

TOMMY (V.O.)

Uncle Junior is my father's brother.  
A good guy, but old now and crabby.  
He used to take me to Yankee games  
when I was a kid. I love my uncle.

24 EXT. ELM PARKWAY/LIVIA'S HOUSE - DAY

24

A middle-class street of three-story clapboard homes.

TOMMY (V.O.)

At the same time, Uncle Junior also  
told our girl cousins I would never  
be a varsity athlete. I found out  
he'd said that and, frankly, it was  
a tremendous blow to my self-esteem.

FYI

Chris waits in the Lexus as Tommy carries a Bose carton to a  
large three-story home, pats himself down for a key, RINGS bell.  
Presently...

VOICE

Who's there?

TOMMY

It's me, mom.

VOICE

Who are you?

TOMMY

Ma, open the door!

VOICE

Tommy?

TOMMY

Ma, open the door!

Four locks operate, the door squeaks open a crack and Tommy's  
mother, LIVIA SOPRANO, warily peers out. Tommy enters.

START

25 INT. LIVIA'S HOUSE - DAY

25

TOMMY

Jeez, ma, get some air in here.

He flings open a window. Livia looks older than her sixty-nine  
years. She's wearing a housecoat and slippers.

LIVIA

Did you lock the door behind you?

TOMMY  
(wearily)

Yes.

LIVIA  
Somebody phoned me last night. After dark.

TOMMY  
Who?

LIVIA  
You think I'd answer the phone? It was dark out.

TOMMY  
Ma, that I will never get. The phone is an auditory thing. Dark is an eye thing. Some people won't go out after dark -- okay -- get jumped from the shadows -- but not answer the phone after dark?

LIVIA  
Listen to him. He knows everything. You want some lunch? I got eggplant.

TOMMY  
I just ate.

She goes into the kitchen and starts fixing him food anyway. Tommy takes a new table-top CD player from the carton.

TOMMY  
Know who I just saw? Uncle Junior.

LIVIA  
That one. Think he ever comes to see his sister-in-law?

TOMMY  
Remember Artie Bucco? My friend in elementary school?

LIVIA  
I still see his mother. She tells me he calls her every day.

TOMMY  
(doesn't rise to the bait)  
Thing is...Uncle Junior...he's gonna make a problem for Arthur. It would impact on Arthur's livelihood.

LIVIA  
(eyes CD player)  
What's that?

TOMMY  
CD player.

LIVIA  
(put upon)  
For who? For me? I don't want it.

TOMMY  
You love music. All the old stuff's  
being reissued on CD, your favorites.  
(shows CDs)  
Look...Connie Francis...'Pajama  
Game'...

He puts a CD on. Steam Heat from 'Pajama Game' fills the room.  
He tries to waltz her around.

TOMMY  
Ma, you need something to occupy your  
mind. When dad died you were going  
to do all kinds of things --

LIVIA  
(tears up)  
He was a saint.

TOMMY  
I know, but he's gone. You were  
going to do volunteer work, travel.  
You've done nothing. \*

LIVIA  
Don't you tell me how to live. You  
shut up.

TOMMY  
I worry about you.

LIVIA  
Don't you start with that nursing  
home again!

TOMMY  
It is not a nursing home. How many  
times I have to say it? It's a  
'retirement community'. You're with  
active seniors your own age. They do  
things. They go places.

LIVIA

(crying)

I've seen these women in these nursing homes. In these wheelchairs. Babbling like idiots. Eat your eggplant.

TOMMY

I told you I just ate lunch! Maybe you could talk to Uncle Jun' about Artie Bucco. He respects you...

LIVIA

If your uncle has business with Arthur -- then he knows what he's doing.

TOMMY

And I don't?

LIVIA

All I know is girls take better care of their mothers than sons.

TOMMY

I bought CDs for the broken record lady. I didn't drive my sisters out of state.

He gets up. Moves toward front door.

TOMMY

I expect to see you at Tommy Jr.'s dinner tonight with the baked ziti.

LIVIA

Only if someone picks me up and drives me home. I don't drive when they're predicting rain.

A28 EXT. LIVIA'S HOUSE - DAY

A28

TOMMY

You're a healthy girl. It's good for you to drive. Use it or lose it.

(kisses her on cheek)

I have to get back to work.

LIVIA

Sure. Run off.

**END**