND OF PURPLE.

TONY

GLIIIIIIII...

(THUMP. BEAT.)

CARMELLA

A.J. GO CALL AN AMBULANCE. I THINK YOUR FATHER JUST SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK.

A.J.

CAN WE EAT THE PIZZA FIRST WHILE IT’S STILL WARM?

CARMELLA

WELL... I DON’T SEE WHY NOT. JUST STEP OVER YOUR FATHER THERE AND CUT SOME PIECES FOR UNCLE JUNIOR AND COUSIN TOUPEE. BIG SLICES. DON’T BE STINGY-

(MUSIC AND APPLAUSE)