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THE BEAR

"Fishes"
Episode #206

Written by
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THE BEAR

"Fishes"
Episode #206

Yellow Revision Pages - 4/2/23

CAST LIST

CARMEN "CARMY" BERZATTO
RICHARD "RICHIE" JERIMOVICH
NATALIE "SUGAR" BERZATTO
FAK

MICHAEL "MIKEY" BERZATTO
JIMMY "CICERO" KALINOWSKI
DONNA BERZATTO
PETE

UNCLE LEE
CAROL
~~COUSIN SARAH~~
COUSIN MICHELLE*
~~PEDRO~~
STEVEN
TED FAK
TIFFANY

KIDS+
AUNTS+
UNCLES+
TWO ASLEEP GRANDPARENTS+

+non-speaking character

THE BEAR

"Fishes"
Episode #206

Yellow Revision Pages - 4/2/23

SET LIST

INTERIORS

INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - FOYER
INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - KITCHEN
INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - DEN
INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - DONNA'S BEDROOM
INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - KITCHEN FLOOR
INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - STAIRS
INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - PANTRY/HALLWAY
INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - LIVING ROOM
INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - DINING ROOM

EXTERIORS

EXT. THE BERZATTO HOUSE
EXT. BERZATTO HOUSE - BACKYARD

SUGAR. 5 years ago. Smokes. Snow. After a moment, MIKEY steps out, puts his arm around her. She breathes. He motions for the cigarette. She passes it, he takes a drag.

MIKEY

I love you, bear.

SUGAR

Love you too, bear.

She rests her head on his shoulder, already exhausted.

MIKEY

Don't do it to yourself.

SUGAR

I'm trying not to.

MIKEY

Cuz that shit is gonna do it to all of us.

SUGAR

Michael.

MIKEY

Natalie. Just don't ask her.

SUGAR

It's not like I wanna ask her.

MIKEY

I know but it's that thing that happens when you ask somebody if they're okay they're gonna think they're not acting okay and it's gonna MAKE them act. Not. Okay.

SUGAR

No one can *make* anyone else act any way.

MIKEY

Okay.

Another drag.

SUGAR

Remember last year?

MIKEY

Yes.

SUGAR
And the year before?

MIKEY
Yes.

SUGAR
So I'm not crazy.

MIKEY
No one said you're crazy.

SUGAR
She is.

MIKEY
She is.

SUGAR
And I'm in the middle because
you're you and Carmy's Carmy.

MIKEY
Then let us handle it.

SUGAR
You won't handle it.

MIKEY
That's my point, not handling it is
the BEST way to handle it. Just let
her be. She's already at like a 5,
I've heard you ask her three times
tonight if she's alright. You don't
have to ask her if she's okay every
ten minutes.

SUGAR
Do you know how much I would love
to feel like I didn't have to?

MIKEY
I bet a lot.

SUGAR
Yes. A lot.

CARMY steps out, LOUD FAMILY heard from inside--

CARMY
Were you calling me?

SUGAR
No, I just said you're you.

CARMY

Mike can you come inside and be
you? I can't deal with these
people.

MIKEY

Yeah, I'll be right there...

Carmy stands on the other side of Sugar, reaches for her
cigarette, takes a puff. They stand quiet for a moment. Then--

RICHIE pokes his head out of the door, MORE LOUD FAMILY--

RICHIE

Is this family shit I should know
about?

SUGAR

NOPE.

MIKEY

Give us a second, Cousin.

RICHIE

Madone.

Richie closes the door. The three stand quiet.

MIKEY

I'm glad you came home, Bear.

CARMY

It'd kill you to answer the phone?

MIKEY

Carm... I'm happy you came home.

Carm nods, "sure". Long beat. Sugar takes one last drag.

SUGAR

I'm not gonna ask if she's okay.

MIKEY

Good.

SUGAR

Carm, will you handle mom?

CARMY

I'll handle her.

SUGAR

And Mikey them?

MIKEY
I'll handle them.

SUGAR
Our Mother of Victory--

MIKEY/CARMY
Pray for us.

LOUD CHRISTMAS MUSIC AS WE FOLLOW THE THREE INTO --

2 INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

2

KIDS, AUNTS, UNCLES. Constant commotion and traffic. UNCLE LEE (50s) hustles through, holds a HOT DUTCH OVEN--

UNCLE LEE
CAROL WHAT THE FUCK AM I SUPPOSED
TO DO WITH THIS--

COUSIN MICHELLE (40s) AND MICHELLE'S FRIEND STEVEN (40) move through, kids circling them--

CAROL (O.S)	UNCLE LEE (CONT'D)
BEND OVER AND I'LL SHOW YA--	IT'S BURNING ME! NEW PERSON HELP ME!

STEVEN	COUSIN MICHELLE
Lee. It's Steven, I've met you a million times. Why are you such a prick?	LEE YOU'VE MET HIM A HUNDRED TIMES--

STEVEN (CONT'D)
(exits)
Why is he such a prick?

COUSIN MICHELLE
(exits)
He's SUCH a prick-

UNCLE LEE MIKEY
JIMMY TELL CAROL NOT TO SHOUT Lee, bro, you're screaming--
AT ME--
(to Sugar)
SHUG, take this...

SUGAR	UNCLE LEE (CONT'D)
Don't hand me that shit, just put it down--	Have you ever been burnt with a fuckin' dutch oven?

MIKEY
A lotta times and I don't scream
like a bitch--

UNCLE LEE

(exits)

You're so tough, I'll lay you
the fuck out--

SUGAR

(grabs dutch oven)

Enough.

MIKEY SUGAR (CONT'D)
(blows him a kiss) It's not even that hot--

Mikey turns into the TV ROOM --

FRIENDS/FAMILY (O.S.)
THERE HE IS--

MIKEY (O.S.)
THERE I AM, ALRIGHT , WHERE WAS I,
OH YEAH, SO ME AND A COUPLE DUDES
ARE GETTING THE SHIT BEAT OUT OF US--

Carmy passes Mike, we follow him into the --

3 INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

3

Too hot. Too many dishes. A mess. Loud music. FISH EVERYWHERE. SEVEN DIFFERENT KINDS. Death.

Ma-- CARMY

DONNA BERZATTO pop ups from the floor--

DONNA
I'm spillin' shit everywhere. And
I'm behind on the lobster. Carm, is
Cousin Michelle's friend Steven
gay?

*

Donna moves fast, manic-make-you-nervous-fast. Way too much for one person and she's sweating. You can smell the onions and garlic and whitefish.

CARMY
Is who gay? Mom you don't have to
make all seven fishes, no one eats
this shit--

DONNA
Steven. He seems a little gay? Like
arty you know. I love him, I'm just
saying he seems gay and it's
tradition--

CARMY

It's tradition that Steven's gay?

DONNA

Carmen. No. The seven fishes are tradition, baby. Why do you think I've been doing this since 4am--

CARMY

How can I help you--

DONNA

You can fix the forks please.

CARMY

K-- you sure you want to use these nice ones?

CICERO

(enters)

I'm not touching anything, I just need olives for the drinks--

DONNA

Yes, baby, for the seven fishes--

CICERO (CONT'D)

Everything looks great, what's for dessert?

CARMY

Ma, we can be casual, we don't need like nice forks--

DONNA (CONT'D)

Jimmy, I thought you were making dessert--

(smiles, winks)

Get the fuck outta here.

DONNA (CONT'D)

Honey just do it don't make me ask you five times--

CICERO

(exits)

Gladly.

FAK enters with older brother TED FAK (35)--

DONNA (CONT'D)

Nope, Faks out, delicate operation--

Carm starts wrapping forks with knives & napkins--

FAK

Mrs. B where are the skateboards?

TED

Hey Carm.

CARMY

Hey Ted.

DONNA

Honey, what are you saying?

FAK

Michael said our skateboards are in here--

DONNA (CONT'D)

MIKE--

TED

Michael said he hid our skateboards over here--

FAK (CONT'D)

We got these new decks from Big Neil and Mikey hid 'em--

Sugar passes, watches her mom for a minute...

SUGAR
Ma, you good?

MIKEY (O.S.)
WHAT MA--

CARMY
(get out, to Sugar)
We're good, we're good. Grab
more paper towels from the
garage.

DONNA
FAKS ARE ASKING ME WEIRD SHIT--
- SONUVABITCH. WHO KEEPS
FUCKING WITH THIS TIMER GUYS.
Carmy listen to me-

Sugar nods, exits. Donna turns the TIMER (tick, tick,
tick...)

CARMY (CONT'D)
I'm listening ma...

MIKEY
(enters)
Neil fuck off I was kidding,
I don't know where the fuck
your skateboards are.

DONNA
Carm I need you to listen to me--

FAK
Aw come on Mike... .

CARMY
I'm listening what?

MIKEY
"Aw come on, Mike". Faks, do
me a favor, go grab some more
ice from the garage.

DONNA
(to herself)
Wait wait wait what the fuck
was I just doing?

TED/FAK
(exit to attached
garage)
On it.

DONNA (CONT'D)
WHERE THE HELL IS THE CAKE?

MIKEY
Gracias, Double Dragon.
(then)
Ma, let Carmy help you with
the food, that's all he does.

CARMY
Defrosting ma it's fine--

CARMY (CONT'D)
(pissed)
Was that a shot?

MIKEY
Was what a shot? Is that not what
you do?

CARMY
That's right I do food and I
definitely don't start a hundred
different businesses with zero
follow through.

THE BEAR #206

Full Blue Draft - 02/24/23

7A.

MIKEY
THAT was a shot.

DONNA
Carmy, check the branzino--

CARMY
This shit is why I almost
didn't come back--

DONNA (CONT'D)
Hey Carmy, Don't have a
fuckin' attitude about it,
I'm trying to talk to you--

CARMY (CONT'D)
-- ma what the fuck--

MIKEY
Whoa, whoa, why wouldn't you
come back?

CARMY (CONT'D)
Whatever--

DONNA
... good on oyster...

MIKEY
Not whatever, I'm so happy to
see you and I'm proud of you
and I love you very much have
some fuckin' balls and say it--
-

DONNA (CONT'D)
... good on the crab...

CARMY
I'm not a fuckin' baby--

DONNA (CONT'D)
... start the potatoes...

MIKEY
Then say the words--

DONNA
Carmy say the words.

CARMY
... I love you.

MIKEY
Thank you very much.

Mikey kisses him on the cheek, lightly slaps his cheek--

DONNA
Mikey we're fine honey.

MIKEY
I know we are, baby!
(kisses her on the head)
Ma isn't it nice having the Bear
back??

DONNA
So nice. Once a year, that's all we
get him. He's too fancy for us now,
it's fine--

CARMY DONNA (CONT'D)
Mom-- Carmen can you set the rest
 of the table--
 (YELLS TO HOUSE)
 WE'RE EATING IN TEN!

Donna accidentally spills sauce all over, doesn't notice.
Carm quickly wipes it, TFL style. Mikey lingers out, shrugs,
"she okay?". Carm waves him off, "fine". Donna takes a sip of
her wine.

 DONNA (CONT'D)
Just in case I forget, that alarm
goes off in two minutes, I put the
rockefellers in and take the salmon
out and rest the salmon which opens
up an oven slot--
 (Carmy wipes the counter)
Carm, pay attention--

 CARMY DONNA (CONT'D)
I'm paying attention-- Don't do a million things
 just listen.

 CARMY (CONT'D) DONNA (CONT'D)
Okay. Fine. Yes. What the hell was I saying--

 CARMY (CONT'D)
Resting the salmon opens up an oven-

 DONNA
An oven slot so then put the
branzinos in the top slot and broil
it for like three minutes to get
that crispy stuff and I gotta turn
the timer back to two minutes so I
can drop the lobsters in a pot,
when that goes off, I take the
branzino off the stove and in the
oven so I can brown the braised
ribs and I just need you to
remember to stir the gravy in 5--

 CARMY
-- why'd you make gravy?

 DONNA
Because no one eats all this shit--

TIFFANY (30, PREGNANT) moves slow through the kitchen--

TIFFANY

Ughhhh. I'm so sorry, D.

DONNA

It's okay, baby, you done throwing up?

TIFFANY

I hope so, hi, Carm.

CARMY

Hey, Tiff. You doing okay--

DONNA

She's not okay, Bear, she was throwing up, get her some Brioschi--
RIRI GET YOUR FUCKIN' ASS IN HERE
AND GET TIFF SOME BRIOSCHI--

TIFFANY

I'm fine, D, I'm fine, thank you.
How was Ireland, Bear-Bear?

CARMY

Copenhagen.

DONNA

RICHARD!

TIFFANY

Sorry, right, Copenhagen.

CARMY

I'll tell you when you're feelin' better Tiff--

RICHIE

(enters)

Auntie D, why are you screaming at me like a maniac?

DONNA

Act like a fuckin' gentleman and take care of her--

RICHIE

She was nauseous, it's alright, baby, you okay?

TIFFANY

I'm fine--

RICHIE

She's okay Deedee, see? Nausea is good, it means the baby's healthy. You wanna Sprite or something honey?

DONNA

(sips wine)

Go lay in my bed sweetie.

TIFFANY

Thank you, D.

RICHIE

That's nice Auntie D, thank you. Go up, babe, I'll bring you a Sprite, you want anything else baby?

TIFFANY

No that's good, thank you.

Richie digs through the fridge. Tiffany passes Sugar, holds a fresh pack of paper towels, throws one to Carm--

SUGAR

Feeling better?

CARMY

Thank you, Chef.

TIFFANY

(exits)

Not even close. You?

SUGAR

Not even close.

RICHIE

Auntie D are we outta Sprite?

DONNA

Who said we had Sprite my love?

RICHIE

Why wouldn't we have Sprite?

DONNA

Who the fuck drinks Sprite? What are you 12?

CARMY

Ma. I got it, Cousin-

DONNA

You gonna run to the store?
You can't run to the store I
need you doing things--

RICHIE

Thanks Cuz.

CARMY

I can make you one.

RICHIE

You can make a Sprite? What are you like a fuckin' pop machine--

CARMY

Yeah, jagoff, I'm a fuckin' pop machine--

Sugar sees wine spilling from Donna's glass--

SUGAR

Mom are you sure you're--

CARMY

-- COVERING the meatballs with enough sauce?

DONNA

OF COURSE I AM, CARM PLEASE RELAX--

Sugar looks at Carm. Carmy motions to her "deep breath". Sugar takes a deep breath but can see the turn starting. She subtly starts cleaning up, wiping things, dumping out liquor. Carmy cuts limes, lemons, Richie watches...

SUGAR

Mom, do you want me to start moving stuff out there?

RICHIE

Like how the fuck do you know how to make a Sprite?

DONNA

How many times do you wanna ask me honey? Do you wanna just make the whole dinne-- Because he's a big time chef, Right baby? right baby--

SUGAR (CONT'D)

Nope just trying to help--

CARMY

(kill me)
Yeah that's how I know, ma.

DONNA (CONT'D)

Thank you, Natty.

RICHIE

Auntie D what's with the Seven Fishes--

DONNA

HEY. What's up everybody's ass? Why do you care? I'm making a nice fuckin' thing--

RICHIE

Whoa, chill, I just meant like, why the fuck do people do it--

DONNA

Because it's based on people that
left Italy to find new families and
new dreams with new people and
bring the seven best things from
their sea to their new home and not
have their family be a bunch of
jagoffs--

Lee strolls through, looks at Donna, a little too long, picks
at the food--

UNCLE LEE

Not even close--
(off food)
What the hell is that?

RICHIE

Why do you come in here talking
shit?

DONNA

What's not even close?
(to Carmy)
Honey will you take out some
Proscuit and Mortadel?

UNCLE LEE

I'm not talking shit, I'm
having a little snack.

CARMY

(grabs 'em)
Yep.

UNCLE LEE (CONT'D)

I was saying your Seven Fish legend
is not even close. Sevens all over
the Bible, Sacraments, seven days,
virtues, guilt probably, making
people feel like shit, holding in
emotions, making scenes, crying for
no reason, resentments, yelling,
pouting, talking too much, piss
poor communication, all the Italian
classics--

RICHIE

You're not even Italian bro--

UNCLE LEE

Polski, baby, Polski.

Lee grabs a chip, exits. Carmy unwraps cold cuts, slides the
"Sprite" over to Richie--

CARMY

Here.

RICHIE

Sprite?

CARMY

Sprite. Try it.

DONNA

WHY IS NO ONE LISTENING TO ME-

-

CARMY (CONT'D)

Ma we're listening, what do you
want?

DONNA

I said move the god damn thing--

CARMY
(moves a pot)
Okay. There. Fuck.

RICHIE
(sips exits)
Holy shit cousin...

DONNA
Okay. There. Fuck. Thank You.

CARMY
(exhausted)
Ma I'll be right back... I gotta
get something over... there...

Carmy follows Richie around the corner...

3A INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - DEN - CONTINUOUS

3A

Into the den, they both exhale...

CARMY RICHIE
Jesus... ... Christ.

Mikey runs in, cuts them off--

MIKEY
Yo, Cuz, you tell the boy who we
saw??

RICHIE CARMY
DOG. You're not gonna believe I don't need you guys fuckin'
who the fuck we saw-- with me right now--

MIKEY
I'm not fuckin' with you, stop
being such a little mopey fuck, I'm
trying to tell you we saw that girl
that you were in love with-- CLAIRE
BEAR~

RICHIE
CLAIRE BEAR!

CARMY MIKEY
I'm not in love with a girl-- The fuckin' genius down the
street--

RICHIE MIKEY (CONT'D)
Dude the genius? Remember. Homie hot as shit--
She's hot as shit now--

RICHIE (CONT'D) MIKEY (CONT'D)
Body is BANGING bro-- BANGING DUDE.

RICHIE (CONT'D)
It's like the glasses came
off--

 MIKEY (CONT'D)
YEAH! The glasses came off
Like SHE'S ALL THAT bro.

 RICHIE (CONT'D)
Tiffy used to babysit her,
she's obsessed with science
and shit--

 MIKEY (CONT'D)
She's a wizard, gangster,
she's like doing crazy shit
at med school--

 CARMY
(horrified)
What the fuck have you two done?

 RICHIE
Cousin. Relax. I'm trying to
explain to you that there's a real
one in a million opportunity here
for you with a woman that's stacked
mentally as well as physically.

 CARMY
You're about to have a child.

 MIKEY
Carm don't trip we put in a good
word.

 CARMY
Please don't put in good words--

 RICHIE
BRO YOU'RE NOT LISTENING,
SHE'S FIRE DOG.

 MIKEY
Carm I told her you're a bad
motherfucker cooking in Napa
and Copenhagen and all that
fuckin' nutty shit--

 RICHIE (CONT'D)
Stevie was with us--

 MIKEY
YEAH! STEVIE GET THE FUCK OVER
HERE!

 RICHIE
YEAH STEVIE GET THE FUCK OVER
HERE!

 CARMY
Why do you gotta bust my
balls--

 MIKEY
Bear. I'm deadly serious--

 STEVEN
(enters)
Hoi hoi.

 MIKEY (CONT'D)
Tell Carm who we saw at Big Star.

STEVEN
CLAIRE BEAR!

CARMY
Jesus.

STEVEN MIKEY
Carmen. She's a deeply good person. Like incredible. Claire. Bear. Claire. Bear.

STEVEN (CONT'D)
Plus I thought you were in love with her?

CARMY
Where did this come from?

MIKEY
You told us you had a crush on her!
She's funny too doggy, she's our kind--

RICHIE MIKEY (CONT'D)
Yeah! Claire Bear's just like us. Fits right in, G.

STEVEN
Yep, because just like us Claire Bear spends weekends teaching CPR to differently-abled college kids--

A WOODEN SPOON HITS STEVEN--

STEVEN (CONT'D)
What the fuck-- AUNTIE D DID YOU JUST THROW A SPOON AT ME?

DONNA (O.S.) CARMY
I SURE DID. RICHARD BRING HER THE FUCKIN' SPRITE, CARMEN GET BACK IN HERE-- Fuck my life to death.

RICHIE STEVEN
DEEDEE, CAN YOU CHILL! Zero reason to throw things.

MIKEY DONNA (O.S.)
YEAH MA CHILL-- DON'T TELL ME TO FUCKIN' CHILL

RICHIE STEVEN
We're not done with Claire Bear. More on this later. Carm, we got her number.

MIKEY

(to Carm)

That's a fact. Claire Bear's on the way, doggy. Stay close and lighten up.

CARMY

Fuck off, Mikey.

MIKEY

OH!!! MADONE.

Carmy exits, Richie goes up the stairs.

4

INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - DONNA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

4

He quietly moves to TIFF'S side, sets the Sprite down...

RICHIE

You okay baby?

TIFFANY

I'm okay, baby.

RICHIE

We're out of Sprite but Cousin made you one.

TIFFANY

What do you mean he made me one?

RICHIE

He made you one like a god damn pop machine, he's a weird-ass little dude... try this shit.

He passes it to her...

TIFFANY

(sips, it's delicious)

YO.

RICHIE

Right?

He sets it back...

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Are you still mad at me about the...

TIFFANY

I've thrown up so many times I
don't even remember.

RICHIE

(smiles)

Just puked all the anger, it's all
outta ya?

TIFFANY
(smiles)
It's all outta me.

RICHIE
I'll take it.

TIFFANY
Did you look at the...

RICHIE
(nods)
I sure did.

TIFFANY
And?

RICHIE
Pretty damn cool. It's beautiful.
Good neighborhood. Good school. Not
cheap though...

TIFFANY
Yeah, not cheap...
(then)
I don't know at what point today or
if it even was today, but I had
this weird dream where we only wore
green clothes. Like all the time,
like our own clothes but they all
turned green. And the baby only
wears red clothes. Only red all the
time. And I brought home all these
different colors from the store and
when I took them out of the bag
they were all red.

RICHIE
That's kinda dope.

TIFFANY
I thought so too.

RICHIE
Means she won't be like us...

TIFFANY
Yeah, right?

RICHIE
Maybe it means we gotta not be like
our parents.

TIFFANY

Would love to not be like our
parents.

RICHIE

How do we not be like them?

TIFFANY

We try real hard to not be like
them.

RICHIE

Put the time in.

TIFFANY

Put the time in. How's Carm?

RICHIE

Being a little bitch. Trying to
hook him up with Claire Bear so he
lightens the fuck up.

TIFFANY

(smiles)

"Claire Bear". I like it. They grow
up so fast.

(then)

Okay. I'm gonna hopefully not throw
up again.

She smiles, sticks her tongue out. Richie does the same. She
turns over on her side, away from him. He rubs her back.

RICHIE

The upside of barf is that at least
you get a little peace and quiet.

TIFFANY

The upside of barf.

RICHIE

Okay. Downstairs if you need
anything. I love you a lot.

TIFFANY

I love you a lot too.

4A

INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - KITCHEN FLOOR

4A

SAUCE SPLATS ON THE FLOOR, A MESS.

DONNA

FUCK. FUCK. FUCK.

Donna bends to clean it, Lee appears and helps with paper towel.

LEE DONNA (CONT'D)
I got you. I got it. I'm fine.

LEE (CONT'D)
(helps anyway)
Did you see what I sent you?

DONNA LEE (CONT'D)
What did you send me? Building in Wilmette. I'm
(off mess) gonna buy it, lease it out,
Fuck this shit-- it's a real piece of shit.

DONNA (CONT'D)
Congratulations--

LEE
(whispers)
I was just thinking... it's not on
the market yet and the guy needs a
realtor and thought you might need
help again--

DONNA
I don't need help--

LEE DONNA (CONT'D)
Of course. I have this under control--

LEE (CONT'D)
I know, I know, I just, you know,
it just gives us a chance to--

Mikey enters, hates the sight of the two of them

MIKEY
Nope. Not again. Ma you good?

DONNA
(gets up, exits)
Great, honey.

LEE
Relax, I'm helping her clean up a
mess.

MIKEY
Which one?

LEE
Go fuck yourself.

MIKEY

Right back at ya.

4B

EXT. BERZATTO HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

4B

Fak, Ted and Michelle pass a joint in silence.

*

FAK

I like thinking about stuff.

COUSIN MICHELLE

Me too, Neil.

*

TED

Yeah.

COUSIN MICHELLE

Is your sister coming?

*

TED

Francie's not allowed.

COUSIN MICHELLE

Why? Oh because of the thing?

*

FAK

Yeah. Nat's real mad.

COUSIN MICHELLE

Still huh?

*

FAK

Still.

TED

Like real mad, like (growls)

FAK

(growls)

TED

(growls)

COUSIN MICHELLE

I'm so sorry. That's hard. Francie is a fuckface though.

*

FAK/TED

Totally.

COUSIN MICHELLE

Just a total fuckface.

*

FAK

Is New York the best?

COUSIN MICHELLE

The best. It's just like alive and
then you come here and you're dead.
You know. There's a restaurant I
want Bear to go to.

*

TED

Can we come?

COUSIN MICHELLE

I mean maybe but probably not.

*

5

INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - STAIRS - NIGHT

5

Richie heads down the stairs, stops to look at a BERZATTO family photo. In the picture-- a younger Donna stands with teenage Michael, Natalie, Carmen... and Richie. He continues down the stairs as Cicero passes, kids running through.

RICHIE

(whisper)

Yo, yo, Uncle J...

CICERO

Why are you whispering?

RICHIE

I wanted to talk to you about the thing from earlier.

CICERO

The thing from earlier...

RICHIE

(whispers)

The job from earlier...

CICERO

YES THE JOB FROM EARLIER--

RICHIE

Don't be an asshole. I'm being real with you.

CICERO

Oh, okay, let me put on my real face.

(puts on his real face)

RICHIE

Jimmy.

CICERO

Richie, what did I tell you earlier?

RICHIE

That'd we'd talk about it later.

CICERO

And now it's later. Got it. Shoot.

RICHIE

(deep breath)

I'm gonna have this kid, I can't be, you know, wrapping up sandwiches forever. I know you do a lot of different things and you probably could use some help. I could be good. Mike too, I think the place is making him act weird. I've been looking for stuff. There's not like a lot out there. You're somebody that knows some things. We both don't wanna be in The Beef everyday, you know, I mean that makes sense right? Feel like I'm wasting potential.

CICERO

What kind of potential?

RICHIE

I dunno, potential to do something.
I feel like I'm really good with
people but like I don't know what
the outlet is you know? And like I
never had like... an uncle or
mentor--

CICERO

I am neither of those things.

RICHIE

But you know what I'm saying.

CICERO

I do not.

RICHIE

I'm saying like you could teach me
you know? I could learn from you
and you could teach me stuff.

CICERO

You want me to teach you stuff?

RICHIE

Like in business--

CICERO

You want a job. I get it.

RICHIE

Think about it?

CICERO

(pats his shoulder)
I will think about it.

Cicero turns toward the kitchen...

SUGAR (O.S.)

Ma. Can I help?

DONNA (O.S.)

(laughs)

I think we're good, Angel. I don't
want to have to tell everybody why
I call you Sugar again. I'm joking
sweetie I love you--

Cicero enters the kitchen --

6 INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 6

Sugar annoyed. Sick of this story--

SUGAR
Everybody knows why.

CICERO
I don't know why.

Donna impressively pulls bright red lobsters from a pot.
Sugar moves two EMPTY WINE BOTTLES, looks to Carm--

DONNA	SUGAR
You know what's a like real	(mouths)
crazy thing, any time you're	Did she drink this?
cooking and people just pour	
into the kitchen? Like its	
fuckin' boiling in here--	

CICERO	CARMY
Donna, is this a passive-	(winces, mouths)
aggressive way of asking me	I dunno...
to leave?	

DONNA
(sips wine)
No honey, it's an aggressiveway of
askingyou to go scratch.

CICERO
Okay, thanks D, heard most of that
without a slur. Sugar, why do we
all call you Sugar?

SUGAR/DONNA
She/I added a cup of sugar instead
of a cup of salt--

DONNA
Gravy tasted like Hawaiian Punch--

TIMER GOES OFF-- SUGAR FLINCHES--

DONNA (CONT'D)
(resets timers)
MOTHERFUCKING SHIT-

CICERO

This was fun. Goodbye.

DONNA

CARMEN GET SALTINES TO TIFFY
PLEASE.Cicero moves on, deep in the hallway, hidden in the pantry,
we see Mikey slam some pills--

7

INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - PANTRY/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

7

As Mikey chokes down the pills, Carm moves to the pantry,
surprises him--

CARMY

I got em, ma, I got em--

MIKEY

Oh shit, I'm in your way--

CARMY

Grab me the saltines?

MIKEY

Yep yep.

(hands them to him)

Why you acting like a saltine, g?

CARMY

I'm not a saltine--

MIKEY (CONT'D)

You're being shitty, don't
make me drag it outta ya, I'm
serious kid, what the fuck?

CARMY (CONT'D)

(inhales)

I thought I'd work with you for a
bit while I was home and we could
talk about... the shop and I've
been learning a lot and I got some
ideas--

MIKEY

Homie, I'm doing you a favor. That
place is a fuckin' nightmare.

(MORE)

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Of course I wanna hear all your ideas. I wanna hear all about you.

CARMY

I also don't need you talking to Claire and trying to be nice if you don't actually give a fuck, I'm all good--

MIKEY

Stop.
(looks at him)
I give a huge fuck, Bear.

CARMY

Yeah?

MIKEY

The biggest fuck.

Beat. Carm smiles.

CARMY

Can I give you something?

MIKEY

Of course.

CARMY

Hold on.

Carmy runs off. Mikey tilts his head, closes his eyes, drugs kicking in.... Carmy returns with a wrapped gift.

MIKEY

Wait, before I open this, tell me three things about Copenhagen.

CARMY

It's the most beautiful place I've ever been. I slept on a boat. I fed an invisible cat.

MIKEY

They call that a home run.

CARMY

Outta the park.

Mikey opens it. The drawing of THE BEAR from the pilot.

CARMY (CONT'D)

It's rough. But... just an idea.

Mikey blown away. Stunned and silent. Moved.

MIKEY

It's--

CARMY

We could do this...

MIKEY

(nods, emotional)

Let it rip.

CARMY

Let it rip.

DONNA

CARM WHERE THE FUCK ARE THE
SALTINES--

CARMY

Comin' ma--

Carmy runs to the kitchen. Mikey stares at the picture.
Emotional. Takes a breath. Then. He SLAPS his own face, hard,
after a moment, we follow him through the hall past the

8

INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

8

Where Michelle and Steven sit across from CAROL (Cicero's
Wife), Neil & Ted, Richie and TWO ASLEEP GRANDPARENTS. Behind
them, Donna heads up the stairs with a plate for Tiff.

*

STEVEN

... And she says what...

COUSIN MICHELLE

*

And she says again, "what's your
last name" and I'm like FUCKING
BERZATTO.

STEVEN

"OH MADONE, BERZATTTTTO"

COUSIN MICHELLE

*

Correct. B E R Z A T T O. And she's
like, "I bet you know a lot about
bears"

STEVEN

Damn her for thinking you know
about bears.

COUSIN MICHELLE

*

(laughing)

DAMN HER!

STEVEN

And how did that incredibly deep,
incredibly penetrating insult make
you feel?

COUSIN MICHELLE

Like I was gonna roll this bitch.

*

STEVEN

But, hold on, you're missing
details, why were you gonna fight
her? Were you being an asshole?

Michael reappears, leans against the wall, energy draining...

COUSIN MICHELLE

What do you mean?

*

Richie can sense it, nods to him, smiles. Mikey nods, stoned.

STEVEN

You just said you were gonna fight
her and I asked if perhaps it was
you that was the asshole--

COUSIN MICHELLE

Um are you listening? Hello, I am not the asshole.

*

STEVEN

So she's the asshole?

COUSIN MICHELLE

That's a fact.

*

STEVEN

And you go around beating up assholes?

COUSIN MICHELLE

(laughing)

Of course, they're assholes and so anyway she's finally like, "well my friend who passed away is a biologist and studied bears, did you know that bears are kind, devoted and sensitive? That they're also empathetic and altruistic and are commonly known to be adept at grieving--

*

STEVEN

Is this true?

COUSIN MICHELLE

How the fuck would I possibly know? I couldn't tell if this bitch was talking shit to me or not--

*

STEVEN

(laughing)

And you're like "why aren't you being nice like a bear?"

COUSIN MICHELLE

YES!

*

RICHIE

I gotta say, this all checks out. I share a lot of those traits, it's important to note that bears are also very aggressive.

STEVEN

How are you related to them again?

RICHIE

Through friendship.

STEVEN

Got it.

FAK

Us too.

RICHIE

Fuck are you talking about?

FAK

We're related through friendship.

RICHIE

FAKS, do you feel like there's a part of you both that's missing? Interlinked. Cells. Interlinked.

TED/FAK

INTERLINKED!

RICHIE

Fuck yourselves.

FAK

Guys, can I be honest though? I'm scared of bears, alright.

STEVEN

Me too, Neil. I am so scared of bears because they are bears and FUCK bears.

TED

Hello exactly! We saw a bear once and it was fucking terrible. It was fast.

STEVEN

They're so FAST.

COUSIN MICHELLE

Are they actually fast?

*

FAK

Um so fast. No one talks about how fast they are!

STEVEN

I saw this bear in Northern California once and it was running so God damn fast and I did not like it--

COUSIN MICHELLE

When were you in "Northern California?"

*

STEVEN

Oh just like most of my life before I met you and it's super weird you don't remember me telling you I'M FROM CALIFORNIA--

COUSIN MICHELLE

What's SUPER weird is that you said "Northern California".

*

STEVEN

(laughs)
Yeah why did I say that?

RICHIE

It sounded elegant.

FAK

Super elegant.

From the kitchen, the timer BUZZES. Lee enters with a cocktail --

UNCLE LEE

What are you biffs talking about?

STEVEN

Bears.

UNCLE LEE

85? 41? 63? Where we at?

RICHIE

The animal.

UNCLE LEE

Mongo? Fuck yeah. 838 career tackles. Get some.

STEVEN

An actual bear.

UNCLE LEE

Yeah, Steve McMichael. The dude.

COUSIN MICHELLE

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT AN ACTUAL
ANIMAL NOT A BASEBALL PLAYER.

*

UNCLE LEE
(at a loss)
I gotta tell ya, these holidays are
exhausting.

WE HEAR POTS CLANG AND CRASH--

DONNA (O.S.)
FUCK!!!!!!

STEVEN
What the hell was that?

UNCLE LEE
Just a crazy person yelling fuck.

STEVEN
Should I go help?

ALL
NO.

UNCLE LEE
Let him. There's garlic bulbs and a
cross by the door. Don't make eye
contact.

STEVEN
I'll be right back.

We follow Steven into the kitchen...

9

INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - KITCHEN/FOYER - CONTINUOUS

9

It's NOW chaos. EVEN MORE SHIT IS EVERYWHERE AND IT'S SMOKY
from Donna's cigarettes, timers are going, she DROPS A TRAY--

DONNA
MOTHER MOTHER FUCK--

SUGAR
I got it ma, it's fine---

DONNA (CONT'D)
It's like Igottadofucking
everything,
godforbidnanybodylifts a
goddamn finger--

DONNA (CONT'D)
Justfuckingblow my head off, you
guys do this without me, no one
would realize I'm gone--

SUGAR
No, no, no, ma, it's all fine--

Sugar trails behind her, sweats, tries to clean up, she sees Steven, shakes her head, "no".

STEVEN
(very sweet)
Donna. Hi. Can I please hel--

DONNA
MOTHERFUCKINGASSHOLEFUCK--.

STEVEN
(just as sweet)
Okay, bye.

Steven exits the kitchen at the same time as Sugar holding the trash bag. They reach the foyer, he sees the look in her eye--

STEVEN (CONT'D)
Natalie, are you okay?

She stops turns to him.

SUGAR
Steven. Will you hug me?

STEVEN
Of course.

Steven hugs her. She holds on to him. Tight. It's gentle and human. They separate.

SUGAR
Thank you.

Sugar heads outside with the garbage. Steven exhales...

STEVEN
Jesus...

He heads back to the living room --

10

INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

10

Mikey has joined the group and is standing with Lee holding court, or trying to. Steven sits next to Michelle-

*

COUSIN MICHELLE
How'd that go?

MIKEY
(smiling bright)
... okay so it's late now,
like way too late and we're
ROCKED--

*

STEVEN
Bad.

RICHIE
Like fuckin' ROCKED--

COUSIN MICHELLE
Toldya.

MIKEY
Like goodbye guys--

*

STEVEN
Yeah.
RICHIE
GOODNIGHT!

MIKEY
-- and we HAVE NO idea where we're
at -- we're in a foreign country
and we have just no clue where we
are and we gotta find an ATM --

UNCLE LEE
We've heard this a million times--

MIKEY
(stunned)
What?

RICHIE
Yeah, what?

UNCLE LEE
This story, we've heard a million
times--

MIKEY
You and Cousin have--

COUSIN MICHELLE
I haven't--

*

More POTS AND CLANGING--

STEVEN
(flinches off the sound)
What is she doing???

TED
I have but I like it.

FAK
Same--

RICHIE
Yeah Lee why don't you chill or
fuck off or somethin'--

COUSIN MICHELLE
Keep going--

MIKEY
Yeah, bro, Lee, relax--

*

UNCLE LEE
I could do it by heart... you sell
the car and then you guys find the
horse at the end.

Mikey stunned, silence. Then, rage--

MIKEY

You're a real fuckin' asshole you
know that--

UNCLE LEE

Cuz I cut you off? You've finished
that story a million times, why
don't you finish a business plan--

RICHIE/MIKEY

Whoa, whoa, whoa--

COUSIN MICHELLE

Yeah, guys, veering now--

UNCLE LEE

Where's the tomato sauce prospectus
Mike? Where's the frozen pizza
plan?

Cicero enters.

COUSIN MICHELLE

Hi, Unc.

CICERO

Hi, honey. What's happening in
here?

MIKEY

This jagoff's talkin' shit--

CICERO

Which jagoff?

UNCLE LEE

This jagoff.

CICERO

Oh. What about?

MIKEY

Me not finishing things.

CICERO

Well, I mean Michael--

UNCLE LEE

Not stories. He finishes those.

PETE (O.S.)

HO HO HO!!!!!!

COUSIN MICHELLE

Oh shit...

Then. PETE enters. HOLDS A CASSEROLE DISH.

PETE
SOMEBODY ORDER A TUNA CASSEROLE!

RICHIE/STEVEN
Speaking of jagoffs...
(jinx)
Hey!/Hey!

Richie and Steven fist bump.

PETE

Mikey!

MIKEY

It's seven fishes, Pete.

PETE

Yeah, I know, right! That's why I brought this.

COUSIN MICHELLE

That's the 8th fish, bro.

*

ALL

Ah shit.

PETE

Oh... can't have one more?

UNCLE LEE

That would make zero sense. Like I wouldn't even know what to do with that.

PETE

Bummer. What's up, Steve.

STEVEN

Hey Pete, sorry about the fish.

CARMY

(enters)

Fam, let's sit.

PETE

Holy shit, Carm!!

Pete hugs him, casserole in one hand. Carmy not into it.

CARMY

Alright, enough. What's that?

COUSIN MICHELLE

Don't tell him.

*

PETE

Oh this? Nothing.

MIKEY

No, Pete, be a man and tell him.

CARMY

Stevie, what is it?

STEVEN

It will upset you but he was just trying to be nice, Carm.

UNCLE LEE

It's a tuna casserole.

CARMY

(exhales)

It's seven fishes, Pete. This would make eight fishes and then we would be assholes.

UNCLE LEE

That's what I said.

COUSIN MICHELLE

Swing and a miss, Peter.

*

PETE

(nods)

Swing and a miss.

CARMY

(nods, exits to dining
room)

Don't let her see this shit--

Sugar enters. Grabs the casserole.

SUGAR

Dude, what the fuck, I told you not to do that.

PETE

I know, I just, you can't show up empty handed to the fam's house--

Sugar storms off, throws the ENTIRE CASSEROLE out the front door.

PETE (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas and happiness I
guess...

UNCLE LEE

(exits)

No.

PETE

K.

STEVEN

I understand that you were trying
to be nice.

PETE

Thanks, Stevie.

11 INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

11

Carly straightens a place setting. Fam starts to sit. Tiff
sits, eats a banana, Cicero sits next to her.

CICERO

Feeling better, kid?

TIFFANY

Yeah. Thanks, Unc. Banana's about
all I can handle right now.

CICERO

Might be all I can handle too. I'm
sensing this getting dark.

TIFFANY

You got that feeling?

CICERO

I got that feeling.

Richie sits on the opposite side of Tiff--

RICHIE

Right there with you, Unc.

CICERO

You ever had a chocolate dipped
banana, Tiff?

TIFFANY

Yeah, of course.

CICERO

On the drive out here we passed the stand my dad would take me to and I could just smell them, and him, it's weird how you remember smells right? Like cologne? Anyway that's just sort of been sitting with me-- sitting on my chest. Missing him all of a sudden after all these years. Funny you're eating a banana.

TIFFANY

Funny that it's the holidays.

CICERO

It all comes back up.

TIFFANY

It most definitely comes back up.

(then)

Also, Unc, I did really want to say thank you.

CICERO

What for, buddy?

TIFFANY

I just really appreciate you giving Richie a chance, it means so much to us--

RICHIE

-- whoa, babe, no, no--

TIFFANY

What? I can't talk about--

RICHIE

It's not public informati--

CICERO

What's not public information--

RICHIE

She's saying--

CICERO

I'm talking to Tiff. Go ahead, Tiff.

TIFFANY

I don't know what's going on, I
just wanted to say thank you Jimmy
for giving Richie a job.

RICHIE

(caught)

It's not entirely--

CICERO

Ohhhh. He told you I already gave
him a job.

TIFFANY

Is that not--

Cicero looks at Richie. Richie is caught, it's brutal. Cicero
could crush him. Instead...

CICERO

Here's the truth... I gave him a
job. I just want to keep it quiet
for a second, I really believe in
him, I just don't want everybody
else thinking I got a ton of jobs
to give out. Right, Richard?

RICHIE

(beat, nods)

That's right, James.

TIFFANY

I'm so sorry, I didn't know I was
supposed to say anything--

RICHIE

My fault hahah.

CICERO

How could you know.

TIFFANY

I won't say anything else until you
tell me it's okay but... We REALLY
appreciate it.

CICERO

And I appreciate you both.

Richie looks at Cicero, nods, "thank you". Cicero winks.

Carly and Sugar arrange platters and casseroles and all kinds
of shit everywhere. Michelle and Steve sit near the end.

*

The table's STUFFED and has been extended -- it also has two mismatched tables on either side to accommodate the 12 people sitting around it. Mikey sits at the head, across from Lee.

COUSIN MICHELLE

Mikey you wanna do grace?

*

MIKEY

Depends. Is this motherfucker gonna cut me off?

UNCLE LEE

Depends. Is it a grace I've heard a million times?

CICERO

Okay, Steven, would you like to say grace?

STEVEN

Can I please not?

Carmy heads back into the kitchen--

12

INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

12

Carmy stops. Donna, smoking, crying--

CARMY

What's up?

DONNA

Nothing, Carmy.

She takes another sip. Carmy moves over to her, eyes rolling, he's defused this before--

CARMY

Everybody's sitting down... you did such a beautiful job--

DONNA

I can't keep doing this by myself...

CARMY

You're not by yourself, I'm here with you.

DONNA

Now. None of them out there... give a shit about me.

CARMY

That's not true, mom... We love you so much.

DONNA

I had to beg you to come home.

CARMY

Mom I'm happy to be here. I am. I'm so happy to see you. Really.

DONNA

I worked all day for them.

CARMY

We know. We all really appreciate it.

DONNA

This is all so fucking hard.

CARMY

What's so hard mom?

Beat. She inhales, already moved on.

DONNA

I made this... beautifulforthem. No one makes it beautifulforme...

CARMY

... Do you want to... how about we go sit down with everybody.

DONNA

You go. I'll go in a minute.

CARMY

Okay and if--

DONNA

I said I'll go in a minute, Michael.

CARMY

Mom, it's Ca... okay. Fine.
(then)
So I'm gonna go sit down?

DONNA

Yes.

CARMY

You're sure?

DONNA

Stoptalkingto me like I'm a child.
Yes. Sit. Do you have a problem?

CARMY

Do I have a problem?

DONNA

Yeah do you have a fuckin' problem,
Carmen?

CARMY

(thinks)

Nope.

Carmy turns, closes then widens his eyes...

CARMY (CONT'D)

(sotto)

Here we go...

Noise from the dining room as Carmy nears--

13

INT. BERZATTO HOUSE - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

13

The whole crew has sat.

COUSIN MICHELLE

... Okay and I know you have to
explain this to me every year but I
never fully have any idea what the
hell the point of seven fishes is.

*

Carmy sits. Mikey stares at Lee.

UNCLE LEE

There's seven fishes, and also by
the manger there's the dutch oven
potatoes which burned the living
shit out of me earlier--

Mikey SUDDENLY lightly throws his fork at Lee. It's weird and
all of a sudden quiet. Everyone tense. Stevie's eyes go wide.

STEVEN

(quiet)

Here we go...

UNCLE LEE

Did you just throw a fork at me?

MIKEY

I did. I already heard you complain
about the dutch oven.

CICERO

Michael.

MIKEY

He started it, Uncle J.

CARMY
Mikey--

 MIKEY
Carm.

UNCLE LEE
Don't throw forks at people.

RICHIE
(makes cut it gesture)
Yeah, Cousin...

Mikey looks at Fak next to him.

MIKEY
You using your fork, Fak?

FAK
(please don't)
I need my fork, Mike.

MIKEY
I just need it for a sec, buddy.

Mikey grabs the fork. Then, lightly throws it at Lee.

TIFFANY
MICHAEL.

MIKEY
Tiffy, it's fine.

RICHIE
Cousin, you're scaring the normals.

STEVEN
Hey, Mikey, can you hear me--

MIKEY
Not right now pal.

RICHIE
Cousin, knock it off--

MIKEY (CONT'D)
I can throw forks at people.
This is my house.

RICHIE (CONT'D)
Mike.

UNCLE LEE
Rich.

RICHIE
Lee.

COUSIN MICHELLE
We have lift-off.

*

Lee and Mikey stare at each other. It's now tense and more horrible.

UNCLE LEE

You got everybody's attention. Tell another story we've heard a million times.

MIKEY

Maybe I will.

UNCLE LEE

Tell everybody how you're living at home and borrowing money from your mom and any other sucker that'll listen to your bullshit--

CICERO

Lee.

UNCLE LEE

Jimmy, you're one of those suckers. I told him not to listen, I told him not to help, I told him to tell you to go scratch--

CICERO

Okay. This is sufficiently weird. Congratulations.

MIKEY

(smiles)

It's totally fine, Unc.

UNCLE LEE

It is absolutely fine. This person is nothing and nobody and he is alone and afraid and, Michael, I'm not sure you can hear me over whatever the fuck you're on... but you throw one more god damn fork at me, you're gonna get fuckin' rocked.

Mikey, getting twitchy, reaches over to Pete's fork.

MIKEY

Petey, may I?

ALL

Michael...

CARMY

Mike, Mike, Mike, Mike...

SUGAR

(near tears, whispering)

Michael... I'm begging you...

Please don't do this to me. Mikey.

(MORE)

SUGAR (CONT'D)

Mikey Mikey.... I love you...
please don't do this...

He holds the fork up, doesn't throw it, holds it. Steven,
deeply uncomfortable, starts giggling--

STEVEN

I'm so sorry I giggle when I get
nervous--

MIKEY

(smiles)
You can giggle, Stevie. It's all
fine. I'm havin' a fuckin' great
time.

CICERO

Michael, I'd like to be the first
to tell you, you're being an
asshole.

MIKEY

Thanks, Uncle J.

UNCLE LEE

That's the familial support I'm
looking for.

CICERO

You're a fuckin' asshole too.

MIKEY

Thanks, Uncle J.

Donna enters slowly, eyes red, sits at the table. Sugar
instantly knows she was crying--

SUGAR

Mom what's wr--

CARMY

Nat.

DONNA

What'd I miss?

MIKEY

Nothin' much. Stevie's about to say
grace, right buddy?

Mikey still holding the fork up. Lee still staring at Mikey.

STEVEN

Um...

MIKEY

Take it away, Stevie

STEVEN

I really don't think--

MIKEY

Say the fucking thing, Steven.

STEVEN

Yep. Okay. Welp, it's "great" we're all together and healthy... I think.

(beat)

Uh... I really am grateful for this beautiful meal. Donna, you did an incredible job and I could... hear how hard this must have been and it really is gorgeous... Um, is he still holding the fork?

MIKEY

Yep.

STEVEN

Great. Okay. Um. How about this.... I think everybody has a different idea about what the seven fishes mean, or why you do it... I'll tell you what I think my definition of it is...As soon as I think of it...okay... It's a chance to be together, to take care of each other, and to eat together... And because there's seven fishes, you have to prepare seven entirely different dishes seven entirely different ways and that takes a lot of... time. And I think spending that time and using that time on the people we love is how we show that we love them. And maybe we eat too much and we definitely drink too much and we say too much without listening and because we have to eat seven entirely different fishes, which sounds ridiculous, we have to take extra time to do it and to chew more and listen more. So I love this. And it always means so much you let me hang out with you all during the holidays and I always look very forward to it. Also, I love Michelle so very much and I'm not gay like you guys asked a lot and I was thinking about what she said earlier about bears. That they're sensitive. And can be very kind...

(MORE)

*

STEVEN (CONT'D)

and you guys have always been so
kind to let me hang out with you
and I'm really just grateful that
there's the space and the time for
me at this table.

(then)

May God bless us all in the New
Year and please give Michael the
strength to not throw the fork.
Amen.

MIKEY

Beautiful.

Donna wipes her eyes--

DONNA

Doesn't fuckin' matter--

Michelle reaches across the table for her hand, sincere--

*

COUSIN MICHELLE

*

Hey, D, it's beautiful---

Donna holds it, grows emotional...

COUSIN MICHELLE (CONT'D)

*

It's so beautiful. We love you so
much.

SUGAR

Mom...

(then)

Are you okay???

Mikey rolls his eyes, Carm lowers his head. Donna retracts
her hand from Michelle's--

*

CARMY

(sotto)

Fffffffffffffffuck.

Donna's eyes go wide. She stares at Sugar.

DONNA
Natalie Rose Berzatto--

SUGAR
Mom--

DONNA
Do you know how much I fuckin' hate
when you ask me that?

SUGAR
I'm sorry I think do--

DONNA
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I FUCKIN' HATE
WHEN YOU ASK ME THAT!

	MIKEY		CARMY
Ma!		MOM!	
	COUSIN MICHELLE		TIFFANY
DONNA!!		DD!!!	*

DONNA
You ask these people if they're
okay? Do I not look okay, Natalie?
Did I not bust my ass all day for
you motherfuckers??? THIS IS
FUCKING GORGEOUS! AM I OKAY? ARE
YOU FUCKING ASSHOLES OKAY?! YOU
DIDN'T DO SHIT. I MADE THIS
GORGEOUS! FUCK YOU!

She SHOOTS UP, throws a plate off the table. SILENCE.

UNCLE LEE
Well...We all knew that was coming,
I guess we can relax now.

THEN. MICHAEL WHIPS THE FORK AT LEE. THEY ALL FLY UP
SCREAMING. MIKEY AND LEE TRY TO GET TO EACH OTHER. CARMY,
RICHIE, CICERO, TED AND NEIL TRY TO KEEP THEM APART---

	STEVEN		TIFFANY
HOLY SHIT-		GUYS GUYS GUYS	*
	COUSIN MICHELLE		SUGAR
WHAT THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH--		MICHAEL-----	*
SHIT IS SPILLING EVERYWHERE AND CHAIRS ARE FALLING--			

UNCLE LEE
YOU LITTLE FUCK!!!

CICERO
JESUS CHRIST--

MIKEY
DON'T DISRESPECT MY MOTHER
YOU FUCKIN' PRICK--

RICHEL
GOD DAMMIT MICHAEL -- TIFFANY
GO UPSTAIRS-

CICERO (CONT'D) PETE
MICHAEL-- MICHAEL-- IT WAS THE 8TH FISH I'M SORRY--

MIKEY JESUS CHRIST!-- CARMY SUGAR
MICHAEL--

Steven grabs Michelle and Tiffany, they leave the table and
run into the den--Neil and Ted help Richie and Cicero
separate them--

Carney stares at a plate of CANNOLIS on the table. Sugar hyperventilates.

SUGAR (CONT'D)
It'll be okay.
(then)
When she comes back, just--

SO THEN THE BACK WALL OF THE HOUSE EXPLODES--

14 DONNA'S CAR CRASHES INTO THE HOUSE AND INTO THE TV ROOM. 14

EVERYONE DUCKS AND COVERS. SLOWLY RISES. SHE SITS IN THE DRIVERS SEAT. LEANS HER HEAD BACK, EXHALES.

Quiet for a moment. Then--

MIKEY
Ma, what the fuck!

The CHAOS MOVES TO THE LIVING ROOM

ALL
Donna!/HOLY SHIT/JESUS CHRIST--

We push in on Sugar as she breathes, heavy.

Cut to black.

Merry Christmas.