

TOMMY

Surprise...what do you mean? I was invited over for dinner.

VALERI

Who invited you? Your father?

TOMMY

No it was somebody else. Come on. You gonna let me in or what? It's cold out here.

VALERI

Oh he must have changed his mind.

TOMMY

Changed his mind? He called twenty times today.

There's silence as Val starts to space out. She stares out looking above Tommy. He turns around to check but there's nothing there.

This is just Val. She gets lost in her own world. As they stand there, the ash from her cigarette is getting longer.

TOMMY (cont'd)

Val...Val.

VALERI

Huh...what?

TOMMY

Where is he?

VALERI

Who Jack? Oh your father right.

TOMMY

Let me guess, he's at the diner?

VALERI

Hey what are you doing with that bottle of wine?

Val is now focused on the bottle of wine. She puts the paint brush in her mouth and just stares at the bottle.

TOMMY

I thought I was coming for dinner. I don't like to show up empty handed.

Val goes to grab the bottle but Tommy pulls it back.

TOMMY (cont'd)
 Easy...I didn't exactly eat here. I
 wasn't even invited in.

VALERI
 Well come in. I'll show you my new
 painting.

TOMMY
 No I better go catch the old man.
 Here take the bottle.

VALERI
 No I couldn't.

TOMMY
 You couldn't?

She grabs it, turns around and slams the door in his face.

EXT. DINER

Tommy pulls up to the diner. He's not thrilled to be there.

INT. DINER-NIGHT

JACK, mid 60's, sits in a booth alone talking to a waitress.
 He wears a goatee with hair long and white as cotton. Along
 with his hair his nails need to be cut. A scarf, grey Members
 Only jacket, and a sweater over a denim button down is how he
 keeps warm.

He has a cup of coffee, the sports section and reading
 glasses on the table in front of him.

The waitress, DEBRA, is a good looking older woman, early
 50's. Good looking but hard.

Jacks's in a heavy conversation with her, at least from his
 point of view.

JACK
 Now your son's a junkie and your
 husbands an alcoholic...so what are
 you gonna do disown them? They're
 family. They're your blood and tell
 me what's more important then
 family.

DEBRA
 I don't know.

JACK

What's to know? What you need is a little faith. You know the story of David and Goliath?

DEBRA

I'm sure I heard it before.

JACK

If you heard it you'd remember it.

DEBRA

You need anything else Jack? I got other tables.

JACK

Go go...maybe a little half and half and some splendor. I'm waiting on my son. How's your kid by the way...what is he twelve?

DEBRA

Jack he just got out of rehab.

JACK

No no the other one?

DEBRA

What other one?

Jack spots Tommy at the door and lets him and everyone else in the place know it.

JACK

TOMMY!!!

Tommy walks across the room to get to the booth. He takes off his jacket and sits down across from Jack.

JACK (cont'd)

Deb...give my boy a glass of the house red and the deluxe, no cheese. Cheese doesn't agree with him.

DEBRA

No cheese. You got it.

Tommy gives her a smile. She leaves.

TOMMY

She needs to know that?

JACK
Son where you been?

TOMMY
I went up to the house.

JACK
Uhh Val. What did she tell you?

TOMMY
I'm here. What do you mean what did she tell me? Not for nothing I was looking forward to a home cooked meal.

JACK
Son all that's important is that we're together.

TOMMY
Is that all?

Jack starts making a noise like he's got something stuck in his teeth and he's trying to get it out.

TOMMY (cont'd)
You ate already?

JACK
When I'm hungry, I'm hungry.

INT. DINER

Tommy is finished eating. Debra puts down a fresh glass of wine for Tommy and picks up an empty one. He checks out her rack as she does.

DEBRA
What about you Jack anything else?

TOMMY
You sure you won't join me for a glass of wine?

JACK
Son I don't partake in that type of thing anymore. The temptation has left me and has been replaced by a higher power. Besides I gotta watch myself. My scrotum's been retaining water lately and I might have a hernia so just give us the check will you Deb.

DEBRA

You got it.

JACK

On second thought...you know what?...let me get a cheeseburger deluxe to go for my lady. If I don't bring Val home something she'll forget to eat.

Debra puts down the bill and leaves. Jack pushes it towards Tommy.

JACK (cont'd)

Son take care of this will you. Things are a little tight these days.

TOMMY

These days huh? You know I'm out of work here?

JACK

Son if you need a job, you come to me. I'll put in a word with Huey, we'll get you right on the phones.

TOMMY

I don't really know if I could sell floor sealer.

JACK

Son it's sales, it doesn't matter what you sell. Forget that for now. Let me ask you something. What do you know about rare coins?

TOMMY

Rare coins?

JACK

There's a guy works the night shift in the office. On a bad week he pulls in twelve hundred with these rare coins.

TOMMY

Rare coins? If it's so good why aren't you doing it?

JACK

Son the thing is...life doesn't always go as planned.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

Look you went out and you tried to do your music or whatever you did. You don't tell the old man anything. You come back out here to help your Mother, she falls in love and moves to Bocca. You can't predict these things Son. The thing is you have to remember...God has a plan for all of us.

Tommy buries his face in his hands.

TOMMY

And you're telling me his plan has me selling rare coins?

Tommy finishes his wine.

EXT. DINER-NIGHT

Tommy and Jack are walking out into the parking lot. Jack carries his take out.

JACK

I'm sure your uncle Vic would take you on.

TOMMY

That discount shoe place he's got? Come on.

JACK

It's more than just shoes besides your uncle Vic loves you.

TOMMY

Give me a break. I haven't seem him in years. He's not even my uncle.

JACK

Hey...he's like family. Did I tell you Val lost her job over at the Home Depo. She was really good with those blinds and stuff. Home decorating. She's got a real eye for that type of thing. Interiors...so she's not bringing home anything.

TOMMY

She's not getting unemployment?