Tony and Carmela's Covid Comedy

"The King of Corona"

by

Ray Remo

April, 2022

ray@rayremo.com

INT. STRIP CLUB, BACK ROOM - NIGHT

TONY, CHRIS, PAULIE, BOBBY, and PATSY hang out. Chris and Paulie play pool. Patsy and Bobby play cards. Tony reads the newspaper.

> TONY Holy shit! It says here in China, they're fuckin' locking people up for being sick.

CHRIS Sick how? Pazzo? In the head?

TONY No. There's some kind of virus.

PATSY

Filthy over there.

BOBBY Yeah. I stopped eating Chinese food years ago.

CHRIS Yesterday we ordered Chinese. You had Wonton soup.

BOBBY

Soup ain't food.

TONY

It says this thing already spread to Italy. People are dying. (then) Maybe I should call over there?

PAULIE

It's fucking payback. Ask me, they're pissed the Italians took their limp dick lo mein noodles and made pasta better.

SILVIO enters.

SILVIO

You're not gonna believe this. Health inspector was just here he's saying this virus thing from China, maybe it came from a lab.

PAULIE You mean Sum Dum Fuk released poison gas? Hehe. (MORE)

PAULIE (CONT'D)

(then) Hey, Tone, you heard what I said? I asked if Sum Dum -

TONY

Yeah. I got it.

SILVIO

Inspector also said we may have to shut down. This cocksucker Murphy is talking about shutting down all the businesses in the state.

TONY

Shut down?!

PATSY

Yeah, close everybody except the Irish bars, I'm sure. The Mick fuck.

BOBBY

Close down businesses? What is this, Communist Japan?

CHRIS

Get the fuck outta here, close down. This titty bar ain't any dirtier than any other. (off Syl's look) Or cleaner. You know what I mean.

PAULIE

They're gonna want to start spraying the girls down before they dance. Hehe. Like they do cows in a slaughterhouse.

BOBBY

That's why I stopped eating beef, too.

PAULIE

No beef. No Chink food. Only cakes and cookies for you, eh?

Bobby glares, embarrassed.

CHRIS

No beef? I met you at Luger's like a month ago.

BOBBY Okay, so a month I'm not eating beef. Whatever.

TONY Would you all shut the fuck up?! (then) This could get bad. (picks up the phone) Slava was supposed to pay a visit. I'm reschedulin'.

EXT. TONY'S BACKYARD - DAY

Tony pretends to rake leaves. He's waiting for a glimpse of his doctor neighbor CUSAMANO who, just then, walks TWO STEAKS out to his deck to grill.

Tony walks to the edge of his property.

TONY Hey, Cooz. COOZ!

Hating that nickname, Cusamano reluctantly looks up.

CUSAMANO

Oh. Hey, Tony.

TONY Hey. Could I pick your brain about something?

CUSAMANO (putting steaks on) Sure.

TONY

This virus thing they're talking about in the news -

CUSAMANO Don't worry about it. Not even confirmed in the U.S. yet.

TONY

I know, I know. I was just wondering. If it *does* get bad here, what kind of materials, you know supplies, would people be looking for?

Cusamano, slightly insulted, was expecting a medical question.

CUSAMANO Uh, well, let's see. Definitely masks. Maybe gloves.

TONY Okay. Masks, gloves. Anything else?

CUSAMANO Well, depending on the mode of transmission, probably disinfectants and hand sanitizers, too. Like that.

Tony says nothing. Just NODS, raking his leaves.

EXT. PORK STORE, FRONT - DAY

LITTLE PAULIE, BENNY, and WALDEN sit outside, drinking coffee and shooting the shit. Little Paulie has an unopened hero SANDWICH in front of him.

Paulie pulls up in his Caddy; Little Paulie gets up to go see him. Paulie BLARES his Godfather-themed horn anyway.

LITTLE PAULIE The hell, Paulie? We seen you comin'.

PAULIE

The fuck up. I *like* hearing my horn. You and Benny are coming with me.

LITTLE PAULIE Coming where? I just ordered a sandweech.

PAULIE Take it to fucking go. C'mon!

Little Paulie waves to Benny.

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - DAY

The kitchen is empty. From UPSTAIRS we hear a computer voice:

4.

VOICE (0.C.)

BRAZZERS.COM!

CARMELA enters the kitchen and starts unloading shopping bags from CVS. She calls upstairs to AJ.

CARMELA

AJ! Come down here!

Carmela removes a digital thermometer from one of the bags. She uses a scissors to open it as AJ arrives, SWEATY and breathless.

AJ What?! I was looking at culinary schools online.

CARMELA Come here. I'm taking your temperature.

She rinses the thermometer under sink water.

AJ For what? I feel fine.

CARMELA

Just do it!

She sticks the thermometer in his mouth.

She turns back to the sink and washes her hands.

CARMELA Listen, from now on, any time we come back into the house, we're washing our hands.

AJ mumbles through his thermometer.

AJ

Eyyyye?

CARMELA

Because of that Wuhan virus thing. It's going around. (washing thoroughly) They say you're supposed to say the Pledge of Allegiance when you wash. That way you know it was long enough to kill the germs. (then) Or was it the Happy Birthday song? CONTINUED: (2)

AJ rips the thermometer from his mouth.

AJ

Here!

CARMELA

97.6. Good.

AJ What the hell are you even talking about?

Tony comes in from the yard.

AJ (CONT'D) They said it can't go human to human.

TONY Like they know what they're talking about.

AJ

Who?

TONY

The WHO.

AJ

Who?

TONY The WHO! It's a group of people.

AJ Why is anybody listening to a rock band?

CARMELA No, AJ. The World Health Organization. W. H. O.

TONY

Yeah, that. (then) He's not feeling good?

AJ

I'm fine.

CARMELA Just checking.

6.

CONTINUED: (3)

TONY

Let me check mine.

Carmela rinses the thermometer again.

AJ

Can I go now?

TONY

Go where?

AJ

I'm online looking at cooking schools.

TONY

Yeah, right. How-to-wax-your carrot dot com.

AJ gives Tony a dirty look and exits.

Carmela sticks the thermometer in Tony's mouth.

CARMELA

This has me worried, Tony. Father Phil said the state reached out to the church to consider virtual Mass. I mean what would that even look like? Mass on a computer!

Tony waits a beat then removes the thermometer.

TONY

As long as Father Phil gets his donations, I'm sure he'll make it work.

CARMELA 97.6. The hell? Is this thing working?

TONY

You try it.

Carmela rinses it one more time.

Tony goes into the fridge.

CARMELA

What did Cusamano say? Any medications we can take as a preventive?

Tony pours himself some OJ.

CONTINUED: (4)

Carmela puts the thermometer under her tongue.

TONY

Medication? Uh, he didn't say. (hold up his glass) He said have lots of this, though. He also said masks may be a good idea. Imagine that? Masks. Chinks are turning us into them.

CARMELA

I guethhh.

TONY Next thing we'll all be wearing sun visors for no reason and taking the bus to Foxwoods.

Carmela reads her temperature.

CARMELA

Oh my God.

TONY

What?

CARMELA

It says 101.

Tony finishes his OJ. Then takes TWO STEPS to his right.

TONY That's not that bad. Here. (pours her OJ) Have some. (keeping his distance) I gotta go. Meeting.

He quickly EXITS, fleeing through the kitchen door.

CARMELA Where are you going? Don't you need your car?!

TONY (calling from outside) I'll go around!

CUT TO:

9.

EXT. GREAT WALL CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Little Paulie and Benny talk to Paulie from his car window.

PAULIE Just go in and do what I said.

BENNY

I don't get it.

PAULIE

Just fucking do it!

INT. GREAT WALL CHINESE RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Little Paulie and Benny enter the restaurant and approach the front desk where EUGENE, the owner, stands.

EUGENE

May I help you?

LITTLE PAULIE Yeah, uh, hi. We're from the neighborhood safety watch. We're checking on the local businesses and their security.

BENNY

There's been a rise of anti-Asian sentiment because of this Zohan virus thing.

EUGENE Oh? That's news to me.

LITTLE PAULIE Do you have security measures

here, like cameras?

EUGENE Inside, yes we do. Outside, no.

LITTLE PAULIE

I see.

BENNY

And the inside ones are linked to what?

EUGENE

I have a tape I use. Erases itself every 12 hours unless I choose to keep it. What's this all about?

BENNY I told you. Anti-Asian sentiment.

LITTLE PAULIE Somebody poisoned a panda over at the zoo. We're just looking out.

Eugene's wife, SUNNY, approaches.

EUGENE Do you have a card? A website?

LITTLE PAULIE You know, I just gave out my last card down at Yolo Mein's.

BENNY We'll be in touch.

Benny and Little Paulie exit.

SUNNY

What was that?

EUGENE

I'm...not sure.

EXT. JIMMY BUFF'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Tony waits outside his SUV, devouring a sausage and pepper hero.

Bobby and Patsy pull up and exit their car.

PATSY What are you, reminiscing in the old neighborhood?

BOBBY Not the best area at night, Tone.

TONY What are we, fuckin' Girl Scouts? You scared, Bobby?

BOBBY Course not. Just sayin'. TONY

My old man used to take me here once a month. Best sausage in Jersey.

Silvio and Chris pull up and exit their car.

SILVIO I thought you were having a stroke telling us to meet you here. I haven't been to Buff's in 20 years.

CHRIS (looking around) Fuckin jiggaboos everywhere.

TONY Another delicate flower. (then) You know, I'm starting to get a little worried that *some* of you represent me on the street.

Bobby frowns.

CHRIS What? What'd I say?

TONY

Anyway, listen.

Tony puts his hero on the hood of his car and wipes the grease off his hands.

TONY (CONT'D) I spoke to some *high level* people in the know. They all said that the big thing over the next few weeks is gonna be masks, gloves, hand sanitizer. All that shit.

SILVIO

Smart. Smart.

BOBBY Toilet paper too, I bet.

Beat.

CHRIS Fuck you talking about? BOBBY

Things like this, people load up on shit like that. Milk, eggs, bread, toilet paper.

SILVIO

I guess that makes sense. The milk and eggs only got one place to go after you eat 'em.

TONY

Whatever. See what you can find in the way of trailers. Any kind of cleaners, sanitizers, etc.

PATSY

My son's friend. He manages a CVS. He'll know when they're getting what.

TONY

Good. Start there. (takes his hero) Okay, I'm outta here. Carmela's not feeling well.

Everybody FREEZES. Tony gets into his SUV.

CHRIS

Is she...?

TONY No. Nah. "Female" issues.

CHRIS

Ohhh.

BOBBY

Thank God.

Tony drives off.

PATSY Fuck it. Since we're here, anybody hungry?

BOBBY I could go for a hero.

CHRIS I thought you weren't eating meat!

BOBBY Beef, I said. Sausage ain't beef! END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - LATE NIGHT

Carrying a blanket, Tony SNEAKS into the house through the garage. He takes great care NOT to make noise.

He leans in and listens to see if there are any Covid noises coming from upstairs. Nothing.

He goes into the family room and SHAKES his blanket open. On the second shake, he sees Carmela in the recliner.

> TONY HOLY FUCKING SHIT! Why didn't you say something?!

> > CARMELA

What are you doing?

TONY

(guilty) Nothin'. Just figured you'd sleep better alone. You need rest. So, I'll stay down here.

CARMELA You piece of shit.

She gets up and crosses into the kitchen.

TONY

Ohhh! The fuck?!

CARMELA You'd fucking abandon me.

She gets teary-eyed while grabbing a bottle of water.

TONY What are you talking about?!

CARMELA

Yeah, right, Tony. In sickness and health, my ass!

TONY Usually, you only worry about the richer or poorer part. Fuck you.

Crying, Carmela climbs the stairs.

TONY

(calling to her) Carm! I'm sorry. Carm!

A few beats pass.

Tony sighs. He fluffs his blanket, getting ready for sleep. Then from a computer voice in AJ's bedroom:

VOICE (O.C.) BRAZZERS.COM!

Tony ROLLS HIS EYES in disgust.

INT. DRUGSTORE - DAY

Patsy and Chris wait for DOUG, Patsy's son's friend, to come from his office.

CHRIS Whaddya think they do a day here in prescriptions?

PATSY Fucking Oxycodones alone.

CHRIS Sacklers. Those pharma people are the *real* gangsters.

Doug exits his office in a huff.

DOUG

Sorry, guys. Busy day. We had some blind guy's service dog take a shit on the floor. And my cashier lost her voice.

CHRIS Hey, see no evil, speak no evil.

PATSY So, Doug, what we're looking for is a heads up on your trailers. Do you know what's coming in?

DOUG Oh yeah. I do all the ordering.

Chris and Patsy nod. They like.

An OLD LADY approaches Doug.

OLD LADY Excuse me, where could I find spearmint leaf candies?

DOUG

Aisle seven.

OLD LADY

What?

CHRIS Aisle seven! Next to the frammister.

OLD LADY

The what?

CHRIS

Go on. Get.

The Old Lady moves on.

DOUG What am I looking at as a finder's fee?

PATSY Once we move it all? Ten percent.

Doug nods. He likes.

DOUG

Deal.

The three of them shake hands.

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - MORNING

Tony has BREAKFAST made on the kitchen counter - eggs, bacon, toast and potatoes. He's pouring more coffee for himself when AJ makes his way downstairs.

AJ Mom got up early?

TONY Mom didn't make all this. I did.

AJ Yeah, right. You can't cook.

TONY Actually, I can. I used to cook for your mother all the time.

AJ

Lucky her.

Wrapped in a blanket, Carmela walks down the stairs.

TONY

Yeah, sometimes you gotta impress a woman. You'd know that if you actually went out on dates.

AJ I go on plenty of dates.

TONY Oh yeah? You cook for them?

AJ nods "YES" as he grabs a piece of bacon.

TONY What do you make, *choked chicken*? (then, to Carmela) Good morning. Coffee?

CARMELA

Yes, please.

AJ Watch out. Dad made breakfast.

Tony pours Carmela's coffee.

CARMELA I see that. Eggs with a side of guilt.

TONY You know what? I try to do something nice.

CARMELA You're right. I'm sorry. Thank you.

Carmela picks at her food; Tony sips his coffee, WATCHING her from the corner of his eye. Is she sweating?

INT. PAULIE'S CAR - NIGHT

Paulie sits up front with Little Paulie; Benny sits in the back with a duffle bag beside him.

PAULIE Everybody know what we're doing?

LITTLE PAULIE Yeah, I just don't know why.

PAULIE

Why?! You don't love your country? We go in there and get a little payback from these Chinese fucks!

BENNY

I think he means why, as in what are we earning from this? We start a fire. Who cares?

PAULIE

You wanna be in this thing? Sometimes you just do what the fuck you're told. Let's go!

EXT. GREAT WALL CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

From a CLYDE'S EMERGENCY PLUMBING SERVICE van climb Paulie, Little Paulie and Benny. They are in full plumbing uniforms, complete with hats pulled down over their eyes.

> PAULIE If nobody answers the basement door, we use this.

Paulie holds up a crowbar.

The three of them descend the back staircase; Benny KNOCKS.

BENNY

Hello?

A voice from inside:

WORKER (O.S.)

Who's there?

BENNY

What's that?

WORKER (O.S.)

The password!

Benny looks to Paulie and Little Paulie; they both SHRUG.

BENNY

Uh. Plumbing?

A few beats pass, then a couple of deadbolt locks are heard being OPENED.

The door opens to reveal the WORKER, a small Asian man and his co-worker, the BOUNCER, an Asian man-mountain.

> BOUNCER The fuck? It's actually plumbers.

WORKER What are you guys doing here? We got no leaks.

Paulie looks past the Bouncer's shoulder to see HUGE stacks of cash being moved around by a HOT CHICK.

He raises his gun to the Bouncer's head.

PAULIE You're gonna be leaking in a minute if you don't let us the fuck in.

Benny and Little Paulie follow his lead and pull their guns, too.

The Worker and the Bouncer look at one another.

CUT TO:

EXT. CVS LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

The BEEP BEEP BEEP warning lights of a tractor trailer come to an end as the truck backs into the dock.

INT. TRACTOR TRAILER CAB - NIGHT

The DRIVER is having an animated conversation with the exwife via Bluetooth ear piece.

> DRIVER You know what, Erica? Take the fucking car! I don't care! (MORE)

DRIVER (CONT'D) You already took the house and the dog. When I want my morning coffee, I'll just hop in my tractor trailer and head to the Dunkin Donuts drive-thru! No problem! (beat) Yeah. Fuck you, too!

The Driver clicks his headset, ending the call, then climbs down from the truck and is immediately met by CHRIS, PATSY and BOBBY. Chris puts a gun to his back.

DRIVER

The hell?

CHRIS

Don't move.

DRIVER Just fucking shoot me. Who cares.

PATSY

Oh! What kinda way is that to talk?!

DRIVER

You shoot me, my son gets the insurance money. Better than that twat of an ex-wife of mine.

BOBBY

Take it easy.

DRIVER

I hire her a trainer. She gets her fat ass in shape and cheats on me with the same trainer! Fucking bitch.

Chris reaches into the Driver's pocket. Then another.

CHRIS Fuck is your wallet?

DRIVER

I don't carry one. I just keep my license and credit cards tied up in a rubber band.

BOBBY

That's what I do!

Chris looks to Bobby, who SHRUGS.

CONTINUED: (2)

DRIVER (CONT'D) Front right pants pocket.

Chris removes the rubber-banded cash and ID.

PATSY

That's very sloppy. You can lose all your info that way. Identity theft is a real thing, you know.

DRIVER

Is that what this is? Identity theft? I don't think this is how it's done, guys.

Chris tosses the few dollars and other cards on the floor. He pockets the DRIVER'S LICENSE.

CHRIS Remember - you know who we are, but we know who you are.

Beat.

DRIVER Whuh? Who are you? I don't know you.

CHRIS I'm sayin'. You know we're the guys who robbed you.

DRIVER Yeah. And? I don't get it.

PATSY It's from "Goodfellas." Forget it.

BOBBY

(to the driver) You. Back in the truck. You're riding with him. We'll meet you.

Chris waves the gun at the Driver to climb back up. He hesitates then does so. Chris follows him.

CHRIS

(to Bobby) See you there. 21.

Carmela sits at the kitchen counter poring over the internet for articles on Covid. The one she's currently reading is titled: "YOU'RE ALL GOING TO DIE"

A KNOCK at the kitchen patio door. Carmela cautiously gets up and slides the curtain to see it's CUSAMANO'S wife, JEAN.

CARMELA

Jeannie! Hi!

Carmela does NOT open the door.

JEAN Hi, Carm. I'm sorry about the late hour. But I saw the light on so I figured...

CARMELA No, of course. It's fine. What's up?

JEAN

Are you going to...? (motions to the door) Can I come in?

CARMELA

You know what, Jean. With what's going on, probably not a good idea.

JEAN Oh. Oh, okay. I get it. Well, I wanted to give you this.

She slides a sheet of paper underneath the door.

JEAN You know, when Bruce told me Tony came to him for business ideas, I -

CARMELA

(picking up paper) Business ideas? I told Tony to ask about the *science*.

Jean does NOT want to get involved.

JEAN

I told Bruce, "Did you tell Tony and Carmela about the possible stock investment ideas?" And of course, him, the big dummy, totally didn't think of it.

This SPARKS Carmela's interest; she analyzes the paper.

CARMELA

Oh, really? That's so thoughtful of you, Jean.

JEAN

Oh, no problem! That's what neighbors are for, am I right?

CARMELA

So these are all pharmaceutical company stocks?

JEAN

Most of them. Bruce says it's a matter of time before they come up with a way to treat this. People need something to keep their fears in check. You know how it is.

CARMELA Yeah. I've been scared myself.

JEAN When Bruce gets home from the hospital this last week, he's been scrubbing himself in the shower...for an hour!

Carmela puts the paper down by her side.

CARMELA

You know, Jeannie, I wanna be honest with you. I have a temperature. That's why I didn't open the door.

Jean's eyes WIDEN as she slowly BACKS AWAY from the door.

JEAN Oh, really? A fever? That was...uh, very thoughtful of you, Carmela. Thank you! (still backing away) I appreciate it. Well, good luck. (nervous)

(MORE)

CONTINUED: (2)

JEAN (CONT'D) With the stocks, I mean. Not the fever. You'll be fine!

CARMELA

Okay, Jeannie. Thanks again.

Carmela releases the curtain and makes her way back to the kitchen counter. She puts the paper down.

Out the window she sees Jean, still looking nervous.

EXT. TONY'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Jean looks around then LEAPS into the pool. She rises up, scrubs her hair WILDLY, then goes back under.

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A SHOCKED Carmela watches this scene play out.

EXT. TONY'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Jean climbs out of the pool and slinks back to her house.

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CARMELA

What the fuck?

CUT TO:

INT. STRIP CLUB, BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Tony sips a Scotch. Silvio enters.

TONY

Any word?

SILVIO

Patsy called. Said they're divvying up the shit now. A good score, supposedly. Lots of Purell.

TONY

Good. I already spoke to Slava. Said he's got supermarkets ready to move it. And his brother-inlaw or somebody has a string of pharmacies for the masks. SILVIO A well-oiled machine. (then) Ever stop to think? Most of this shit is made in China. They cause all this, then earn off it.

Tony smirks.

TONY Kinda like you in the Executive Game.

SILVIO Oh, Tone. Not really. I *could* lose at poker. But these fucks, the Chinese and whoever they're in business with?

TONY Like the president's son?

SILVIO They never lose. Ever.

INT. GREAT WALL CHINESE RESTAURANT, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Benny and Little Paulie have guns on the Bouncer and a few other workers. The HOT CHICK stacks the money for Paulie.

HOT CHICK You want it all?

PAULIE

Of course, legs. We ain't Commies like you people. Hehe. Good ol' American capitalism.

Hot Chick finishes filling the bag, hands it to Paulie.

LITTLE PAULIE We should get going, Clyde.

PAULIE

Yeah, yeah. (to the Bouncer) It's funny - we came in here for a good old-fashioned hate crime and we find a gambling operation.

BENNY

(to the Bouncer) Where does he keep the video tape?

No answer.

The Bouncer looks Benny dead in the eyes.

LITTLE PAULIE

We need that tape.

BOUNCER

(to Benny) If you didn't have that piece, I'd break you over my knee, you little shit.

BENNY

Yeah? (turns to Paulie) Speaking of knees.

Benny SHOOTS the Bouncer in his left knee; he CRUMBLES to the floor. Hot Chick and all the workers SCREAM.

BOUNCER AHHHHHH! MY LEG!!!

BENNY Where's the fucking tape?

The Bouncer points to a back room.

INT. WAREHOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Patsy and Chris oversee the loading of smaller trucks and vans with the stuff from the CVS trailer.

Bobby hands the blindfolded Driver, who sits on a crate, a just-purchased coffee.

BOBBY Here. Hot coffee. Be careful.

DRIVER

Thanks. (then) You know, next time. We can just do business. I don't mind earning off something like this.

BOBBY

Maybe, yeah.

DRIVER

I mean store managers can order certain shit, but there's no guarantee they actually get it. But us drivers, we 100% know what goes onto our trucks before we pull out. I can call you guys.

BOBBY

Sounds good. Hopefully though, this fucking virus thing doesn't stick around long enough for us to boost more trailers.

DRIVER

Yeah. Who knows. They said "14 days to stop the spread." But it's more like, "Spread your ass for a good government fucking."

Bobby sips his coffee.

BOBBY

Of course. They put you on the government tit and you're theirs for life. I'd rather make an honest living. (then) So tell me about this trainer guy who fucked your wife.

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - MORNING

Carmela, having never gone to bed, is online looking at stock prices. She goes back and forth, from the paper Jean gave her to the computer screen.

AJ wanders in; opens the fridge; takes out OJ.

As he pours, he looks at the paper.

AJ

What is Puh-Fizer?

CARMELA

It's just pronounced Fizer, AJ.

AJ shrugs and exits, going back upstairs.

Carmela continues CLACKING on her laptop. A few beats, then from a computer voice in AJ's bedroom:

VOICE (0.C.)

BRAZZERS.COM!

Carmela ROLLS HER EYES in disgust.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. PAULIE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Stacks of cash and a video tape sit atop Paulie's kitchen table.

Benny and Little Paulie finish counting as Paulie pours a cup of coffee for himself.

LITTLE PAULIE That smells delicious. Can I get a cup, Uncle Paulie?

BENNY Yeah, me too. Please.

PAULIE

No.

LITTLE PAULIE

Why not?

PAULIE

You two start drinking coffee, next thing you'll have to shit. And NOBODY shits on my toilet but me. (re: money)

How much?

BENNY

A hundred twenty two thousand.

PAULIE Holy shit! What a fucking score!

LITTLE PAULIE Whack it up three ways and that comes to -

PAULIE

Ohh! Three ways?

LITTLE PAULIE Yeah. What?

PAULIE This was <u>my</u> fucking idea.

LITTLE PAULIE Your idea was to burn the place down!

BENNY Not to mention Tony's cut.

Paulie is displeased with this reality.

PAULIE That too. First, I get mine. Then you two kick up to Tony. (snapping his fingers) And give me that tape, too.

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - LATER

Tony enters, Carmela is just closing her laptop.

TONY Hey. How you feelin'?

CARMELA I'm okay, I think.

He opens the fridge, looks around.

CARMELA I think you should talk to AJ. He's always, you know, *online*.

TONY

Yeah. And?

CARMELA

I don't know. (hesitantly) Get him outta the house. Maybe take him to the Bing for a night?

He closes the fridge, ANNOYED.

TONY

What?! So now the place is okay? You've been giving me shit for years about that place!

CARMELA You're a married man! AJ is a young boy. TONY Boy? There's kids his age running companies. Going to war. Whatever. At his age, I had already...

CARMELA

Already what, Tony?

TONY Gone into the business. You know.

CARMELA Yeah, well, I don't think either of us want that for him. Just take him out. He's like a zombie with that computer.

TONY

I don't think it's a big deal. So he's online? A lot of -

Yet AGAIN, from a computer voice in AJ's bedroom:

VOICE (O.C.)

BRAZZERS.COM!

Tony AND Carmela ROLL THEIR EYES in disgust.

TONY Goddammit! Fine! I'll take him to the Bing.

Tony turns to the kitchen window and pours himself a glass of water. Angry, he GUZZLES it.

He squints: JEAN CUSAMANO approaches the pool. She waves to him.

EXT. TONY'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

JEAN (calling to him) Hey, Tony! I think I lost my bracelet in here. I'll be right out.

Jean DIVES into the pool.

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tony turns to Carmela.

TONY You wanna tell me what the fuck that's about?

CARMELA She dove in there last night. I think to wash off after I told her I had a fever.

TONY

Had?

CARMELA

Yeah. It's gone.

Tony turns back around.

EXT. TONY'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Jean climbs out of the pool, triumphantly holding up her bracelet.

JEAN (calling to him) How's Carmela?

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tony shakes his head "NO GOOD." He puts his head down, doing his best DEPRESSED look.

CARMELA

Tony!

EXT. TONY'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Jean's EYES bug out of her head; she covers her mouth. Not knowing what else to do, she gives Tony a nervous wave and SCURRIES back home.

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tony grins, enjoying his handiwork.

TONY Whole fucking world is losing its mind.

Tony drinks his water.

CARMELA You're terrible. (then) I need \$50,000.

Tony CHOKES up his water.

CARMELA (CONT'D) Before she baptized herself last night, Jeannie gave me some stock tips.

TONY

Carmela, no!

CARMELA Pharmaceutical companies.

Tony's eyebrow lifts.

TONY

Oh yeah?

He takes another sip of water.

TONY (CONT'D)

Like what?

CUT TO:

INT. STRIP CLUB, BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Tony shoots pool with Bobby, Benny and Little Paulie. Silvio sits at his desk. Paulie enters.

PAULIE

There he is.

He walks directly to Tony and hands him a fat envelope.

TONY

What's this?

Paulie shrugs.

PAULIE

We invaded China.

LITTLE PAULIE (chuckling) Yeah, and we took 120,000 fortune cookies with us.

Paulie shoots Little Paulie a DEATH STARE.

PAULIE

Yeah. 120. That's just your first taste, Tone. I didn't wanna walk around with more than that.

Tony gives him a "YEAH, RIGHT" nod.

Red-faced, Paulie walks to Silvio's desk, still SCOWLING at Little Paulie, who GULPS.

Patsy and Chris enter.

CHRIS

(to Patsy) No, that's what I'm telling you. Bat soup or some shit. Who the fuck knows what they eat?

PATSY

Disgusting.

BOBBY

Remember that place in Hoboken? Nobody knew what was going on until they found hundreds of cat skeletons in the back of the joint.

TONY

Get the fuck out of here!

Patsy hands Tony an envelope fatter than Paulie's. Paulie now DEATH STARES Patsy and Chris.

CHRIS

(to Paulie) What?

The rear door opens. They all turn. SLAVA enters.

SLAVA

Hello, boys.

The crew nods HELLO.

TONY Hey, Slava. How's your balls?

Slava laughs and HUGS Tony.

SLAVA

They're full. I need your bathroom if you don't mind. We do business when I come out.

TONY

Sure, sure. Christopher, show Slava where the *Russian Pee Room* is.

CHRIS

You got it. PAULIE

It's alright. I'll show him. I gotta go anyway.

CHRIS

So do I.

PAULIE Then I guess we're a peesome threesome. This way, Slav.

Slava exits with Paulie and Christopher.

SILVIO You know Paulie's gonna clock how long Slava washes his hands for.

TONY

Of course.

BOBBY

He's got OCD. It's a real problem.

PATSY

Not as big a problem as the *other* OCD.

The men chuckle; their fun broken up by the sound of the rear door re-opening.

BENNY

We expecting somebody else?

VALERY, the tall monster of a Russian who Paulie and Christopher thought they killed in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey enters.

Tony and Bobby's faces DROP. Silvio STANDS slowly, ready to flee, or grab a weapon, or both...

BOBBY The fuck? How -

TONY What are *you* doing here?!

VALERY

I...am...Slava.

LITTLE PAULIE What'd he say?

BENNY Slava is inside. Pissing. You with him?

VALERY I am...Slava. I am with.

Slava, Paulie and Chris return.

CHRIS

The fuck!!

PAULIE

Ho-lee shit!

Paulie grabs a pool cue; points it at Valery.

SLAVA Tony, you remember my man, Valery?

TONY Uh...yeah. He okay? He's talking funny.

SLAVA No. He has trouble making words. Making sentences. (leans into Tony) They found him in woods. Hole in his head. I think he try suicide. He remember nothing.

Tony leans back, REALIZING.

TONY

No shit. (to Paulie, Chris) Slava here has some "damage." No memory.

Everybody in the know RELAXES; Paulie puts the cue down.

PAULIE Well, whaddya know, whaddya say?

CHRIS (under his breath) Too bad. He could've given some interior decorating tips to the Bing.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. BOBBY'S GARAGE - DAY

Bobby, conductor hat on, plays with his trains. Glenn Miller's "Chattanooga Choo Choo" plays in the background.

JANICE enters.

JANICE Bobby, did you pick up the Rao's marinara sauce?

BOBBY

I'll get it later.

JANICE

Goddammit! I wanted it early in the day, Bobby. I want to add some onion and carrot so Carmela thinks I made the sauce myself.

BOBBY

You're not tricking anybody, Janice. We all know it's not yours.

JANICE Go get my fucking sauce!

Bobby HUFFS. Janice exits.

Bobby takes off his hat; his phone rings.

BOBBY

Hello?

On the other end is EDDIE, the truck Driver from the CVS theft.

INT. BOBBY'S GARAGE / EXT. TRUCK YARD - DAY - INTERCUT

EDDIE Hey, Bobby? This is Eddie. The driver. We *met* the other day.

BOBBY Yeah, Ed. What's up?

EDDIE You told me to call you if I got that *one* item...

Bobby's eyes light up.

BOBBY Yeah! Let's meet!

INT. JUNIOR'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

Junior and Murf enter.

JUNIOR

Get Bobby on the phone and ask him what that truck is in my driveway. (then) And put the groceries away.

MURF

You want the prune juice in the fridge? Or leave it out?

JUNIOR It's hard enough to drink that shit juice. Why would I want it warm? In the fridge, goddammit!

MURF

Okay, okay.

JUNIOR

I'm going inside to watch Judge Judy. We already missed the first one.

MURF

Not my fault the girl at the pharmacy lost your prescription.

Junior GLARES at Murf, then enters the living room.

INT. JUNIOR'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Junior comes to a DEAD STOP.

His entire living room is FILLED with piles of giant 48-packs of toilet paper.

JUNIOR

WHAT THE FUCK?!

CUT TO:

INT. PORK STORE, FRONT - AFTERNOON

Tony sits outside with SILVIO and Paulie.

TONY

Now they know this shit is here. They're preaching *socialdistancing*, whatever the fuck that is.

SILVIO It's when you keep six feet away from strangers. I guess germs give up at five feet eleven inches.

PAULIE

Ain't no problem for me. I been social-distancing my whole life. Hehe.

SILVIO No, everybody's been staying away from <u>you</u>.

Tony and Silvio chuckle.

Eugene, the owner of the Great Wall Restaurant, approaches. Paulie's face DROPS.

PAULIE

The fuck you want?

EUGENE

(to Tony) Mr. Tony. May we speak inside?

Tony looks to Paulie, then Silvio, then back to Eugene.

TONY

Sure, Gene. Come on.

INT. PORK STORE, BACK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Tony sits at his desk, flanked by Silvio and Paulie.

SILVIO

Mr. Ning, all due respect, you should've been kicking up to us anyway, if you wanna run a gambling den outta your basement.

TONY

Consider what Paulie did a repossession of our property after years of *non-payment*.

PAULIE

Yeah. Fuck that!

EUGENE

That's fair enough, Mr. Tony. One of my men should've come to see you *before* we started running the game.

TONY

Okay, so...

EUGENE

But that's not why I'm here. I wanted to tell your three men. The bouncer they shot. He...he tested positive for Coronavirus yesterday.

Paulie's eyes BUG OUT of his head.

EUGENE (CONT'D) I got a test myself and I came up negative. My wife too, thank God. But my bouncer is bad. He's in the hospital. Maybe dying.

TONY

And what -

Paulie jumps up and BOLTS out the back door.

PAULIE

MOTHERFUCKA!!

EXT. CITY MD CLINIC - EVENING

Paulie's car SCREECHES to a halt. He gets out of his car and BEELINES for the front door of the clinic, only to find a "CLOSED UNTIL 8AM" sign.

He is NOT happy.

CUT TO:

INT. POWERLIFT GYM - DAY

Bobby walks on a treadmill. CAESAR, the trainer, stands beside him, along with Walden.

CAESAR

(to Bobby) This is the first step on your journey to health, Donald.

BOBBY

I think you're right. Feels great to get started.

WALDEN

And this little gym? It's all yours?

CAESAR

Yeah. Used to be a Carvel but they broke their lease. I got it cheap and then renovated. I use it for private sessions.

WALDEN

Interesting. From milk shakes to protein shakes.

CAESAR

Yeah, basically. Hey, before you guys go, I'll give you some homemade frozen yogurt to try. On the house. It's a great alternative to ice cream,...uh...what was your name?

WALDEN

Ronald.

CAESAR Ronald. And Donald? CONTINUED:

BOBBY

Hey, you think you can show us some weight lifting?

CAESAR

Sure...

INT. POWERLIFT GYM - MOMENTS LATER

Caesar is on the bench, displaying proper form for a BENCH PRESS. The bar has no plates on it.

CAESAR

What you wanna do is keep your elbows under your wrists and push out. Don't go too wide.

Walden grabs one side of the bar, Bobby the other.

They press it DOWN onto Caesar's throat.

BOBBY

Like that?

CAESAR (struggling) What the f...fuck are you doing?

They press harder.

WALDEN You like to fuck another man's wife?!

Caesar GASPS for breath.

CAESAR

I...I -

BOBBY Keep your dick in your pants, cocksucker!

Walden and Bobby release the bar and walk off.

Caesar COLLAPSES to the floor, the bar slamming down.

Bobby stops at the refrigerator on the way out and takes two FROZEN YOGURT containers.

42.

FADE TO:

Paulie has fallen asleep on his recliner; TV is on and murmuring in the b.g. He has a DREAM...

INT. TONY'S HOUSE, ENTERTAINMENT ROOM - NIGHT

AJ sits with Bobby to his right and Patsy to his right. Christopher and Silvio are sitting opposite all of them. They are all dressed in suits, AJ with his jacket off, suspenders on, a CRUCIFIX visibly hanging from his neck.

The scene is exactly reminiscent of GODFATHER 1 where Sonny is handling the aftermath of the attempt on Vito Corleone's life.

> AJ Has anybody heard from Luca?

SILVIO

No, nobody.

AJ Hey, Chrissy, maybe give him a call. See if you can find him with the girl he shacks up with.

Chris picks up the phone.

SILVIO I hate to say this, AJ, but if your old man dies...you gotta make the deal with the Turk.

CHRIS You don't have a choice.

AJ Easy for you to say. He's not your father.

CHRIS I'm as much a son to him as you.

Paulie enters. He is SNIFFLING and holding a tissue to his face.

BOBBY Hey, Paulie, I thought I told you to stay put!

SILVIO Palooch. How you feelin'?

PAULIE Eh. Not so good. Fever. AJ No good, huh? Maybe have some food? PAULIE Nah. I can't smell or taste shit. AJ Maybe have a little brandy then? Good for the throat. PAULIE (nodding) Okay, maybe. (hands AJ a package) Here. This just came. AJ Okay, thanks. Hey, maybe a little honey, too? For the cough. PAULIE Yeah, okay.

AJ Go ahead. Get yourself some.

Paulie exits.

AJ

(to SILVIO) I want that you to take care of that son of a bitch right away. It was Paulie who infected the old man. That *strunz*.

SILVIO

You got it.

AJ unwraps the package that reads AMAZON on it. Inside is a BIG MOUTH BILLY BASS FISH.

AJ What the hell is this?

BOBBY

It's a Sicilian message.

CHRIS It means Luca is swimming with the fishes. CONTINUED: (2)

PATSY Oh, Paulie. Won't see him no more.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. PAULIE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Paulie FLASHES awake in a COLD sweat.

PAULIE MOTHERFUCKIN' CHINKS!

CUT TO:

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - DAY

Carmela is ending a phone call when Janice enters, carrying a TRAY.

CARMELA

(on phone)
Okay, so we have 10,000 shares?
 (beat)
Okay. Okay, thank you so much.

Carmela hangs up.

JANICE

Who was that?

CARMELA

Oh, just our broker. We bought some... Apple stock.

JANICE

(under her breath) Must be nice to have disposable income.

Janice puts the tray on the counter.

JANICE (CONT'D) I just wanted to drop off the dessert now. Gives me less to carry later, and God knows Bobby is useless for dinner except when it comes to eating it. CARMELA Okay, Janice. (then, re: dessert) What is it?

JANICE I made an apple pie.

CARMELA

Oh, wow.

Carmela peeks under the wrapper.

CARMELA (CONT'D) Great job, Janice! Looks just like the one from Key Food.

Janice half-smiles.

The phone rings; Carmela answers.

CARMELA

(on phone) Hello? Yes, that's right. 5,000 shares.

JANICE

I'm gonna go. Still have the sauce to make.

Janice starts towards the front door.

CARMELA

(on phone) Can you hold on? (grinning) Hey, Janice, if you don't have time, Rao's makes a good jarred sauce.

Janice, not turning around, through GRITTED teeth:

JANICE

Fuckin' Bobby.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY MD CLINIC - DAY

There is a line of people waiting six feet apart outside the clinic. Everybody is MASKED. Paulie approaches the African American female security GUARD standing in front.

46.

CONTINUED:

PAULIE Who do I see for a Covid test?

GUARD Sir, this entire line is for Covid tests. You'll have to wait.

A Generation Z'er steps out of the line to assist the guard. He calls to Paulie:

GEN Z'ER The line starts back there, buddy.

Paulie steps DIRECTLY into Gen Z'er's face.

PAULIE Mind your fucking business, cupcake. Or Coronavirus won't be your biggest fuckin' health problem!

Gen Z'er gets right back in line. Paulie turns around to the GUARD.

GUARD

Sir. There's no reason for profanity. Please calm down. Don't make me call the police.

PAULIE

Listen to me, Oprah -(catches himself) Fine. I'll wait on line. But I gotta take a shit first. Bathroom inside?

Paulie doesn't wait for an answer. He MARCHES inside and over to the front desk where a CLERK is calling names.

INT. CITY MD CLINIC - CONTINUOUS

CLERK

Leroy Jenkins?

An elderly man starts to walk over. Paulie puts his hand up to stop him.

PAULIE

I'm Leroy. Right here.

Paulie hands the man \$200.

CLERK You're next in line??

PAULIE Goddam right. Where am I going?

CLERK Well, I need your insurance info -

PAULIE Fuck that. I'm paying cash. Where's the test?

CLERK Uh...exam room one.

Paulie DARTS for the room.

CLERK

And sir... (reaching for a mask) You'll need to put this on.

Paulie SNATCHES the mask, GLARES at the clerk and goes into Exam Room One.

INT. JUNIOR'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Junior sits on his couch in the middle of a lane of toilet paper he's carved out for himself, from couch to TV. He is SURROUNDED by giant 48-count packages, piled HIGH around him.

Bobby enters but can't see Junior.

BOBBY Junior? You here?

JUNIOR In here, John L. Lewis.

Bobby finds the lane.

BOBBY

Oh, hey. I tried calling you this morning about this.

JUNIOR I was at the doctor. I had Murf take me because you weren't around. (then)

(MORE)

JUNIOR (CONT'D) Bobby, you wanna tell me why I'm sitting here like Damocles?

BOBBY

It was a last minute thing. This virus, Junior, people are fucking going nuts for toilet paper. So, I boosted some.

(then) But I don't know why the guys piled it so *high*. I paid two Mexicans to unload it.

JUNIOR

You steal, then you bring the fucking truck to my driveway?! You sniffing glue, or what?!

BOBBY

That's not the truck we stole! I rented that just to store some of it. The rest I put in here.

Junior glares.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I didn't know what else to do with it! I did this on my own. Tony doesn't know, so I couldn't use any of his places. I did it for you. Figured you'd want the score for yourself...

Junior LIKES this.

JUNIOR

You have a buyer?

BOBBY

For most of it. Some of it, I'm keeping. Who knows where this thing is going. Scary shit.

Beat.

JUNIOR Is it three-ply?

BOBBY

Yeah.

JUNIOR Keep 5 cases for me and get rid of the rest. Today, Bobby! BOBBY

I will.
 (then)
I should bring a few rolls to
Tony's house tonight. Gonna need
it. Janice is cooking.

CUT TO:

INT. STRIP CLUB, BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Tony and crew hang out. Silvio sits at his desk, gluing together a MODEL TITANIC. Tony smokes his cigar. Chris, Patsy, Paulie, Bobby and Benny play poker.

Paulie is FAR away from any of the other guys. He is wearing a mask, face shield, AND gloves.

BOBBY

I fold.

PAULIE Again?! What the fuck you even play for?

BOBBY You play your hands. I'll play mine.

PATSY

I call.

CHRIS

Me too.

PAULIE Three Jacks. Hehe. Suckers.

Paulie leans over to grab his winnings.

PAULIE (CONT'D) (pointing at Chris) Back off! You're too close! I wanna grab my money.

CHRIS Go ahead. Who's stopping you?

PAULIE I said distance, you fuck! Six feet!

Chris glares; leans back. He and Paulie STARE.

CONTINUED:

CHRIS Paulie, you gonna keep those gloves on when you jerk off later?

The guys chuckle.

PAULIE I don't need to. Your mother jerks me off. Two-handed.

Chris SPRINGS up, pissed.

CHRIS You panty-sniffing motherfucker!

Paulie jumps up, RIPS OFF his masks.

PAULIE You little shit! I never did that!

They're about to LUNGE for each other...

TONY Both of you sit the fuck down.

A beat, then:

Chris and Paulie SLOWLY take their seats.

A KNOCK at the rear door. Benny answers.

Slava and Valery enter. Tony STANDS to greet them.

TONY Here they are! The Brothers Karamazov!

Slava laughs, hugs Tony.

SLAVA Tony. How you doing?

TONY I'm good. How's your guy here? Doing any better?

SLAVA For him, there is no better. But I take care of him. Right, Valery? We are brothers!

VALERY

I am brother.

CONTINUED: (2)

SLAVA

Valery, give Mr. S. the gift.

Valery reaches into his pocket and removes an ENORMOUS pistol.

EVERYBODY

OHHHHH!

Silvio grabs a gun out of his desk drawer.

SILVIO

What the fuck?!

SLAVA No! No! Mistake. Valery, the GIFT. The gift.

Valery puts the pistol on the pool table then removes a big fat envelope.

SLAVA (CONT'D) This is one week, Tony. All Purell you gave me is gone.

Tony takes the envelope.

TONY No kiddin'. Wow.

A WAITRESS sticks her head in.

WAITRESS Sil, they said on CNN they may close down non-essential businesses next week.

She leaves.

TONY What?! Who decides what's essential?

SILVIO

(to Paulie) Put the news on!

Paulie reaches for the TV remote. He DROPS it.

Valery's eyes light up. He REMEMBERS!

VALERY PUT UNIVERSAL REMOTE BACK ON DOCKING STATION!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Valery reaches for the pistol.

EVERYBODY

OHHHHH!

CUT TO: BLACK.

Yes. Another black screen. It worked well the first time. Deal with it.

END OF ACT THREE

INT. TONY'S SUV - NIGHT

Tony and AJ are driving along; Tony turns down the radio.

TONY Okay, now listen, they're gonna know you're my son. So they'll take real good care of you.

AJ I don't know what to say to them. Do I ask them for a dance or they ask me?

TONY You won't need to say anything. They know what to do. (then) But don't do anything to get me in trouble with your mother. Got me?

AJ nods.

TONY (CONT'D) (reaches into pocket) Here.

He hands AJ \$300 in singles.

AJ Oh, nice! This is gonna be the best night -

Tony comes to an ABRUPT STOP at the Strip Club.

Pulling over, he sees there is a huge sign on the marquee: CLOSED BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR.

AJ He can do that, the governor?

TONY I guess. He's the King of Corona.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW