

**THE PEPPERONIS**

A radio/stage play

By

Eric Coble

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-

TONY

BRUNO-

BRUNO

I MEAN, THE CHUCKIE-CHEESE GUYS MIGHT-

TONY

BRUNO!

BRUNO

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.

TONY

...IN OUR TERRITORY?

PETEY

ON OUR BLOCK.

TONY

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

PETEY

IT'S WORSE.

TONY

WORSE?

PETEY

IT'S DOMINOES.

TONY

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

PETEY

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

TONY

OH GOD... OH GOD...

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

BRUNO

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

TONY

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?

TONY

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?

TONY  
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.

TONY

GIMME A HUG--

MEADOWS

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

TONY

YEAH--

MEADOWS

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

TONY

YEAH?

MEADOWS

SO CAN YOU WHACK HIM?

TONY

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

WAAAAAAA-

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 WANTA 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)

VOICE IN THE DISTANCE

SORRY.

(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

SO WE'RE GONNA FORGET THE SCUMBAGS AT THE BEAUTY SALON, AND THE DIRT WIPE WHO CUT A.J. OFF, AND THE PIECE OF FILTH PROFESSOR THAT SCREWED MEADOWS OVER.

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)