SAMUEL FRENCH SAMPLE PERUSAL

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SF PERUSALS

My Big Gay Italian Funeral

Anthony J. Wilkinson

A Samuel French Acting Edition

SAMUEL FRENCH
FOUNDED 1830

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Cover image appears courtesy of the author.
Featured on the cover, in no particular order: Brett Douglas Anthony J. Wilkinson, Beth Dzuricky, Donna Castellano, Marissa Perry, Debra Toscano, Brian Patrick Murphy, Liz Gerecitano, Mustafa Gatollari, Meagan Robar, Chad Kessler, Erik Ransom, Brandon Goins, and Marie Fontaine. All actors featured are members of Actors' Equity.

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MY BIG GAY ITALIAN FUNERAL was first produced by Bianco Productions in New York City Off-Broadway at St. Luke's Theatre. The play had its first preview on June 1st, 2013 and opened on June 16, 2013. The production was directed by Sonia Blangiardo and general managed by 22Q Entertainment with costume design by Emily DeSimone. The Production Stage Managers were Robert Levinstein and Sandra Trullinger. The cast was as follows:

MAURIZIO . . . . . Brett Douglas
ANTHONY . . . . . Anthony J. Wilkinson
ONDINE . . . . . Beth Dzuricky
ANGELA . . . . . Donna Castellano
MARIA . . . . . Marissa Perry
TONIANN . . . . . Debra Toscano
PETER . . . . . Brian Patrick Murphy
LUCIA . . . . . Liz Gerecitano
DOMINICK . . . . . Mustafa Gatollari
CONNIE/EVA/AUNT DONNA . . . . . Meagan Robar
RABBI HOWIE HOROWITZ/LOU/DRAG QUEEN #1 . . . . . Chad Kessler
VIDAL/DRAG QUEEN #2 . . . . . Erik Ransom
EZIO . . . . . Brandon Goins
FEMALE SWING . . . . . Marie Fontaine

CHARACTERS

ANTHONY PINNUNZIATO – Male, 30s. Our everyman. Stereotypical Italian-American boy next door type. Lead.

PETER PINNUNZIATO – Male, 30s. Anthony's slightly younger brother whom he despises. Lead.

MAURIZIO LEGRANDE – Male, 30 to 50. Any ethnicity. Outlandishly dressed, over-the-top, flamboyant. Has an accent that cannot be pegged down. Lead.

ANGELA PINNUNZIATO – Female, late 40s - 60. Lovingly overbearing, overpowering mother hen. Rules the roost with an iron fist and a wooden spatula. Anthony's mother. Lead.

MARIA PINNUNZIATO – Female, late 20s to late 30s. Anthony's flighty, sweet and self absorbed baby sister. Aspirations of stardom, but fizzled sense of reality. Hysterical and fancies herself as a Broadway star.

LUCIA FUCCIO – Female, late 20s to late 30s. Brassy and trendy. Anthony's dependable and reliable best friend. A feminine, pretty "lipstick lesbian." Supporting.

DOMINICK VITALE – Male, 30s. The strikingly handsome and suave boyfriend of Peter Pinnunziato. Supporting.

AUNT TONIANN – Female. late 30s to late 40s. Angela's fussy younger sister. Hated her brother-in-law but is there to support and instigate matters. Comedic Actress. Supporting.

ONDINE OZZUPACCI – Female, late 30s to late 50s. Professional martyr and Over-The-Top Crier who crashes the wake and never leaves. Comic relief, great scene stealer. Comedic Actress. Supporting.

CONNIE/EVA/AUNT DONNA – Female, late 20s to early 40s. Comedic sketch actress who can pull off three roles. Connie, another lipstick lesbian with the mouth of a truck driver. Eva, an asian woman who speaks broken English and yells in Chinese. Aunt Donna, Joseph's sister who walks with a cane and is a stereotypical Italian relative who has to be in more pain than anyone else. Supporting.

RABBI HOWIE HOROWITZ/LOU DONATACCI – Male, late 30s to late 40s. Comedic sketch actor who can pull off a Staten Island Guido as well as a very profound Rabbi. Supporting.

DRAG QUEEN/VIDAL – Drag Queen lip syncs at the night club (a disco flashback scene) and transitions the story. Vidal is an over-the-top medium that Maurizio brings in. Supporting.

EZIO – Male, 30s. Strikingly Handsome. Preferably shirtless at the night club as the hot bartender and then resurfaces at the end as the owner of the Funeral Home. Supporting.

SETTING

A funeral home and a night club

TIME

Contemporary

I dedicate this show to the man who inspired me my whole life by demonstrating to perfection what a real parent should be. His influence and contributions to the community were admired by all, and helped change the opinions of so many who surrounded him. He encouraged me to make others laugh and keep others strong by doing so. Dad, this one is for you!

– Anthony J. Wilkinson

ACT ONE

SCENE I – FUNERAL HOME

(Lights up on an empty funeral parlor. The chairs are lined up in traditional fashion facing the coffin. Flower arrangements are perfectly placed around as we are clearly set for the first viewing of Joseph Pinnunziato. [Directors choice: The coffin can be the fourth wall if a prop coffin is not available] There is a moment of silence at first, then we hear **MAURIZIO** *offstage.)*

MAURIZIO. *(offstage)* What do you mean you don't know who I am? This is Staten Island not Siberia. Everyone knows who I am!

*(***MAURIZIO** *enters.)*

I'm Maurizio LeGrande of the Palm Beach and Mineola LeGrande's. And Ecto, Endo or whatever your name is, your services will no longer be needed because it was Joe Pinnunziato's dying wish that I take over the direction of his funeral. Therefore any and all questions, visitors, and all phone calls go directly to me.

EZIO. *(offstage)* Suit yourself.

*(***MAURIZIO** *makes his way around the funeral home in disgust.)*

MAURIZIO. I wish I had time to decorate this tragic scene of a living room. I will never understand why these crazy Italians love all these pictures and flowers and…

(He stops when he sees Joe in the coffin.)

MAURIZIO. *(cont.)* Well hello there Mr. Pinnunziato. I cleared my schedule just for you. Hard to say no to a dead person. So sorry to hear of your demise. I will do what I can to make sure everything goes smoothly.

(He starts to walk away. Then turns back.)

MAURIZIO. Did you have work done? You look fabulous!

*(***MAURIZIO***'s phone rings. He answers.)*

Hello! This is Maurizio LeGrande how can I help you... Yes…yes I am coordinating all of the services for the deceased. No, we don't need any more flowers…well I don't care who sent them, there are too many here so send them to another dead person.

*(***MAURIZIO** *hangs up.)*

EZIO. *(offstage)* Maurizio, we got some more flowers and some nice fruit baskets.

MAURIZIO. Fruit baskets too!?? What is wrong with all of the crazy people on this island! This is a funeral home not the Garden of Eden. Do not bring one more thing in this room!

*(***MAURIZIO** *exits. A moment later* **ANTHONY** *enters the funeral home. Perfectly dressed in a black suit and tie,* **ANTHONY** *approaches his fathers coffin. Immediately he is struck by the image we don't see and he takes a second to absorb the impact of the fatality of his father. He collects himself then kneels at the coffin.)*

ANTHONY. Daddy…I always knew this day would come, but I guess as much as you prepare yourself for it, you're never quite ready. Even though you were so sick, I just felt so much comfort knowing you were still here… but now you're at peace and that's where you deserve to be. You were always so supportive of me and all my decisions…I just wanted to make you proud. I know I need to stand up now and be a man and take care of the family. You know the next three days are gonna be hell! And for some strange reason I have a feeling

you're going be sitting somewhere in this room having a glass of wine taking it all in.

(A voice is heard offstage in hysteria.)

MAURIZIO. *(offstage)* I told you ectoplasm or whatever your stupid name is…the second he arrives you were to let me know. Idiots!! So hard to find good help these days.

*(***MAURIZIO** *enters.)*

Anthony my dear, how are you?

(They embrace.)

ANTHONY. I'm okay, Maurizio. Thank you so much for doing this.

MAURIZIO. Are you kidding! The second I got the phone call I said clear my schedule. I was supposed to spend the weekend in the Hamptons with Anderson Cooper but of course I canceled under the dreadful circumstances.

ANTHONY. I so appreciate this, you have no idea. This is just going to be one of those awful times and I need all the help I can get.

MAURIZIO. Well that's why I'm here. I must say your father looks incredible.

ANTHONY. Oh please don't say that.

MAURIZIO. But he does, Anthony…

ANTHONY. I mean, it's just…I'm sorry. That always drives me crazy when people come into these wakes and they talk about how good the dead person looks, I mean come on look at him! He's dead! In a box! How good can he look!?

MAURIZIO. You're right, you know, I think some people just don't know what to say and they try to make you feel better.

ANTHONY. If they want to make me feel better they can bring me a shot of tequilla. God knows I'm gonna need it by the time this is over.

MAURIZIO. Well I will make sure that we have plenty on standby. Where is Andrew Polinscopy?

ANTHONY. It's Polinsky…and he's stuck in China. He won't be back till after the funeral.

MAURIZIO. I'm sorry to hear that, I will miss him. So your sister is married now?

ANTHONY. No, she's single.

MAURIZIO. Hmm…I'm so confused. The funeral home got a phone call from some random person today named "Peter" who wanted all kinds of information on what was going on and said he wanted to be involved on all the decisions. He said he was the son, but I told them that I did your wedding and I distinctly remember Anthony had a crazy sister, but there was no brother!

ANTHONY. That's correct Maurizio, I don't have a brother.

MAURIZIO. People are so crazy here on this Island of Staten! Who is this Peter person?

ANTHONY. Peter…is my mother's son.

MAURIZIO. Ohhhhh…huh?

ANTHONY. Yes, you see I had a brother but many years ago he stabbed me in the back like he was my worst enemy. So you see now, he's not my brother…he's my Mother's son.

MAURIZIO. Ahhh…of course. You know Anthony, when my brother found out I was gay he didn't like it either. It took him a long time to accept me….

ANTHONY. Oh it has nothing to do with being gay…Peter is gay too!

MAURIZIO. He is? So what happened?! You two should be like gay peas and carrots!

ANTHONY. Please, it's a long story. I don't want to talk about it right now…it's just too much; all of this and knowing he's going to be here. Listen, I don't care who he calls or what he says, I'm the oldest and my father left me in charge. If he has any questions or problems

he can come talk to me, and if he knows what's good for him, he won't.

MAURIZIO. I completely understand. Speaking of which, you said you wanted to see the mass cards we picked out. There were so many photos of Saint Anthony I wasn't sure which one you wanted to pick.

ANTHONY. Saint Anthony was my father's favorite Saint.

MAURIZIO. Of course, If you follow me I can take you to see the choices we picked out.

ANTHONY. I can go myself, please stay here. My mother is going to be here any minute and I want to make sure you're here when she arrives. You remember Angela right?

MAURIZIO. Of course, how can I forget!

*(***ANTHONY** *exits.)*

Coo-coo family. What did I get myself into again with these crazy Italian people?!

*(***MAURIZIO** *goes to fix some flowers just as a woman in black with a veil covering her face begins to enter the room.* **MAURIZIO** *assumes this is* **ANGELA** *and pauses, giving her a moment. She slowly begins to enter the room and then in a moment of hysteria she let's out an incredibly large scream and heads for the kneeler.)*

ONDINE. Noooooooooo…

(She drops her head on the kneeler screaming hysterically. She can barely control herself.)

MAURIZIO. I know how hard this must be for you…

ONDINE. Oh you have no idea! He looks so good.

MAURIZIO. I know, I said that too.

ONDINE. They did a nice job.

MAURIZIO. He was a good man.

ONDINE. He was a saint!

MAURIZIO. A good father.

ONDINE. An excellent father!

MAURIZIO. And a good husband to you I am sure.

ONDINE. He's not my husband.

*(***MAURIZIO** *pulls up the veil.)*

MAURIZIO. Who are you?

ONDINE. I'm Ondine Ozzupacci, I'm President of the Tuesday Morning Ladies Coffee Clutch. Joe owns the Bowling Alley on Hylan Boulevard, and I have been bowling there for twenty years!

MAURIZIO. Oh, so you are a friend of the family or a mistress?

ONDINE. Oh my God, never a mistress and so much more than a friend, are you kidding? You know how close I am to this family? When I got the call, I almost passed out. I've been hysterical for two days. I feel so terrible. Am I the first one here?

MAURIZIO. You're actually a half hour early…

*(***ANTHONY** *re-enters.* **ONDINE** *runs over and grabs him for dear life.)*

ONDINE. Oh Anthony! How could this happen? You must be devastated! How is your sister?

ANTHONY. Holding up.

ONDINE. And Your mother, I can't even imagine.

ANTHONY. Holding her own. I'm sorry, what's your name again?

ONDINE. Ondine. Ondine Ozzupacci from the Tuesday Ladies. Your father every morning when he would see me would look right at me with his tea and say, "Shoot 'em up Ondine!" Oh my God, I can't talk about it. I need to sit.

ANTHONY. Yes, please sit down.

MAURIZIO. Miss, the visiting hours don't start till two.

ONDINE. Am I early?

MAURIZIO. Very. If you wouldn't mind, the immediate family hasn'teven…

ANTHONY. Maurizio, it's fine.

ONDINE. Your mother is gonna want me here Anthony… trust me! Is she on her way?

ANTHONY. I believe so.

ONDINE. Excuse me, Maurizio is it…what time are the services?

MAURIZIO. Two to four and seven to nine, today and tomorrow and the funeral is Wednesday.

ONDINE. Thank you. I'm gonna call work right now and tell them I need off for the next few days so I can be here for the family. Excuse me.

*(***ONDINE** *walks upstage and pulls out her phone to call her office.)*

MAURIZIO. Did you find a Saint Anthony mass card you like?

ANTHONY. Yes! Thank you! All set.

*(***ANGELA** *approaches the entrance with* **MARIA**. **MARIA** *is holding* **ANGELA** *who is still in shock.* **MARIA** *is bringing her slowly towards the coffin.* **ANTHONY** *and* **MAURIZIO** *make room for her to come in.* **ANGELA** *finally kisses* **MARIA***'s forehead and leaves her side and kneels to her husband. Everyone gives her a moment alone as she takes it all in. Then just as* **ANTHONY** *is about to approach his Mother,* **ONDINE** *swoops in and sits next to her on the kneeler.)*

ONDINE. I know, Angela. I know. Just let it out.

ANGELA. As much as you prepare yourself, you're never ready for this ya know.

ONDINE. Trust me! I know! You are NEVER ready. No one knows what you are going through better than me.

ANGELA. I know.

ONDINE. He looks so good though, right?

ANGELA. Peaceful.

*(***ANTHONY** *cringes and comes over.)*

ANTHONY. Mom, do you want some time alone?

ANGELA. No, I'm okay honey. I'm good.

ONDINE. Angela, I couldn't even believe it yesterday when I got the phone call. I was sitting down having my coffee and the phone rings. Of course I'm thinking it must be my daughter 'cause who else calls me so early, but it wasn't her, it was Angie Cuco! And you know Angie, she never calls unless it's important, so I immediately sit down. Well, when she told me it was Joe Pinnunziato I dropped the phone and lost it. I haven't stopped crying.

ANGELA. I'm sorry, what's your name again?

ONDINE. Ondine! Ondine Ozzupacci from Tuesday Ladies.

ANGELA. Oh yes.

*(***MAURIZIO** *now comes over.)*

MAURIZIO. Why don't we let you sit down Miss Ondine so the family can have some time.

ONDINE. That poor woman is in shock.

*(***MAURIZIO** *puts* **ONDINE** *in a chair.)*

MARIA. Mommy left me in charge of calling everyone but I never got a chance.

ANTHONY. Oh my God, my phone hasn't stopped. I'm sure on this island everyone knows by now.

ONDINE. Do you need me to make phone calls?

MAURIZIO. I can have someone make phone calls if you need.

ONDINE. Nonsense. I know everyone in your mother's phone. Give me the phone Maria, I'll call everyone and give them the arrangements. God forbid someone didn't see the advance or is out of town, don't panic I'll be right back!

*(***ONDINE** *takes the phone and exits.)*

MAURIZIO. Anthony, do you want me to throw this crazy woman out?

ANTHONY. She's harmless. Let her make phone calls; it will keep her busy for a while.

MARIA. Anthony, Peter was at the house this morning.

ANTHONY. And?

MARIA. Listen, he's very anxious about seeing you today.

*(***ANGELA** *comes over.)*

ANGELA. I'm gonna tell you right now. I know you two haven't spoken in years and I have stayed silent for a long time. But your father loved both of you! There is nothing that bothered your father more than knowing his two sons could not be in the same room.

ANTHONY. Don't put this on me.

ANGELA. I will put this on you, I'll put it on the two of you! The next few days are gonna be hell. A million people are going to show up to pay respects to your father and I need both my sons with me right now.

ANTHONY. I'm glad he's here for you now. Did you ask him where he was for the last four years when Daddy was sick? Miami's not that far!

ANGELA. He called your father every day! Listen to me Anthony, your father's dying wish was for his two sons to make peace.

ANTHONY. Daddy never said that! I was with him when he died and his last words to me were to make sure I get the money that Gary Gavone owes him.

ANGELA. Those were his last words to you maybe. Maria, what did your father not want more than anything to happen at his funeral?

MARIA. He did say that he wanted Anthony and Peter to make peace for the sake of the rest of the family.

ANTHONY. Look, you don't think I've thought about the fact that Satan's spawn is going to be with me for three days, of course I thought about it! As long as he leaves his miserable excuse for a boyfriend home, we will be fine.

ANGELA. Dominick is his partner! Of course he's going to be here!

ANTHONY. What!? How could you allow that?

ANGELA. Your father liked Dominick!

ANTHONY. Daddy hated Dominick! Dominick is half the reason this family has been broken up for all these years.

MARIA. Dominick has been very nice to me.

ANTHONY. What did he do for you?

MARIA. He got me Lady Gaga tickets for Christmas.

ANTHONY. Oh please! Maurizio, please make sure that when my mother's son Peter arrives, he comes alone. Dominick Vitale is not welcome here.

ANGELA. Anthony Joseph Pinnunziato! You watch your mouth and remember why you are here. This is not about YOU! You're the oldest and I expect you to be the better person and just for now, please for the love of God let it go!

*(***ANTHONY** *takes a sigh of frustration and crosses away.* **TONIANN** *enters making the only loud entrance.)*

TONIANN. Angela, I'm here. So sorry I'm late, the fucking traffic on the island.

ANGELA. Toniann please.

TONIANN. Oh my God Maurizio! How gorgeous you look. You never age.

MAURIZIO. I always liked you.

(They air kiss. She looks towards the coffin.)

TONIANN. Oh my God is that him in there?

ANGELA. No Toniann, it's Elvis. Of course it's him!

(She walks over and kneels trying to get herself to cry. She has an odd moment of not knowing what to feel.)

MARIA. You never loved my father, did you Aunt Toniann?

TONIANN. That's not true, Maria. I loved your father, I just didn't like him. There is a difference. No matter what happened between us, he was still family. It's times like this we all have to stay together. *(She looks at him in the coffin)* He looks so good Angela, they did a nice job.

ANTHONY. Ugh! I hate that! He does not look good. He looks dead! Why do people keep saying that, it makes me crazy!

TONIANN. Anthony, I know how hard this is for you. Listen to me, a lot of people are going to be here. Just stay strong and remember your father loved you very much.

ANTHONY. Thank you!

*(***TONIANN** *goes over to* **MARIA***)*

TONIANN. Where is Peter?

MARIA. On his way.

TONIANN. Has he seen Anthony yet?

MARIA. Nope.

TONIANN. Oh shit.

*(***ONDINE** *comes flying in with the phone.)*

ONDINE. Everyone is called, Angela! Oh my God Toniann! I am so so sorry.

*(***ONDINE** *grabs her into a hug.* **TONIANN** *plays her "emotional" state.)*

TONIANN. Thank you!

ONDINE. How are you holding up?

TONIANN. Barely.

ONDINE. Please, Angie Cuco called me yesterday, I almost passed out when I got the call. I was having my coffee nice like I always do…

(They drift off upstage in continued conversation. **TONIANN** *looks to* **ANGELA** *and mouths "who the hell is this?")*

ANGELA. Maria, call Peter and see if he's lost.

MARIA. I gave him directions before we left.

ANTHONY. Why didn't he just come with you?

ANGELA. He had to stop at The Staaten to make arrangements for the repass.

ANTHONY. What!? I already made arrangements for the repass! Maurizio!

MAURIZIO. Yes, the repass has been arranged at Angelina's. As per your request.

ANGELA. I didn't know you handled that.

ANTHONY. Why the hell would you get him involved?

ANGELA. He needed to do something Anthony! My God it was his father too.

ANTHONY. You're right, we can put him in charge of the guest book. Maurizio, please call and cancel The Staaten.

ANGELA. No Maurizio, don't do that.

ANTHONY. Ma! We're gonna have two repasses now!?

ANGELA. When your brother gets here you two boys, excuse me, you two MEN can discuss it together.

*(***PETER** *arrives at the door. Everyone looks to the entrance.* **ONDINE** *and* **TONIANN** *take it in and start to cry for him.* **ANTHONY** *moves towards* **MAURIZIO**. **MARIA** *and* **ANGELA** *motion for him, allowing him to come forward and kneel to his Father. He sits and takes it in. He starts to have a moment, but just as he starts to lose it,* **ONDINE** *and* **TONIANN** *flock him on opposite sides.)*

TONIANN. I know, sweetie. Let it out.

ONDINE. Terrible.

TONIANN. Your father loved you very much Peter.

ONDINE. He talked about you all the time.

TONIANN. He was so proud of you.

ONDINE. You look just like him.

PETER. He looks…so good.

*(***MAURIZIO** *covers* **ANTHONY***'s mouth who could clearly explode at this point.)*

ONDINE. He's at peace Peter.

*(***PETER** *rises, and hugs his mother and his sister, and takes in a beautiful flower arrangement.)*

PETER. How beautiful the flowers are. They did a nice job.

(He reads a card on the bleeding heart arrangement.)

PETER. "Beloved Father, forever and always, Anthony and Maria."

(Everyone slowly shoots **ANTHONY** *a look. There is a moment of awkward silence. Finally* **ANTHONY** *takes the pen from the guest book and slowly walks over to the card. He clears his throat and then writes on the card "and P." He crosses back and puts the pen back on the stand.* **PETER** *goes to read.)*

PETER. "And P"

ANGELA. Anthony!

ANTHONY. There was no room left on the card!

*(***MAURIZIO** *enters with a stack of mass cards on a traditional wooden tray.)*

MAURIZIO. Here are the mass cards that you picked out Anthony. They came lovely as you can see.

ANTHONY. Thank you, Maurizio.

*(***PETER** *takes a mass card.)*

PETER. Saint Anthony, how appropriate.

ANTHONY. Well Saint Anthony was Daddy's favorite saint.

PETER. Actually, Saint Peter was Daddy's favorite saint. He named ME after Saint Peter.

ANTHONY. Saint Anthony was Daddy's favorite saint, he named ME Anthony.

PETER. He prayed to Saint Peter.

ANTHONY. Well I came first so I guess he liked Saint Anthony more than he liked Saint Peter.

PETER. You were named after Uncle Tony.

ANTHONY. You were named after Peter Cipriani the loan shark that lent Daddy money to buy the bowling alley. He didn't have the vig to pay him one month so he named YOU Peter to keep him happy!

ANGELA. Enough!!! Boys! This is outrageous. If you two want to hate each other for the rest of your lives FINE! I give up! But do not disrespect your father at a time like this. Please!

(The boys go to separate corners. **LUCIA** *enters. She comes in gracefully, passing* **PETER** *first. She knows who he is so she extends her condolences quickly and then goes over to* **ANTHONY** *immediately.)*

ANTHONY. Lucia, thank God you're here.

LUCIA. This must be a nightmare for you.

ANTHONY. You have no idea.

LUCIA. Have you two made up?

ANTHONY. Made up? I'm five minutes into this and I'm ready to kill him!

LUCIA. Anthony, you have to let it go! This isn't the time or the place to bring up the past.

ANTHONY. I know, Lucia. I'm trying, I really am.

LUCIA. Is Dominick here?

ANTHONY. No, But he's coming.

LUCIA. Shut…up!

(Go over to **PETER** *and* **MARIA** *in the other corner speaking quietly)*

PETER. Where is Dominick? I can't do this by myself. It's too much to handle.

MARIA. Calm down Peter, we are all here.

PETER. Oh please, in another ten minutes Anthony's whole posse is gonna show up and as usual…Peter is the bad guy.

MARIA. Whatever happened was a long time ago. No one is going to hold you hostage for something that is so old.

*(An Italian guy [***LOU***] enters the room in sunglasses.* **ANGELA** *turns to* **TONIANN**.*)*

ANGELA. Oh my God. Of all people to show up!

TONIANN. It's the guilt! That son of a bitch.

*(***LOU** *comes right over to* **PETER** *and* **ANTHONY** *who move towards him in the coffin area.)*

LOU. Your father was a good man.

ANTHONY. Thank you.

LOU. You don't remember me, do you?

PETER. I don't…

LOU. You boys were young, Maria was just a baby. Lou Donatacci.

ANTHONY. Oh, Lou!

PETER. Thank you so much for coming Lou. If you can make the funeral on Wednesday, we are having a re-pass at the Staaten.

LOU. I'll be there.

*(***LOU** *kisses* **PETER***'s forehead and goes over to* **ANGELA** *to kiss her, but she turns her cheek and is barely cordial.)*

So sorry for your loss, Angela. When your friend called me just now and said you needed me, I was on Hylan and said let me stop in and pay my respects.

TONIANN. We're all good, Lou. Thanks for coming.

LOU. Alright, if you need anything just call me okay.

*(***LOU** *exits.)*

ANGELA. If I need anything call him! Is he fucking kidding me? He would be the last person I call!

TONIANN. What fucking nerve! Who the hell called him and said you needed him here?

ONDINE. Oh My God! Was he in your phone?

ANGELA. You called everyone in my phone?

ONDINE. It's times likes this we all have to come together Angela.

ANGELA. He screwed my husband out of so much money years ago when they went partners. If Joey could move he would of lunged for his throat.

ANTHONY. And genius over here invited him to the repass!

PETER. How the hell was I supposed to know!?

ANTHONY. Peter, the second he said Lou Donatacci, you didn't remember who that was?

ANGELA. He wouldn't remember, Anthony.

MARIA. I didn't remember, Anthony.

ONDINE. I'm sure there will be plenty of food.

TONIANN. Oh please! At The Staaten you can fill up on the antipasto alone!

ANTHONY. Maurizio, can you please cancel this repass at the Staaten. Everything is already being taken care of at Angelina's.

PETER. Angelina's!? Maurizio, hold on, we need to talk about this.

ANTHONY. There is nothing to talk about.

PETER. Daddy loved The Staaten!

ANTHONY. Daddy couldn't stand the Staaten. Maurizio, please cancel.

PETER. Maurizio, don't! Daddy was friends with the owner.

ANTHONY. Who died five years ago. A Chinese guy bought the place, you didn't get the memo in Miami?

TONIANN. The Chinese are good luck, Anthony. Peter may be right.

ANTHONY. Lucia, could you back me up on this!

LUCIA. I was with Anthony when he went to Angelina's and she said she would do the right thing and make it comfortable for everyone. She really did.

TONIANN. You gotta admit Angela, she does a nice eggplant.

ONDINE. Her vodka sauce is to die for.

PETER. Fine! Go to Angelina's. I don't even know why I'm here. Anthony has everything under control, right Maurizio?

MAURIZIO. I don't get involved with the family drama.

*(***DOMINICK** *enters.* **ANTHONY** *takes a moment and makes eye contact then crosses over to a corner and* **LUCIA** *immediately joins him.* **DOMINICK** *makes his way over to the family.* **MAURIZIO** *joins* **LUCIA** *and* **ANTHONY**.*)*

LUCIA. Anthony, calm down.

ANTHONY. This is too much! I don't think I could do this for three days.

MAURIZIO. I'm guessing that is the boyfriend you don't like.

ANTHONY. It's going to take everything inside me not to rip his lungs out. The nerve of him to show up here after what he did.

MARIA. Anthony, stop! You have to think of Daddy now!

LUCIA. It was a long time ago, Anthony, and he is with your brother. Just calm down.

*(***PETER** *brings* **DOMINICK** *to the coffin.)*

DOMINICK. I always said you look just like your Dad.

PETER. He was my best friend.

*(***ANTHONY** *cringes but contains himself.)*

DOMINICK. He looks so good.

*(***MAURIZIO** *and* **LUCIA** *cover* **ANTHONY***'s mouth again.* **DOMINICK** *gets up from the kneeler and walks towards* **ANTHONY**, **LUCIA** *and* **MAURIZIO**.*)*

MAURIZIO. Maurizio Le Grande of the Palm Beach and Mineola Le Grandes.

DOMINICK. Dominick Vitale. Bensonhurst.

MAURIZIO. Thank you for attending this afternoon. Lovely weather we are having, yes.

DOMINICK. Hey Lucia, long time no see. How are you?

LUCIA. Good, Dominick, good to see you.

*(***DOMINICK** *goes over to* **ANTHONY** *who has made his way to an isolated corner)*

DOMINICK. Anthony, look, I know I'm probably the last person you want to see, but I want you to know that

regardless of the past, I am genuinely so sorry for your loss and hope that you can find a way to let it all go and know that Peter is just as upset as you are right now.

ANTHONY. Thanks to you my whole family has been upside down for over a decade and you want to stand here and tell me I need to let it all go. I will never forgive you or my brother for what you did. Don't talk to me. Don't look at me.

*(***ANTHONY** *exits.* **PETER** *comes over.)*

PETER. How did that go?

DOMINICK. Maybe I should leave.

PETER. What!? No. I need you here! Anthony needs to grow up and get over it. You didn't kill anybody.

*(***ONDINE** *has now moved to the front row.* **CONNIE** *enters.)*

TONIANN. Oh Connie!

CONNIE. Toniann! I am so sorry, how you holding up?

TONIANN. Barely. It's all too much.

ANGELA. Thank you for coming, Connie.

CONNIE. I am so so sorry, Angela.

ONDINE. Connie! How are you?

CONNIE. I'm okay, so sorry for your loss.

ONDINE. Thank you.

CONNIE. We must have met at the wedding. Are you Anthony's Aunt?

ONDINE. No. Ondine Ozzupacci from the bowling alley. I remember you when you used to work at Pizza Town years ago.

CONNIE. Oh my God! Yes! How are you?

ONDINE. I've been better. Angie Cuco called me yesterday with the news and I haven't been able to breathe right since I heard.

CONNIE. I'm sure. Let me know if you need any thing.

ONDINE. Thank you.

*(***CONNIE** *goes over to* **LUCIA** *who is near* **PETER** *and* **DOMINICK**.*)*

CONNIE. Lucia.

LUCIA. Connie.

CONNIE. Had to be the first one here.

LUCIA. Well considering I've been with Anthony attached to his side for the last two weeks, yes.

CONNIE. Really? Funny. Considering I was the first person he called. I was at his house the night it happened. I didn't see you.

LUCIA. That's because I drove his mother to the funeral home.

MAURIZIO. Ladies, I thought this was over a long time ago. Didn't you two get back together.

CONNIE. For a hot minute and then Lucia decided she would crash my car into Sedutto's ice cream shop on New Dorp Lane.

LUCIA. That's because Connie decided she was gonna sleep with Patti Frizalone after we got back together.

CONNIE. We never said we were exclusive.

LUCIA. You're trash!

*(***MAURIZIO** *grabs them and pulls them tight.)*

MAURIZIO. Listen to me ladies, this is not the time or the place, I have enough to worry about with the brothers.

CONNIE. Oh my God is the brother here?

LUCIA. You met him, Connie! Peter, remember?

CONNIE. Yes! Oh my God, they look alike even more now!

LUCIA. Not at all.

CONNIE. Identical.

LUCIA. Not even close.

CONNIE. They could be fuckin' twins!

*(***ANTHONY** *enters.)*

Anthony! I'm here, baby. Listen to me, if you need anything I'm right here, okay? Don't worry.

ANTHONY. Thank you Connie.

PETER. Thank you for coming, we met years ago, I'm Peter.

CONNIE. I'm so sorry for your loss, Peter. I'm Connie Scuccifuffio. I've heard such…nice things about you.

PETER. I'm sure.

CONNIE. I need a cigarette.

LUCIA. You went back to smokin'?

CONNIE. How you think I lost the weight?

*(***CONNIE** *goes to smoke.* **DOMINICK** *re-enters with a fruit basket.)*

DOMINICK. Look, Mrs. Pinnunziato. Someone sent a beautiful fruit basket.

MAURIZIO. I told Sal, Steve or whatever the hell his name is no more fruit baskets.

ONDINE. Does it have the crackers in it with the nice jellies?

TONIANN. Those apples look divine, Angela! How ripe!

MAURIZIO. Lovely! Would you like to go make a pie with the rest of them downstairs?

ANGELA. Who is it from, Toniann?

TONIANN. Let me look.

*(***TONIANN** *goes to open the card…)*

MAURIZIO. I don't care if it's from the Queen of England! It's tacky and hideous and will not sit in this room on my watch.

*(***MAURIZIO** *takes it and storms off with it.)*

ANGELA. Oh my God! The Limos.

ANTHONY & PETER. I took care of it!

ANTHONY. Who did you call?

PETER. Sonny Scungili on Amboy Road. Who did you call?

ANTHONY. Anthony Cavallo from Tidy Auto. Sonny Scungili's limo's are so old they still have cigarette stains in them from the seventies.

PETER. Anthony Cavallo's limos are for weddings! Did you get the one with the hot tub?

ANTHONY. No, I got the ones with the dark lights so I don't have to see you and your boyfriend's ugly face any more than I do right now!

ANGELA. Stop it! That's it! I warned you once and I'm not going to say it again!

TONIANN. What the hell is the matter with you two?

MAURIZIO. What the hell happened?

TONIANN. Come on, let's hash it out right now.

ANTHONY. This is not the time or the place.

TONIANN. So we're just gonna make it the elephant in the room for the next three days.

MAURIZIO. Not on my watch!

TONIANN. Everything can be fixed boys. Your Uncle Paulie dumped me on New Year's Eve at 11:59 pm at the Royal Jelly in Atlantic City, for a transvestite! And I forgave him, right Angela?

ANTHONY. There are people here who have come to pay their respects to my father. We are not the only ones who lost someone and unlike my brother who is too selfish to think of anyone else but himself I need to be there for the people that loved my father and who have taken the time to come here.

MARIA. No one is here yet Anthony.

PETER. He doesn't want to talk about it and neither do I.

ANGELA. I demand you boys fix this now!

(An **ASIAN WOMAN** *enters.* **MAURIZIO** *leads her to the kneeler.)*

ANTHONY. Mom, calm down. Stop making a scene. Look who is here.

ONDINE. Oh my God, she looks devastated.

ANTHONY. She is.

ANGELA. Who the hell is that?

ANTHONY. She was a good friend of Daddy's.

PETER. I never saw her before in my life.

ANTHONY. That's because you were only around Daddy when you needed something! I knew all his friends. Now if you will excuse me, someone needs to show some respect in this family.

(The **ASIAN WOMAN** *is at the kneeler and demonstrates no emotion whatsoever. She sits there still.)*

ANTHONY. I know how hard this is for you. I want you to know how happy my father would be to know that you came today.

EVA. What his name?

*(***ANTHONY** *tries not to embarass himself and gets close to her, almost like a whisper.)*

ANTHONY. Joseph.

EVA. Joseph who?

ANTHONY. Pinnunziato.

EVA. Oh! NO! Kung Pao chicken extra spicy. Awww.

ANTHONY. Who are you?

EVA. Eva Fong Onshui from Crown Palace.

ANTHONY. Why are you here?

EVA. Lady call me, Ondine, she say come here now very important, everyone needs me. So maybe you want me to take your order?

*(***ANTHONY** *covers and now speaks up for everyone else's benefit.)*

ANTHONY. Yes, Eva. There are things in life we can't explain, and this is just one of those things. I know you and Daddy were very close and I know he would be so happy if he knew you came here to pay your respects.

EVA. Huh?

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