

BROOKLYN *BLUES*

(A Play in Two Acts)

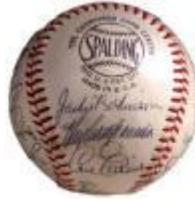
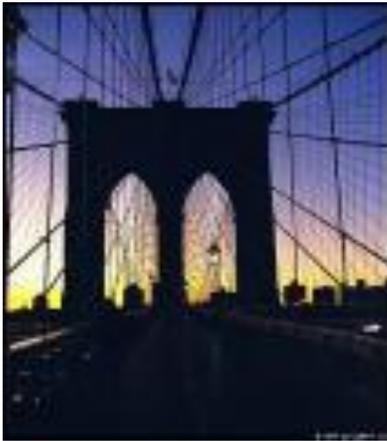
By

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BROOKLYN *BLUES*

Cast in order of appearance

ANG.....30ish, sensitive.

RAFFY.....57. Speaks with very heavy Italian accent.

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

NICK.....55, Father, Mafia Don, mean.

BROOKLYN BLUES

ACT I

Scene 1

**ANG, alone on stage as if
in a nightclub, sings
to the audience.**

ANG

"I did it my way..." 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 hear applause as lights dim. It is the following evening as ANG looking disheveled, enters HIS mothers home. Sadly HE walks to casket and kisses it. Photos and memorabilia abound.)

ANG (Cont'd)

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. I shouldn't have listened to your smile. What could I do, Ma, 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 Darin, 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
(Sings and touches casket.)

I'm all alone. "Ave Mari-a..." Ya know, when you first told me you had cancer, I really didn't believe you, 'cause no one in our family ever had cancer, 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. Who ever 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 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, for me. When Pop was here he always treated him like he was God... One time, me too...

(An ice blue light colors ANG who will appear frozen in time as TONY and NICK appear. THIS action will occur every time there is a "Recall.")

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.

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 *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...

(Lights change and WE are back.)

ANG

...Remember when I started school, first grade? I came home
(Picks up photo and laughs.)

crying 'cause those kids said I had little ears. I sure had little ears, didn't I? They called me squirrel head, but you hugged me and said God only chose very special people to have little ears, like squirrels, 'cause they hear better than all the rest of the animals. They hear birds singing, even butterflies dancing. Suddenly, I was glad I had little ears... Then Uncle Raffy took me to see a MET game and boy,
(Picks up ball and tosses it.)

was I excited when he caught a foul ball and gave it to me. This ball. Then we waited in the parking lot and he got Rusty Staub to sign it. My friends stared at it for weeks... How come Uncle Raffy was always there, but my own father was always some where 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, Ma? How come he never took me for a ride in it? Who cares, I never liked trucks anyway...

(Lights change. WE see NICK standing near his truck delivering stolen T.V.'s)

NICK

Here they are, Vinny, just as promised, 500 Sony color T.V.'s. I hope you got the 50 thou in hundreds this time. I'll tell ya the truth, counting 30 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. 400 grand is 400 grand. \$2.000 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. *Gapish?*

(Lights change and WE are back.)

ANG

All the other daddies used to go to the little league games but not my father. "Hey, Ang, is your father coming to the game this 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 Ma? We had each other... Ya know, there was a time Pop loved me too...

(Lights change and ANG meets NICK.)

NICK

(Looking at report card.)

Now this is what I call a report card. All A's.

ANG

And 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 that a genius or is that a genius?

ANG

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

NICK

Gym counts my ass. English, arithmetic, history, that's what counts, gym's for dummies... 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. Do I love this guy or what? But we have to do something about his nose.

(Spars with Ang.)

ANG

(both giggle.)

I'm just like you Pop, right.

NICK

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

ANG

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

(THEY both laugh heartily. Lights change and we are back. ANG looks at photo as RAFFY walking with cane enters.)

ANG (cont'd)

And here's a picture of Maria. Remember when you made her thirteenth birthday party 'cause her 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 gentleman, a real Italian. When he came from Sicily to live with us, he was always with us 'cause he was 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 got

(Picks up photo.)

Boardwalk? I trade you." Here's a picture of the two of you dancing at the 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.

RAFFY

(Walking with cane RAFFY steps forward.)

That's because your father was busy making money.

ANG

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

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 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 your 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 your father's, but her own '*cowzin.*' '*E innamorato cotto di lei;*' I fall head over heels for your 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.

ANG

Maybe that's why I want to be a singer.

RAFFY

So, she teach me English with her records.

(Picks up record.)

Any way she 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 and I learn,

(Sings.)

"*Swanni, how I love you, how I love you, my dear old Swanni...*"

(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, no?

(Sings and touches casket.)

"*When somebody loves you, it's no good unless she loves you,*

(Hugs Ang, enthusiastic.)

all the way..." 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.)

She sure did Ang and she was 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 when I never know where he is!

RAFFY

You know, it's just you and your brother, Angie. Maybe you oughta make up.

(Rubbing his face ANG walks away as lights change and HE will meet TONY.)

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?

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, first shave.)

Right now? My first shave... Guess this makes me sort of man, don't it?

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 you shake

(Feigns masturbating.)

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... 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 back to Raffy.)

You're my brother, aintcha...? And did you start pullin' it yet, or what?

ANG

(Embarrassed.)

Ah, Tony...

(Lights change and we are back.)

ANG

Make up, make up? "*Bafongul*" I should make up! So he calls us every six months, big deal... Who didn't say goodbye to

(Emotional, looks at casket.)

his dying mother? Not me, right Ma? Not me.

RAFFY

I know not you Angie, you been a good boy. You always been
(Looks at photo.)

a good boy. Why I remember when you was born. It was the happiest day in my life when in church your mother say to Father Robustelli I was your Godfather. I cry... We all cry. Even your father.

ANG

(Hugs Raffy.)

You're the best G-dfather there ever was.

RAFFY

(Picks up photo.)

Thank you Angie, thank you 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 your father was my *cowzin*, 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 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?

(Lights change and walking, RAFFY will meet NICK who reappears.)

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. They come to me. I lend them the money and they pay be 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 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.

(Lights change and we are back.)

RAFFY

(Remembering.)

Take care of Lily he used to say. It's my pleasure Nicka, my pleasure. Your father used to trust me, but ev'rybody else he no trust. He was *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 your mother 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 trust 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 your mama. I'm your 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 your 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 your 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 days after you 18th 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 drunk 'cause he was so mad. 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."

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.
Rosen, he like to talk to you mother. I tell him men like
to talk to beautiful women, but he was jealous. He smack me
and throw me in the street just as a taxi was going by...

ANG

Oh, Uncle Raffy, I'm so sorry.

RAFFY

I was in the hospital almost three months... That's why 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 your father and your father is your father and all boys need a father. Even at my age... I don't understand how he can runaway from your beautiful mother... Couple years when he no come back, I tell your mother, Lily why you no marry again? But she say no 'cause she was too good Catholic. As long as you father don't divorce her she can no marry. I don't understand my cousin. He been gone fifteen years and poor Lily waste her whole 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 cancer almost three months before she tell you. She was waiting until your 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 G-d, I was with her those last 21 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 bridge and I want to jump, buta God tell me no. Take care of Lily's boy Ang, he say, take care of Ang... Maybe I should have jumped, 'cause not only can't I take 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

Lots things no make sense, like how can Mussolini join Hitler. They kill my whole family, that's why I come here and how can my own cousin try to kill his own flesh and blood? Does that make sense? And how can he be so mean to you? Your 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 your mama last night. Because you was singing, your mama was smiling when she die. Your mama was 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 your Godfather and I love you more than anything.

ANG

Franky's Lounge, it was unbelievable.

RAFFY

Your 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 your dream come true. How long you wait for a your dream, your whole life? Believe me, you mama knows and she's 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're alive and maybe one day, I buy you your own lounge. Ang's Lounge. Sounds nice, no?

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, Ang. 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 your father, even though he run-a-way 15 years ago... jealousy drive him crazy...

(Lights change. TONY and NICK appear.)

NICK

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

TONY

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

NICK

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

TONY

(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 and he's his kid, not mine, you understand?

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? 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? 2-to-1 you kill yourself when the whole damn neighborhood laughs in your face... It's up to you kid.

(Starts to walk away.)

You coming with me or are you staying with your whore mother and your bastard brother... See ya kid.

TONY

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

(Lights change and we are back.)

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, Ang, 'cause the pain you carry inside is 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 Ma? "*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?!!!

RAFFY

The reason why you go to '*psychiatrista*' all these years is because you think you father no love you and believe me I no blame you. Nick 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 your 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 your 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 Ang, your mother love you more than anything, she was 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 we all go to church. I hope from the bottom of my heart, when you no more hate your 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're not like your father, Angie. Your kind, you're a gentleman, and your 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 your father, 'cause I would be 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 Ang, 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, 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 a loud as WE also hear LILY'S voice.)

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 Raffy, here **(Looks at photo. holds head in amazement.)** 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? And now it's too late. I made 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 wrong... I never see nothing.

(Takes match, strikes it, burns letter and exits.)

End of ACT I

BROOKLYN *BLUES*

ACT II

Scene 1

Later, we see TONY wearing a black suit enter. 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.

(Angry, grabs Tony's shirt.)

TONY

(Although bigger, he puts face forward.)

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.

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?

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 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... He told me he's not my father and Uncle Raffy never lies... Well, for your information Mr. Know-it-all, I finally asked

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

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 Africa 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 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. 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.

TONY

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

ANG

...Guilty shit! 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' everyone 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

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

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 I am truly sorry...

ANG

Sorry for what?

TONY

For everything...

(After a beat - touches casket.)

Was she still beautiful Ang? Tell me she was still beautiful.

ANG

Yeah, she was beautiful alright.

TONY

(Goes to open casket.)

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.

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. I really couldn't take it... 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 Trumps league. Big-time.

ANG

What about all the people that get AIDS from your hookers? How many poor slobs have lost everything because of your loan

sharking and how many have died from your crack cocaine?

TONY

What are you making such a big deal for? Coke's nothing. I used to do a little toot myself. For a while I even liked it.

ANG

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

TONY

It was easy, I was selling 10 kis at a pop. Sometimes I'd have four, five tons in my garage. I had more blow than the King of Siam... I did it for 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, 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 break. You both stink. And as far as I'm concerned, if I never see you again that will be soon enough, so why don't you leave before I throw-up, 'cause 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 loved
(Looks at casket - takes out photo.)
you Mommy. Even though I didn't come to see you enough, I
(Turns to Ang.)
always loved you... And you too, Ang. I know you don't

(Sobs.)

believe me, but you were my baby brother and... 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 but, that don't mean that I didn't love Mommy just as much as you, 'cause I did. I probably loved her even more 'cause I missed her... Remember when we went to the Bronx zoo with Mommy and we saw the elephants

(Starts to laugh.)

doing it? Did we laugh our balls off or did we 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.)

It was like a tree trunk...

TONY

And when Mommy told us not to look, I almost peed in my

(Starts to cry - touches casket.)

pants. She was so funny... So funny. I'm sorry Mommy, 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. 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 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...

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 mean, tell him how much I missed him.

ANG

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.

TONY

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

TONY

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

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. He'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 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

(Grabs Raffy.)

didn't bang your mother? Well did you? Admit it, admit it!

RAFFY

You was a big fool, Nicka. You runaway from the woman you loved your whole life and she 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 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 'cause you got 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 it's my
(Pulls out gun.)
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 I'm gonna 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 mad! You have become crazy! I can no believe that me and you are from the same blood. You would hurt your 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 kill me, go ahead, I really no care now that my best friend is no more here, your wife Lily... Not my wife, but your 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

(Slaps Tony.)

'Omertá'! 'Omertá'! You turn your back on 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, my family.

ANG

That's right, Tony's through... He's through.

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 him up?

ANG

(Gets gun and throws it out the window.)

Now we don't have to tie anyone up. How's that for being equal for a change?

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, sounds like it's time for the truth, huh...? Okay, so I used to fuck around, when ever and where ever, '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, Lady Godiva? My own flesh and blood, 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 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 I ever heard...

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 Marilyn Monroe, 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 three mil in two years, 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, what ever 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

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 was 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 he 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. You're really his old man, I'm telling you. 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 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 Rafael 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 Rafael soon enough. And look who I was. What would the boys think of me? 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 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 love... Not my love Nicka, but your love... So he go to '*psichiatista*' his whole life trying to find '*Il cielo.*' Can the whole world, your two sons be wrong and you right? Open your 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 - hugs Raffy.)
right now Uncle Raffy... Ya know I've always loved you.

RAFFY

And I love you Tony, like 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.

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, but who's counting? and except for poor Lily, here things
(Touches casket.)
couldn't be better.

TONY

You're right, Pop. Except for Ma and all, things couldn't be better, 'cause it's the first time in a long time that we
(Hugs Nick and Ang.)
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 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're all you have left.

NICK

(Looking at casket - To self.)

Yeah, I may have screwed a lotta broads in my life,
(Walks away from casket.)

but 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.

(RAFFY addresses casket. Lights change.)

RAFFY

(Emotional - aside.)

Well 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 think that I go dancing no more... And I 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 Ang... 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

(Starts to exit.)

'pace'... I'm so happy they make 'pace,' so maybe I go.

(LIGHTS change. WE are back)

NICK

Hey 'cowzin,' where you going...? Yeah, so, eh, maybe I was wrong. Maybe, but that don't mean that we ain't still family. Blood's blood...

TONY

(Goes to Raffy.)

That's right. *'Tutta la famiglia!'*

RAFFY

(Hugs Tony and cries - Nick feigns punching Tony.)

'Tutta la famiglia,' my Tony... *'Tutta la famiglia.'*

(Curtain.)

THE END