

FRANKIE

A novel by Ron Martinetti

What about the time you sent me there last year? You thought I died there. That's a bad building. Michael, you want to stay here for a few minutes. I'll go for a walk. When I pass Wanamaker's Marie I look in the window. You got me in the habit--they think I'm a faggot. There was no price in the window. Ross said the model was so real he would take her home. I think they're going to have a sale soon. I made a delivery on the pier and I was sweating. My feet are killing me. You know who was there three weeks ago? Jimmy Roselli. Maron, he got heavy. You remember Frankie Lane the singer? In Gambone's. I see Louie's daughter a lot. He made four or five records and that was it. I heard him on the radio. Nat King Cole's brother tried to come out like him. There's so much heat in my house. It could be 2 below zero--I got the most hottest house in Knickerbocker. Sometimes I got to sleep in the living room. That's all Chinese in there. You can't get away from them. I got a big living room. You could put at least four or five beds. In my bedroom you could put two. One day I got up a little early and I went to where the elevators are. I couldn't believe it, I saw 14 kids coming out of an apartment. What are you starting to write now?

I'm in the courtyard. I wish I was on the street side. You get some breeze in my house. I can tell when this guy upstairs gets humped. Maron a me. The boss gave me a vacation--three days. There's the boss. Where you going skiing? I ain't going to talk to nobody. I don't know nothing. Jay you know that lawyer's library over there on Vesey Street? A very good friend of mine is the superintendent. He said to me Frankie on your day off or your vacation if you want to see cases you just sit down. I was just shoveling out water. I'll tell him to talk to my attorney. See Michael. I even said to you--this is the most heaviest toilet paper I ever picked up. I go home early. That's all. I don't fool around. I only smoke here. I smoke in other people's houses--not my own. Your aunt blessed me yesterday. I even got her the bus where to go right to her door. I even went down two blocks to see where the bus goes to get rid of her. I was sleeping Jay. Your cousin was down here Michael. He drives a Rolls-Royce. He bought half a gallon of sugar--maybe for a gift. He went to Canada for a vacation. You think they might be stupid but they go places. He goes with a group. I never asked him--he's got to tell me. Like this friend of mine who works nights--he never sees his kids. One Saturday his daughter said, Hey who's that man in this house? That guy must be Bananas Jimmy Catkins brother. What did he say against the Jews--that's why I jumped in. Who knows this guy was Jewish. Which bus you want to go on?

What am I daydreaming here? Phil from Mulberry Street he's like a second father. I call him Bracciola. I don't go up to his house too much. We're out in the street. He's the one who got the American Legion here. I don't want to walk up five flights--are you kidding? It's his daughter's monkey. You should have had it Michael--cream of mushroom soup. His son-in-law came in here. I

told him he wants to become a lawyer this friend of mine is the superintendent of the building on Vesey Street. He can go use the library. I hope you meet your girl--You know the one I'm talking about. She remembered my face. Everything happened to you this year your neck your face. You fell down the stairs. Phil knows me since I'm a kid. He was there for 47 years. He used to tell my mother about the bad things I did. Why don't you go down the neighborhood and ask people about me. That's the only way you're going to find out. You got the turkey here and everything? They didn't tell me anything. I go to Chinatown and stay out till eleven. Then I go home and sleep. I see him every Saturday and Sunday.

What's this? A Christmas gift? Somebody's going to break their neck with that handtruck Marie. He's all right. I've got to give him a call. What happened over there? My sister won't tell me nothing. When you come back I'll go out for 15 or 20 minutes. All right Marie? What do you got--three guys on that truck? There she is with those three bottles. Yes sir. I got to get this case out of here. Is this a gift? This is Frances's niece Nina. This is another Frankie. I'm going out for a few minutes. George has his pajamas on. That's good if they drink rye. Show him that strawberry. Leave it alone. It may get wet. See the girl at the end. She takes care of it. He's from my mother's country. My mother was good. He's writing all these things. I'm going to take you to the neighborhood. Then you'll really find out. Look at this guy. Frances he's still writing for twenty years. What happened to your finger?

Mary and the two kids were in the train station. Right along Susie this guy was sitting and his thing was hanging. Susie got nervous and Jody said He should have covered it with his umbrella. My prayer came through so far. No ball breakers. Those black guys that come in there at night. I got Scotch. I got Johnny Walker and Ballantine. See what the fellow wants. His son made a statement in Chinatown. That when he gets older he's going to do the same thing that his father did in the movies.

Next week I'm going to bring in this dried beef. Like this your working you just chew on it. I'll bring it in Monday. I'll buy it Sunday. I have it in the house. In the service they ate that. You want a banana yogurt? What are you giving me these for? I got no room here.

Leave me alone. I want to take a rest for five minutes. Leave me alone will you? I'm tired. Who opened this pack? Did you? I know who. The Kissing Bandit. The Lone Ranger. They had it on the radio. He's a changed guy in the last year or so. Give him the three eighty-nine one. That's a good one. Watch like a hawk--when they come in. They came back for a yogurt. This thing was melted and I ate it. I gave them a buck for it. She could be a pain in the ass. What's wrong with Marie, between you and I? Wait a minute, Harry. I didn't tell your father anything. He's worried about RCA, RCA. I knew he wasn't going to get it. They outbid him. I wouldn't be surprised if Bagula got it. You were here Friday--weren't you. Your father made me help out Harry then he sends me on deliveries--my feet were killing me. I needed you here. I was behind here. You know, Michael, if I was your mother and your aunt--I'd get rid of that Gwen. You know that black girl who curses out in the street. It's bad for business. You ever hear what she says. You writing that down too? I even told them one Saturday she came in here and took a bottle of wine. They didn't believe me. I found out from another person. Tomorrow's Wednesday. Over the counter I'm doing all right. I've got the sales. You know Michael today money's tight. I bet Jimmy Bagula is giving it

away for nothing. You father's worried about RCA. We got rid of her anyway. If she keeps away from alcohol Michael she's an intelligent woman.

What do you want it black with a little Anisette inside? Just put it where you work--at the back. What could I tell the woman she asked me Monday about it? We were busy this afternoon from 12. I don't eat lunch. I eat tonight. That's more of a click the Christmas Party so what's the use of going? I only know the ones on Friday night. The only thing Frances. We were lucky today, it was a nice warm day. It was my box. You cook in the house, don't you? That's where my mother was born Galicia. She couldn't speak English. What are you talking about? I don't know where the hell my green one went. I don't know if it's red or black. Next week is Christmas. The string was all over the floor. Thank you. Where's my bag? You got a delivery tonight. Christmas falls on a Monday this year. Maybe one of my sisters this year I'll bang on the door and surprise her. That's my name right? How much? That ain't bad. Eight dollars and change it paid. The C horse in the first. Stock it away Harry. I ran out of them right now. That's a hundred proof. Nina is a Spanish name.

What is it two egg rolls? There was only one egg drop? There were two egg drops. You got a little mustard. I let it lay. You know Frances when I was 13 during the war. I couldn't get cigarettes. I couldn't even get a beer. That's how strict the laws were in them days. I let the noodles soak into it. I'm talking about 1943 when I was a kid. You couldn't even go to a movie you had to have an adult. I used to go to the Paramount uptown you know Frances to see Benny Goodman. I never had long pants. I wore knickers. That way they knew you were a kid. One day they turned the lights on. All the truant officers were there. They took all the kids back to school. My friends are lawyers, doctors. The neighborhood was a good neighborhood. My friends are all right. You'd drink anything Michael.

He says he makes a Brandy Alexander with Creme de Cacao. How can you put two sweet things together? I'll show you the one I wanted to give you. Youze read my mind. The one with the flower on it. I didn't recognize you. That night when that happened she went bananas. Bobby used to work in here on the holidays. He was a junkie. I straightened him out. He came up your house. Bobby and Julie used to work here. They were mainliners. Bobby's got a good job now. That's why I didn't let him go for the cure. It would be on his record. Bobby was heavy. I told him if I see you wobbling I'll knock you out. He lives in Jersey. He named his son after me. We walked around we went to the movies we'd go and play cards. They were home at ten o'clock sharp. Go mark that down. I told his parents don't worry. I met him after school. He gets nervous when he waits on girls. He stutters. I caught him when his eyes were up in the air. I thought he had an overdose. He was shaking. I took him right home. I put him in blankets. I told his mother to look in his room. I helped a lot of kids. Gary brings me a paper and I have it for you. You can't be good to this stiff. You know when he stopped bringing me the paper? He brought me the Italian paper and they said not to bring it any more. Where's Raymond's tie? It wound up being your cousin.

You drove me up a fucking wall. You and your goddamn bikes. Your tape recorders you took everything down like you do now. He's a good guy. He comes down to Follini's and we talk. He's the one who makes that special Zitti. He heats it up for you in the pan. Bobby and Julie came from Mulberry Street. They made deliveries. I always ask for her. What time is it Harry? You remember the two kids from Mulberry

Street? They worked here a long time ago. You can't do anything by yourself. Bobby used to shoot up in the arms. You know how much those shoes cost? She's got a nice ass the kid.

Me I'm thirsty. He's going back years ago. A lot of supermarkets open around seven in the morning. Maybe they open early on Saturday Frances. I had a nice breast of chicken with the stuffing. Before that there was soup and mashed potatoes. But you can have boiled potatoes. It costs \$3.25. I just showed my member of American Legion and I don't know nobody up there. God bless you. Maron you must have some piggy bank home. One day you paid me off in pennies. Come down when your mother goes away after the holidays. I laughed in his face. How's everything? I remembered right. So you want to come to the American Legion when your mother goes away Michael? You meet nice people there. I'll walk you to the subway. Then I'll take the Broadway bus home. It was raining since five o'clock.

You can go there and eat if you want to. The Knights of Columbus in the Village. I was there once. But I was a little stonard when I went there. Right, Harry? I'll give you my card and you can go there and eat. Harry hangs out in the Village. Right, Frances? Everything is fresh. You can't go wrong, Harry, a half a stuffed chicken. You don't have to be religious to go there. You can be a Jew and go in there. I'll give you my membership, Harry.

I sent a black guy over there to buy a soda. He came back and said, Maron they're worse than bars. Find out if I won the triple Michael. Find out what come out. That's a Spanish red wine. A guy bought a case and said he liked it. How do you want them wrapped for Thursday. That yogurt soup is good. You know what happened last night, Jay, this is the truth. A guy gave me a triple and it paid over \$4,000 and Al came over and said Gee youze are lucky people. I told the postman about it after we bet. I been sleeping good lately. I got a clear head. I don't jump out of bed like I did before. I dream good. How's your brother? The postman picked it out. Charlie gave me the triple. They're all for the same party? Forget about it. You say hello to Marie. When I'm not over here nothing bothers me. We went to the pier--your father and I. No elevator, no nothing. I had to carry them up two flights. Now that they took the minatures away they can see me sitting down outside.

If I don't see you have a nice Christmas. The kid's fat. You know Michael she's all right. Last night I had mussels and hot sauce Jay. Jay, I'm surprised I got up this morning. Charlie's the guy. The last time I saw him was in Brooklyn. If you see Randy tell him I'll see him. I had Calamari with spaghetti. I don't go to those places. I know too many people in there and I don't want to see them. Maybe I'll go to the American Legion tonight. I went to the New Year's Party--it stunk. Guys live in Connecticut go there. What are you talking about? Brooklyn. I have to make a call to my friend Dotto. Maybe we'll go see my brother tomorrow. The one who died. What am I going to do tomorrow? If Louie's there he'll take you home. And if you're a guest you don't pay nothing. I should have been a guest all the time. He's got some job in that pizza joint. Ricky ate something here and the gravy went into the machine.

I don't know this place is always screwed up. You weren't here Saturday were you? She tells me Ricky's tall and skinny. He was here Saturday--I was scared to go near him. I don't know later. Around eight o'clock between Broadway and Exchange Place. I thought you was taking it home with yiz. Like this here. You get rid of your mother-in-law for a few weeks. Look at this here there's

a bill in there. Christmas falls on a Sunday. Somebody's near the window? He's all right. I only let certain people in. He looks like a very intelligent boy. He was mentioning words a yard and a half long. Him and I we get along. He's some greaseball all right. Gee I picked up all that shit. I was a little peppy today until I got into that corner. I had to work on top of that adding machine. Tomorrow take all that crap off there. I eat late. They look like twins. They got the same face. They look like the mother.

I'll never forget when I was a kid. They were coming around with a truck to collect for the Jews. This guy's a moron from what he did. Ford is more in the White House than in his own house. Like we got a couple of rabbis in here and they ask you for a donation. The only poor ones you see and they can't leave Delancey Street. I think what's his name is there just for advice. He's telling the moron what to do. When he told me he was an officer of a bank I put two and two together and I knew that guy was a moron. I'll get rid of this garbage--then go home. An officer of a bank would never try to pass it off in a liquor store. An officer of a bank would go to his nearest bar and have a few drinks and pass it off. What is Hanukkah? Christmas is Christmas for everybody. Right Harry?

His eyes are always like that. Jay Michael's asking me about the holdup. The guy put the gun in my face. Everybody was nervous. Your father was so intoxicated he didn't know what was going on. He had just come back from a lunch appointment. We had a little fire. You're a fireman. And that time we could have nailed the guy if Harry was alert. Harry's been here 15 years he still doesn't know where to pull the sign down for the signal. You know what I mean Jay. I was giving these guys at night. They know you can cash a hundred. There's no end. That's why I always turn them down. You know what I mean Jay. What about across the street--when Wallach's had the fire. There was black smoke coming in here. Marie, me and Jay, Jay and Harry, your father was sitting in the back like a king. I told your father I was so calm that day. When he turned and Jay pulled the alarm. I'll never forget that day. There was a case of J&B--Harry was leaning on them. He's scared that guy. He's telling me--look in the shopping bag--he takes a pack of cigarettes out. Who know what was in it? He brought out a cigarette and said give me a pin of Irish Rose. I think I lived nine lives in this joint Jay.

Ross is here to help me with the blacks. He climbs the ladder for me Jay. That girl is a pain in the neck. You got to tell Pete to lose that ladder. That's not from the cold air Jay. That brashole was sitting there. He's scared of black people and everything. You can ask Joe Porggi. I said What do you got in that shopping bag? He's writing everything down Jay. He must be writing my life story. I'll take you to the neighborhood. Jay right Jay. You can talk to people. This stupid cop tells me they came down 15 minutes later You're always pushing that buzzer. When Joe Porggi comes in you talk to him about it. Another time I ran out for another kid--for a bottle of Bristol cream. I must have lived 100 lives. I got to show you a couple of black guys you got to watch out for. He's scared of his own shadow. He's only tough when bums come in here. A couple of bums wanted to kill him. Not bums--they were seamen. When we had the fire there the first time Harry came by accident. I was taking care of the customers. I'm going to buy a hat tomorrow. On Chambers Street they're selling them for 99 cents. I'll pick out a nice red one.

They robbed your house again? The only time I smoke is when I'm in the bar. We stayed right in the position we were. He told your father, Hey Pops take it easy. Your father had a few wines in

him he was calm as a cat. Your father went out to Saint Marco's place. Marie was in the back. Harry was right where Jay was. If that was him he would be shitting in his pants. I wasn't here at that time. It was 8:15 in the morning. The guy came in and put youze two in the toilet right Jay? The guy was Jimmy DeLuca's double.

I was over here right Jay? I stayed here and youze ran upstairs. Gary if he makes a mistake I get blamed. Jay I don't know how he can drink four of those a day. She's a nervous wreck that girl. I remember years ago she never was like that. I bet you Marie and Harry are arguing in the car Jay. This was the same way when they had the snow storm. One guy takes me up his house with his wife. He's showing dirty movies in the living room. I said let me get out of here. If I tell you his job you wouldn't believe it. There's not too many cars on the road. You know why--there's ice on the road and it sticks to the road. You know that yourself. This country's ruined already--forget about the city. I fought pretty good guys. Jay my mother was watching me. I came home she knocks me out.

Did you give me my umbrella back? What are you asking me for, I seen it on the floor on Canal Street. My mother used to make it--but I never knew they had a name for it like paella. Somebody must have made up a name for it. My mother used to make fish with rice on the side with potatoes like this if you wanted more you could take it. They don't make it like that anymore. Remember Jay when those baskets fell on me? Maybe that's what made me what I am like today right Jay? You got a picture of me with two guys Frankie and Sonny. Those guys are dead Jay. They must be buried in the Trade Center. You know what I mean Jay. I think they're pulling my leg I think he's still alive. She cooked Spanish and Italian my mother. Italian is almost like Spanish. As far as I know since I'm a kid the Spanish aren't noted for hot food. It's spicy food. Right, Jay? Hey Jay you ever find that fly anymore? Maron I almost fell through the floor. Jay Madame Lasagna is on the phone. Hello. Yeah. Who's this? When I was a kid I ate anything. I wasn't like you with a golden spoon. Ma cook me bacon and eggs. Hello, Miss Queen Ann. How's the new house? Hey by the way how's your cousin? What's his name Gus? Any kids yet? I went in there for a delivery. You know what Freddy told me in Traders? Ever since he closed that counter he's doing more outgoing like guys will come in and say Give me three coffees.

I went in there. They don't tell me nothing. Goodbye now thank you. They don't say nothing to me. He's from Victor's Hideaway Harry. I can't give the store. Like this we both get closed down. Hey how's Louie by the way Harry? You're going to be missing going downstairs. Louie was a good manager but he let the place get the best of him. You know who used to smoke Chesterfield Michael. Your grandfather. There he goes he's marking it down Harry. They voted for him. He don't look like a Jew that guy. He's a Hungarian Jew. They're born in Hungaria. When you got out to that office they don't search you? They search me all the time. Maybe I got a rough looking puss. They open up all the packages. What is he a black guy or an Indian? He still thinks he's around twenty years old huh Harry? Hey Harry I got to show you this place--I had a roast beef on rye with gravy. It's an old shop on 10 Pell Street. A lot of guys go in there at night when you have a load on. I been going in there--but I never knew they served food. He's got stew pig's feet. You like that don't you Harry? That's how Michael lost all that weight. Everybody's closing around here early now. What's he working for Jimmy? I thought he got fired. I got to go take a leak.

That's when it was Angelo's. It's a different clientele now. The family don't own it no more. There's one Irish guy in that group. The rest are Italians. They practically grew up together. We knew Angelo. Your father knew him. He was a famous restaurant. His wife ruined the place. She used to bet on horses--a thousand a race. Two thousand a race. Hey Harry did you ever hear of Ferrara's Liquor Store on Grand Street? They were telling me about it. I got to pass the place. I got to see it. They were telling me about it last night. I want to get the ladder here. I got to get a haircut. I got to go to my brother's house. I want to get the family pictures. I'll show you a picture before I became a fighter. Raymond don't have it. Marie don't have it. I think Joe has it. You got it right there for 99 cents. That's a dry wine. Could I borrow that hat tonight? You'll wind up with a head cold.

What did your friend Mr. Rice buy? Jim Beam. I see him once in a while. He was weird. How's your son? One of them should be in college no? It's coming from Texas. The last I heard last night. His kid does karate. Both of them. The way he's telling him--he's doing all right. I paid my membership. I paid for the ad in the book. Not that book. The Italian book. Pete belongs to that. It was good they got all Puerto Rican chefs in there. My sister-in-law is Puerto Rican. I got a headache with her. I don't know maybe I am half-Italian. Gee look at this guy.

There's ten kids in that family. Me. What's Charlie the oldest? He can't be he must be the oldest of the boys. My mother used to never made that. I tell your father. It's like talking to a stone wall. He don't believe me anymore anyhow. I'm neutral. Jose wants a bag.

We had a fire in here on Saturday. I was mopping the floor Jay. Good thing the super was here. He pulled the switch. Jay did Al call yet? I went through the park Jay. Through 17 Plaza. You know that woman. She's your mother's friend. It's snowing heavier. She gave me a buck tip--no wonder it's snowing. Coming back from 17 Battery I saw the whole two of them shoveling snow. My brother's in a mental retarded hospital and he's got more brains than you. If I won ten thousand I'd tell you to come anyplace as long as to get out of this here. A friend of mine was there already. He was helping out a bird and he got poison in his arm. It must have been a sick bird on the beach. He was enjoying himself when that happened. The bird bit him. He was trying to take a hook out of its mouth. A fish hook.

We always had that thing up there. The advertisement swings around. I was asking for you. Al, Al, I got a five in here. She's all right. When I see one by the register I laugh. I know Michael was here. This place I go to--he's taking a lot of play away from a lot of new places. Sit down Harry. I don't want you to exert yourself. Is that the little Spanish guy--you mean? I was telling him I have it on my legs. He's a lawyer. He don't do any cases. He says at night he goes bananas. He has to sleep in a cold room. There's a movie about these three guys who were dead and came back to life. Right Michael? He was dead and came back to life. Is he finished with the broom over there? They get moron babies. I be honest with you. If my brother was still in Willowbrook I'd make you take a ride with me. It's the most disgusting hospital. My brother was in Islip for two years. He's a different guy. He's changed. I don't know. He's got his own apartment. He's got a TV radio. He walks around. Takes the bus. He never did that before. How old is he now? Shorty. Shorty's 48 years old. I'm going to use the toilet. We were short when we were a kid. They called me shorty too. It happened when he was seven. He got hit in the head with something.

Garlic is good for you. My brother's on 83rd Street between Second and Third. He lives there and he works. Michael goes there. Hey you must have seen that advertisement of that movie of these people who were dead and he came back to life. It happened to your friend Hemingway. In the war-that's how he got that scar. And he wrote that book, "A Farewell to Arms." Boy I been sleeping too good lately. I don't know what it is. That's the way Hemingway got that mark on his face. Your father looks like he's going to go home with a row boat if it keeps on raining. I didn't see him in a long time. The last ime I seen him when he was working down here. I didn't go there so far. Your cousin Albie's going to retire this year. Gee I didn't know Craig was 21. Maron. She told him you're welcome to the house anytime. What are you kidding? They have to send a load of sneakers for the Jews. I'm getting this headache. Are yiz going to give your order in for tonight? Thanks. I notice his mother's coming down a lot. Last week I seen her three times. She didn't do nothing. I know the son and the wife runs the place. But the mother comes down. Good night now. I thought he was going to say he ate in there. They wouldn't even let him in there. There's a lot of new places around here. I got to show this to Marie. What this coffee does to this thing.

I wish yiz luck. Saturday Chinese New Year Week You know Jay this is the first time in the history of the lower East Side that the guys wore helmets Jay. Eight buses. One day I raised my hand to my mother What a beating I got when my father got home. She worries about you. She thinks I know where you live. I don't know what's going on Harry. They tell me one thing then they tell me another. I do what I'm told.

You want me to tell you what we ate last night? Are they taking it tonight Harry? Good morning. Push that in more further. He went for coffee. He closed early today. Jimmy Crickets told me he died. Benny's 58 years old. I know him since I'm 9 thirty-six years. I seen him Sunday. We had breakfast together at the donut joint. He looked good to me. Benny Loco. The one on Mulberry Street. Not the Chinaman Harry. Stay here for a few minutes I want to get some cigarettes. Whose bag is that? He's looking for a wine without a cork. I don't cash checks. He's going to see his grandson tonight He's in a band. Watch the bar there. My friend Dopey Benny died Tuesday. I don't know where he's laid out. Harry knew him too. He was a cab driver He worked in the Post Office. He was everything. I don't know where the hell he hung out. He gives a check Marie. I don't even know where he's laid out. The fella he was living with was trying to wake him up at three o'clock in the morning. He likes to watch a movie. He was blue. He was dead. He was King of the Fire Crackers. If he had \$200 he'd take everybody out to eat. I wished him luck. He once got caught. You know these phony licenses he used to sell them. He never involved me in anything he did. It's stamped by the motor vehicle but it's not required. It's a phony. He made a lot of money with the Chinese. He used to tell me Frankie I don't want to see you today. See me tomorrow. I knew what he was going to do. The Chinese people loved him. He was beating them for a lot of money and they still loved him. I couldn't figure it out. When he made a buck he spent it. They still got him on ice. Everybody wants to know where he's laid out.

The firecrackers was a meatball rap. He went into court and paid his fine and walked out. When he drank he wasn't himself. They didn't want him in the neighborhood anymore. He was hooked up with something else. I don't even want to talk about. That's when they killed his cousin in the car. That's when I told you Harry stay away from him. That kid that got shot in Chinatown he's all right. Lou the Chinaman Harry. He got shot Tuesday. You met this kid on 70 Mott Street. You got enough information on Dopey Benny? He never bothered me.

Hey Louie how'd you fix the fence? Are you taking the orange? You should have known where I was yesterday Maron you would be bothering me all today. Let's get some good music. You got Benny Goodman in there? Is that near American Express? Raymond's paymaster was here. That's the boss. You must have broke a bottle in the box. It was all wet. Why don't you give me the other sandwich it looks better. One has jelly. They're investigating the cops. I was there all day. I showed them on the chart where I was standing where I wasn't standing. They told me the little guy died two weeks ago. Jay here's your boyfriend Jay. Have a nice Father's Day. She showed us that award her son won. He was another Vince DiMaggio Jay he neither strikes out nor hits a homer. They'll make him pitch like Whitey Ford Jay six seven innings then they'll pull him out. He's not a bum. He goes on the bum and then he goes back home. He must be a banker. I don't know. What are you asking me for? That's not knocked off. When you see a Z it's knocked off. That's an X. You can scotch tape it back.

Hi Mr. Bocce. I went to the station house where Albie works. It's on the fourth floor. I was up there till ten. It was about Joey Kelly that Chinese guy. This is a police trial. I gave what I gave in the grand jury. I didn't want to go. Maron I got a clear head on it. It don't bother me anymore. The city gets sued for a lot of money if they lose. There was two of them got shot. The owner and the other guy. I was going to call Albie I want to find out what happened to those guys. They usually have it on the Bulletin Board or no? I went up there just to tell them what I seen. The Chinese guy told them I was with him I was the only one he talks to in there but I didn't talk to him that night. After when we had a recess I went with him to have coffee. I'm supposed to meet them tonight. That prosecutor there Maron a me he stares at you. In the first place they never should have been in there. I didn't go for the cops I didn't go for him just what I seen. They're on trial for murder. I didn't know that. I didn't eat nothing all day. I was scared I would get nervous and throw up. I just had water and coffee. Then when I came here your mother gave me some crumb buns. Last night I went out and had Chinese food by myself. I didn't go with Harry. I met Jimmy the Chinese guy. We just had coffee. I said I'll see you later on. My sister-in-law is funny. She left me a can of butter and I don't like butter. That's his clock. I don't want it. Is that door open? I want to use the toilet.

You should see the people on that line I thought I'd never get out. One guy must have had around 30 forms. What you'd get a haircut Jimmy? He wants another one. This is downstairs getting the forms. I take the escalator. You watch the fight? There are good fights on lately. What are you on

chapter five already? I like that shirt he's got on Jay. Last year was better than this so far. He walks around himself. He can go in and out of that place if he wants to. He should be home pretty soon. They're going to kill baseball. You watch the fight Sunday? There's some good fights lately. They have welterweight bantamweight light-heavyweight. I went from featherweight to a welterweight. I don't even remember I forget. Today the kids have more to learn than I had. I was walking in the rain before. He likes girls Jay. He's writing it down now Jay. I bet you must have been a good sergeant.

He liked you. Percy Brown liked you. He used to say Where's that man? Where's that hunk of man? You remember Percy Brown Harry the one that used to come down looking for Michael. He gave us a bum check. The other guy liked Jimmy. You remember he used to come in and tell him he bought this stock. That's Marie's pen the yellow one. He screams at me at night when youze are not here. He was a weird guy like all your friends are weird. You remember Mr. Rice? The guy who used to come with the peak cap and mustache. You bought that hamburger for me? He said he missed you for six years. You remember Percy Brown? We called him Sam Davis. When do you want to come with me down the American Legion? You're a guest you don't pay a dime. You'll meet the commander. You can play darts. You can't even curse down there. That's the rules. Like if Jay you say "son-of-a-bitch" you pay a quarter.

He was better off across the street. There's more traffic there. You going to watch Nixon tonight? You know what I'd like to have a sandwich of those peppers. You eat the bread. They have a lot of oil on them. You put the peppers right in the bread. You remember when you put the bread in the oven. I told yiz I'm worried about having that guy in here. I know there was something about him. I told you that. You want to know something when she was here he was quiet as a lamb. That bread is too hard. You can make bread crumbs out of it now. He was telling me youze did pretty good at that thing at the Garden. This is Nick the one who calls up. He's the one that Al donated to that retarded thing.

She's got me trained. I'm talking about where I live near the Brooklyn Bridge where the fish market is. I was starting to worry then I hit Water Street. You can still smell the smoke up there. That's because of the fire Harry. You know that new restaurant in the building there the one downstairs. They have a nice cup of coffee. Have a nice New Year now. They probably never throw the grinds out. Hey Jay you know who looks terrific? The guy who fixes the glasses. Not Whitey the other guy. You know one of the owners knows my father. I'm going to the American Legion tonight. Maybe I'll get drunk. You know when you stay outside for three minutes you don't feel it. When you come in here you feel the chill. Eddie's off today. He's Spanish that kid. I didn't know that. Look in the drawer there. I miss that miniature case. That's why your mother's freezing. It's windy out there. Don't drink this fast. Right Marie? I'll wind up falling asleep in the chair anyway. Remember all the dimes and fifteen cents I threw in there. I should have put them in a glass and bet on a horse. See you next year. If I don't see yiz have a Happy New Year. You get what I mean? Your cousin will be right back. No we ain't talking about that. He was smelling of booze. I thought it was you. His wife got picked up for shoplifting.

That's one less mouth to feed in the house. He goes over there to eat what are you talking about. I eat out. I have soup coffee. I lost around 20 pounds. Something's going go on during the Chinese

New Year Friday Saturday Sunday. Tough Tony's still alive. You ask your father if he remembers Tony the cop. He used to adopt kids. They respected him like a father. I have to get a kick out of this guy. Larry Bishop. He started PAL all over New York. His son becomes a cop and takes and it's all over the paper. His father was an alcoholic. In them days there was not too much narcotics. From the 50s on forget it. Tony the cop he used to buy ice cream. I could write a book about the Third Precinct. Remember Tony the cop Jay? He used to take care of this traffic light. He made sure you went to school. You don't see that today. One day he saw me walking down the wrong block he ran after me. I wonder if he remembers me from when I used to shine his shoes. Who knows they all looked Irish. You want it in a shopping bag? Maron you must be on the millionth chapter by now. They found six bodies already. I think they're knocking off a gang. They must be doing something. I think I'll go to the American Legion tomorrow. Stay away from all those Chinese. I don't know where the hell he's from. I asked a couple of them from the White Eagles. They don't give you no answer. They found six people in all the vacant buildings on South Street. They're sneaky the Chinese. They don't bother me. Now each group they hate each other.

They can't afford to buy a sausage sandwich for a buck and a half. You're smiling Jay What is it? That's why I never got married. I forgot all about that delivery. I'll be honest with you Jay I forgot all about it. I was sitting down nice in Trader's relaxing and listening to them. I had a hamburger French fries large coffee with onions. The barber told me not to send Harry down. He doesn't like Harry. He stinks like a Billy goat. These are your answers. How do you know it's not a cat house? Where you live around that area Sutton Place it was noted for it years ago. Even today. Who scratched your face? Next time you shave shave over that with cold cream. I do the same thing. I hear the refrigerator. I feel so good Jay I can go ten rounds. I go home Jay have a little beer read a book and go right to sleep.

You know Ritchie's sister was there Jay. You know I said Ritchie What happened to you? She's prettier. She's a little taller than your dead mother Jay. A little stockier. He just gave me your coffee and I walked out. Write that down. Ask Harry I don't know nothing. How's your aunt Esther? You talk to her. There's more food for you to eat there. When they were giving them out for nothing I didn't even take them. That guy was drunk. He was dancing. He falls on the floor in here and your in trouble. Two of them were drunk one wasn't. He said Blackberry. I didn't see them for two or three months and all of a sudden you see them drunk as anything. He gets brave when they're drunk. You got to watch them whether they're drunk or sober. Let me put the scissors over here. Yes sir. Where are your Hencke? I'll put corrugated in a bag it will keep cold. You know your paper's warm inside. Paper keeps your body warm. When I was a kid we had no steam heat. We wrapped our clothes in paper to keep warm. You want to know something you know who was just as bad the black girls. Before your father started writing Harry was in the back. Then he came out front.

Remember the stuff she gave me. I put it on my hand. He took me in there one day. I ordered a chicken and I wound up with nothing. Don't bring no sheets home. Your father will blow his top. That's a real nice picture of Susan on top of the refrigerator. You miss Betsy? I was in Paris New York. They threw him out of Tennessee. Hey Ronald someone saw you sleeping in the Fulton Street Unemployment Office. Is that true? You still got it on the wall there? You ever call up your cousin Coombs?

Tap beer is good for you. You don't put on no weight. That's what I been drinking all the time. I go back and forth. You'd be surprised you see the walls and the ceiling. They change color too. You know I'm lost without change. I got my own troubles. Raymond went back to sea. You should have been here this afternoon. A guy comes in he doesn't speak English too well. He walked out he gave me no argument. I can't do it Ronald last time I almost got in jail for something like that. This was years ago. My friend was becoming a lawyer. Make a phone call he said help him out. I almost got handcuffed. Today he's a big lawyer for the DA's office. My sister's first boyfriend. I heard my name on tape so many times I don't want to hear about it. I went to the DAs. I went to Javits's office. I went to the Grand Jury. I told the story nine times. Maron a me it's like you're the teacher and they're the pupil. They give you a black board. The sergeant came down to see me he said Please Frankie help them out.

They asked me Maron a me I was nervous. Johnny the owner said How were you doing? I said I was only in there five minutes. I walked out. I said I don't know nothing. Your father said Come on do them a favor. I went up. I was shaking like a leaf. Four of the people on the jury were from my neighborhood. I said Those shots were going bang bang. Harry and I ate in that place a couple of times when it was an Italian joint. I was telling him about the case. Tell him the way I looked when those two cops came in. I turned white when those two guys from the DAs office came in and gave me a subpoena. Take her to the Magarette 50th and Third. That's going to be some book when it's finished. Imagine if he started it when I first met him. Forget about it. Case closed. When you take a crap does it stink? No seriously when you're eating junk your waste stinks. When your eating right your shit don't stink. That's the only way I can tell. Either way I still get gas anyway. I forgot it.

I got some of these pads for you. Yeah he was here yesterday. I'm moving again. The summertime it's already bad you know that. You know rain scares them. Your best cousin Helen was here. She said Hello and she didn't stop. You're a good listener Al. But Albie's wife looks good. Albie got fat she told us. Lorraine was here. She had a nice little friend with her a blonde. I didn't want to say nothing. She was talking to her I don't know. She never talks to me. You want a bag? He's coming around tomorrow to close up with him. He came in yesterday. He didn't say nothing to me. I don't know. You think Harry will be here today? She was bending your father's ear not mine. Every time I say something he's writing it down. Thank you. Ever since I moved I been in there three times. What happened to the other kid? The price is the same. Yes Miss. Your mother's the best salesman and your aunt. I don't sell that much wine. I'll be right back Ronald.

It's always maybe. Then when you drink it he says give me some. You want half? It's a little warm. I got to put another in. Let's see what I got here. How's the coffee Ronald You want some Mary? It paid 21 dollars. I bet the Chinaman had that horse. Margie's sugar. You going to see Betsy tonight? Mary you don't want none. I must have threw it out. No don't touch them. Boy is it muggy

outside. Hey Ronald See the picture behind you? It looks like I got a gun in my pocket. One guy's on the lamb you know. You had it over here. Let me close this door. And the other's guy's going to trial for tickets. He's taking the rap for three guys stupid. He used to come in here. He lost a good job. Thank you.

Your sister will be in Saturday? You're happy to see Jennifer? You think Jennifer will fire me again? How old is she now? Your birthday will be coming up next month. I'm here 22 years since 1954. How old were you? Those were the days you and your sister drove me nuts with those bikes. She swims better than you? She swims better than me because I don't know how to swim. Did her girlfriend leave yet? Your mother was telling me since I was moving. You should see the apartment I got now. If you got drunk downtown you got to stay there. I don't like it anyway. I got two folding beds. Like this, you can put them together. You don't have to climb the stairs. It's on the first floor. Jay said he smelled like a stinking pig yesterday. I don't know how your father can stand it back there. Before you go home put that glass back on your father's desk. He'll blame me. If you ever showed this to your mother she wouldn't believe me. I seldom drink it I use it for an ashtray. This is the leftover's too. I can't believe it. You want to give me a four ounce of seven. You're on vacation every day what are you talking about.

He was getting drunk every night he was going home bombed. His wife put him out. He was crazy. He stopped for about a month. Now he's going back. Bring a couple of broads in the apartment. I'll ask Al for some booze. Good morning. What is it downstairs sixty dollars. His girlfriend Ellie's coming back. She's in Israel. Even if I don't know how I knew Dave and he helped us. I told the kid what to do. Put those rubber gloves on and take them off the next day. He pays me off in yogurt. Why don't you take part of that yogurt Marie. He said You want any? I said give me what you want. He even wanted to give me coffee. Nothing's wrong with his hand. He just used a lot of hot water. Listen I'm not particular. I got it for nothing. What did I do with my cigarette? That's 95 cents. The stock market is up. This is the beginning of these guys. I'm going to stick these in the freezer for tomorrow.

Let it on there I'll throw it out. We were talking one Saturday outside I said We're neighbors we might as well be friends. They're nice people. The family's nice. They're young kids. I don't know nothing about politics. But he did good. That's a Democratic neighborhood anyway. What time is it? I don't know I never asked them. They like Nixon down there the Chinese especially. See what you get this time of night pints and half-pints. That's all you get. I live on the other side. You told me you was going to give me one. The summertime everyone goes on vacation. They bring stuff back. Your father doesn't understand that. This generation today isn't like generations years ago. Today you got a younger generation. You know there's a fellow down the neighborhood who has one tooth in front. They told him you must have a job in a donut factory making holes in donuts.

I won't eat in there. It's very expensive. I had a little steak in there. They charged us ten dollars. I said What does this come from Japan? You want to see the shirt I got? One of the girls was asking for you. She said Where's your nephew? They're all pigs. Now we start ringing. It was bad today. You're hitting the same people. I seen him with an envelope. He's looking around. Stand in the middle you get the nice air conditioning. He's on vacation. He's taking a bath. He's gone long ago. You should have called up. If you called he would have left the money on the side. He's got some

job. He's a big boss at Western Union. How's your friend McCarthy? The way Jimmy told me it's very bad like he should never have gone into the business. What are you deaf? He made me listen to it. It's eight after seven. I don't know. Somebody took my picture. What's his name Pete? It don't even look like me. He's got a good camera.

You know the one in the ferry? You got to pay a quarter to go in that liquor store. Have a nice day now. Yeah he's around. Don't grab it by the top Ross. Thank you very much. I had to run out of Chuck Full 'O Nuts. Esther was after me. She said it's my birthday. I said Maron every day it's a birthday let me get out of here. I don't buy in there. They'll sell you shit. You met my brother Raymond the seaman. He promised your mother a cuckoo clock. When you buy cigarettes you buy fifty cartons. You don't buy five cartons. I went over there one day to buy chewing gum for Marie. He ran out. The only one that's making money on Saturday is the yogurt place. A Turkey sandwich is almost three dollars. I bought two sandwiches in Killarny Rose roast beef and brisket of beef. You know what I paid? Three dollars. The counter guy knows me. I threw him a quarter. The first time you throw hem a quarter the second time a quarter. The third time they know you. You see the sandwiches they make. Like a barmaid. They don't want you to go to another party.

Vito was a snotty kid. You see they rapped him between the eyes with a stick bat and a two by four. His friend's a conniver too. Those kids think you're born yesterday. He said his mother likes wine. I found out from his father she never drinks wine. He lives over here on Courtland Street. What's that your homework? They got money in that family. He went to Poland to see his relatives. You see Charlie Miller in this picture? He's everything. I got to watch him. He's fucked up. I think he stole a few bottles off me. Let me check the toilet. You going to use the toilet? That's what had me worried. I always grind my teeth. I get Doug in here at night. I get the other drunks. They want to break the window. You know how the Chinese movies are? You don't hear no noise.

Every time he comes in there's something wrong with the radio. There was a girl and a fellow arguing in the phone booth. It was raining. I had to laugh Jay. Hey Jay you know the barber says you got no more than what you had before. I won't drink it all. I think this thing holds three of those little cups. Tomorrow I see my friend the television guy. What do you have pigeons in there? Pete has a chicken. Does it lay eggs? Pete tells me it lays eggs. How you doing? I got to go there some day to see Dempsey. One of my closest friends. He's a bartender there. I'll be honest with you Jay. I don't know anything about the subways. That's why I always ask Harry where to go. You take the express it takes you right up there. Hey Pete did my friend come around today? Any animal you get in a corner they go at you. Even a duck. There's one guy waiting for that.

What's his name he owns all that property on 50th Street and Third Avenue. It costs a buck and a half for a bottle of beer. You don't use money in that place. They give you a check. They have a restaurant upstairs and a bar downstairs. You know what I mean? Like you and I Marie you don't have to wear a suit. You can sit at the bar. You can't go in the back where the music is. Like construction guys go in there. You to in the toilet. You know what you hear Frank Sinatra. My friend works there. He pays out of his pocket. They give you a lot of corn flakes to eat. I was born right in the kitchen. Everybody else was born in the house except my sister. She was born in Beekman Street Hospital. I don't know where the hell he was born Why don't you ask him? You staying till 7:30 with me? I see her. The thing that bugs me is that I'm not sure it's really her. You want one for your room? All the cops were in that bar we couldn't even watch it. It tells you about

prostitutes and everything. West Side Story was a musical Harry. This ain't no musical. I'm a loner. I never been with nobody.

That hash house. How much is a plate of schole and beans in there? That's all they serve in Follini's. I asked them for a vegetable and they gave me that. How much can you eat of that garbage? Once in a while but not all the time. They don't have linguine and clams in there. I never seen it in there. I have the special Follini pork chops. Let me get a cup of coffee. I didn't want to bring it in here in case Marie will get mad at me. Does it work nice? It dries up your whole system. Hey Pete don't forget it. You got to take it home. Is Vito got the truck? I'm sorry Jay I should have made him come to see you. That would be nice for your patio. Hey Jay I got the bulbs on my bureau for your patio. Like this the flies won't come around.

I'm glad you didn't get mad Jay. Raymond brought them in from the ship. I got them all over my house. My house looks yellow. You know what I do at night? I leave the toilet light on Jay. I used to leave the living room light on. It looks nicer. Jay I don't pay no electric. Raymond was like my life saver Jay. He put them up for me. He slept and then took off. I didn't see him since. How far is he going with that Jay? Don't put no string on it. He told me they're good for the summer. Where you putting these? They go back in the refrigerator. You get mosquitoes in your house? Then what do you want them for. That's no good for your house. I'm on the ground floor. Maron you're on Chapter 4 already.

You know Louie? My friend baldy Louie? You want quarters? Jay tell him what I saw today. I was talking to him. How was the coffee? They all lost money. All the tourists and everything stayed away. They were scared. Raymond gave me two big pieces of cheese. I gave them away. It would take me a year to eat all that cheese. I thought I was wacky. You know what I mean Jay? Pete bought it. A Sony 19 inch color set. He'll be around tomorrow. He might have a couple. Who knows? I sent him over there to see Pete. Gee it didn't take her that long to get around the corner. Jay a couple of girls up there were telling me Why don't you give me a ride on that handtruck.

Your mother's got nothing to do with her. Like if Michael and I are brothers and you invite him What's that got to do with me? That's stupid. It isn't right. Let me put this in the back. He's going back you know how many years. Northport--that's twenty years ago. I wouldn't go there again. He sold me a day-old paper. What are you thick-headed Harry? How stupid could you be? Harry if I was you I would put brown paper on that. Al won't be back for another week. What are you going to leave the check in there? Common sense will tell you that. There's no argument. You know what I mean? I bought a pack. I ran out. Let me out. Let me put this back over there. You got paper there. You want matches. Maron a friend of mine came around to see me. He saw Pete and wound up selling him a television maron. I think he might come around tomorrow. It was hot Mary.

What baby? She was here yesterday. She didn't tell me nothing. I got my new apartment. My living room's half of this store. I could make Harry live there. Hello there. I only got a quart. Just one bottle. I got half a gallon of others. Only that one quart. I wouldn't know. It's nice. You know those jelly jars you probably got home? Put them in the freezer and you got yogurt. Don't freeze it. I'm the only one that gets rid of them. These are nice. It gets hard as a rock yogurt. You could bring wine in Sweets. We brought it there years ago. How can they stop you? A lot of customers who

came in here late they go to Sloppy Louie's and bring a bottle of wine. It's a shame about that Jimmy's restaurant they went out of business. That's it? Hi Mr. Robinson. Here's your pint of Scotch right here. He always says I ignore him. I can't hear you. My cousin wants to open a yogurt store. He bought me a shirt.

Okay thanks. Is that one of the pens I gave you? You know what I did when I left here? I had a brandy and a bromo. If you ever know the woman who comes here later, then you know why. I don't know your mother says uptown is better. He's not going to have no dinner tonight then. You got to bring out a pad Al. That's my bad ear. I didn't even touch nothing there Mary. I know. He's on the phone now. He's talking to somebody. He was in earlier. You got to watch that kid. He doesn't do it anymore. He's still on the phone. Doug woke up. They got no money. If Doug the bum comes in call her. Hold it Frances. What train are you taking? You know where the phone company is 195 Broadway. You see a lot of guys standing there. They take anybody you go upstairs looking for a job. This is your best bet here. Give them a try it's right near the subway station. I'm trying to straighten him out. You know what I mean. I gave them a deuce. What do I know if he's sober.

I pass it every day. You ask so many questions. Hi that's my apartment number. You think I should get a telephone? I met Louie Sunday. He looked good. He's doing what he's always doing jerking off. He's better off than you and me. Every time I say something he's writing it down. I'm worried about Doug coming in. They get it in English underneath. You got to go and see for yourself. That's all I get at night them and bums. At least Rocky throws me a buck for a cup of coffee. How come you don't give basketball tickets out? He's strict. He knew when he was a player he fooled around a lot. He wants to be a winning team. They had the Olympics at Follini's. That's why I get scared sometimes. When I'm alone with Harry. He sleeps. I don't care I'll rap them on the head with a bottle. I'm watching that balloon across the street. He's all right. He got laid last night. He don't know nothing. Give me a call around tomorrow or Friday. I didn't know that was your brother with the mustache. He's taking a bath. I'm glad you didn't say I got the apartment. My brothers doesn't want me to live on the First Floor. My sister wants me to. I was getting ready to belt you. He's a pain in the ass.

I don't want to tell you Jay's here. Where's Marie? We got that horse we won. Just give me my share youze go on your own. She's full of baloney. That's why she's cheating. That's her business. What's she waiting for him to bow out and take over the house? Then move? If I knew you were coming in early I never would have come in early. Did I give you Rita's ticket? Who's got Rita's ticket? I got it right here. What are you telling him for? He marks it down. I got one. The Irish--they're always been loud--what are you kidding? What chapter are you up to now? At least my brother went on vacation for two weeks. I don't even get a vacation and he's a retard. I went over there and brought cookies and everything.

I asked for Mr. Joseph and they said he's on vacation. He went to the Catskills. I brought cookies anything he wanted shirts. I had to laugh. He's getting a month two weeks in the summer two weeks in the winter. You know where he goes for the winter? Virginia Beach. Where is that Jay? He's in Willowbrook State Hospital. He does better off than I do. He's got his own apartment Jay. He doesn't need money he get's paid. He's like Sixie. If he knows you got no money he gives it to you. He's lucky now. Rose told me not to buy no shirts no pants. Rose makes them for him. He saw my

pair of green pants and said I like those. So she made them for him. You got a long string? When I was walking out of the place they thought I was a patient. I was laughing. I asked one of them Where's the bus stop? He said Right over here.

Those guys from Irving Trust I don't like them. You want to move to Bayonne New Jersey Ronald? How about the prison in Elmira? I almost went there. But I said I wasn't there. I was in the country. My friend got picked up and said I was with them. Them two guys are dead today Jay. He's the one who got killed. Down the neighborhood they thought it was me. They found him in a trunk of the car. I think he robbed somebody. They drive him by bus to work. I think he's got more brains than you. I didn't chew nobody down. How much was it? Who's the sneakers for your son? I got to go there on my lunch break.

I don't pay tax with him. This is up near Nassau Street. My mother never let him out of the house. When I was a kid he always was with me. I had to wear the same thing he wore. That's quite a while ago. He's older. He came down here a few Saturdays. Harry's telling him Do this Do that. Leave him alone I said. If you tell him what to do he'll do it. And he'll do it the right way. He's back in the hospital already. My sister told me his vacation's over.

He came in with a grapefruit one night. It was so pink. I never saw one like that. He just came out of jail. When he had that accident they couldn't find the car. You know what I mean? If he calls them him Marie. Around this time I don't trust anyone. That's better than way. What kind of car is that? In them days they had horses. The last one they had was the one with the woman. She wanted to go the way her husband went with a horse and buggy. He's laughing. In Virginia where Harry's from they're noted for that. You wouldn't believe it he had a bike and we had bets how many blowouts he had. I won. He had 42. We went in Volks one night and they robbed his bike.

I'm a psycho? You should go and see Dr. Coombs. Who's that Joe? He told a friend of mine his dog had cancer. That was years ago the dog's still going strong. That dog's now around ten or twelve years old. Watch your tongue they're ladies in here. What do you call that other dog your father had Harry? That Boston dog. When he goes out with you you must pay. Where does he take you Nedicks? They're still in business? Nobody today makes bread pudding. They used to use the ends of the bread. Today they throw that away. This is going back 18 years. I like that kid. He's a good kid. He thinks I'm nuts.

Years ago I used to jump from building to building. Now I look at those buildings and I get the shakes. I'm surprised I'm still alive. My mother was afraid of heights. Marge we used to save all the garbage and put it up on the roof. When New Year's came it all went off the roof--bathtubs and everything. You don't see that no more.

I saw two nice looking girls smoking marijuana. I even told them Youze are a disgrace. That's quite a while ago. Jay you know what gets Harry Jay that I am in early. Like that time Jay I came in at 11:30 he went over to Al. He tells me Jay he's got two more years to go. He's 62 Michael. Pop that comes in here is faster than him. You should see him at night when he's sleeping on the chair.

Huntington Hartford I met him so many times. Of all the millionaires we ever had he was the only tipper. The rest Jay you carry it in the basement they don't say thanks. Whose that Mrs. Cohen Jay she made me take my shoes off. I almost broke my neck with the paper Jay she had newspaper on the floor. That's my water. I leave it right here because we always knock it off the counter. Right Jay? Guys like him the blacks call Uncle Toms. Right Jay? What the Yankees do last night? It looks like it's going to rain Ronald. My legs are killing me.

I seen that guy outside I asked him Are youze all related? At least I can sleep tomorrow another hour. Your mother will be here right Ronald? That smoke out there maron a me. Hey Jay I did pretty good on deliveries. Right Jay? These legs are still in shape. When these legs want to work they work. You think he looks good in that suit? That's a melangian suit. One day I belched at the table what a smack I got from my mother. I didn't know she said You got to get up from the table and do it. You got to be an information bureau in this place.

You know Jay I'm feeling good since I'm getting up early. I think I need those two days rest I slept almost the whole day. I got to get that painting of my mother. If I ever get that painting I'll bring it in and show it to you. I think Jackie has it. It was painted in 1900. Like your grandfather's painting I think Angelo pawned it. Hey Pete Frank Folloni is leaving to Italy Tuesday. He bought a mountain. These young girls here with these big fucking tits I always thought they were falsies.

I worked on a farm we got up at five. Here's the mail Jay. Jay you know this is the only state in the United States Jay that's very scarce of gas. He's a two dollar bill. He went bananas when his two sisters died Jay. They must have babied him. He must have got the wrong cigar. He's queer as a two dollar bill and you know it. You like him I know it. Jay he's asking for Jimmy. He admits what he is. You should have been here that night he was telling Ronald What did Frankie buy Jay? Who carried it out? Next time don't let him do that Jay. He's got plastic hips. He's just telling you that he's a two dollar bill. When I said Fire Island you should have seen his tongue going up and down. He's a queer maron a me. He gave me his phone number 99 times.

Jay you see that floor on Grand Central Station it looks like it was never scrubbed. The fellow over on Hector Street does that like this he wants to show he's doing a good job the year he's going out. My mother used to have a cold stove everything was in the bottom. My mother used to make Spanish pie the Sicilian make it too. Like with cod fish. My mother made pie with onions. One day I told my best friend what's his name I told his brother. Like paella Jay it's left-over dishes. You pick what you want. Like you ask any old time Spanish people they don't know what it is. My mother came here in 1910.

The ferry boats are not running. The longshoremen are on strike. I don't take them anyway. Doesn't your wife crown you once in a while? He called me up before. Without youze two that place would fold up. For \$1.30 you get a Turkey sandwich you get bacon a girl had a shrimp sandwich for a dollar. I was looking to rob it on her. You get coldslaw. I'm not lying to you. I'm all wacked out. The Dodger's pulled it out I hear. Marie can tell you. I don't know the menu ask her.

I had a good time at the American Legion Jay. I played pinochle for the first time in a long time. I lost the game first. I went up to the Veteran's of the Foreign Wars all they played up there is horses. Johnny says you should come here more often. I didn't tell him what am I going to do watch them

play Greek rummy. I have to take Ronald there someday. One guy there Jay you should hear him he hates to lose at pinochle. Maron you should hear him. I went home at three. Maron never again. I was drinking black coffee. I got the television on. You know he told me Jay he went to Japan he says business is bad there. I went to the Market Diner with Louie and Joe. He doesn't stay too long. Let's get to work on a Saturday.

Mr. O the Greek you should see what he was telling me the way they come. He broke her in fast. They come fast that way the bed was all wet he was telling me. She's Irish. He even told a couple of girls in his office like his secretary Why don't you try it through the back door with your husband? The girl tried it he was telling me she had diarrhea for two days. That Jackie O she must have a grand canyon up there. Hey Jay You have a spray can at home? That toilet smells. It looks like more shit on the floor than in the bowl.

One time I came home two o'clock in the morning my mother threw me out of the house. My mother was strict. She said You could call me even if I don't know how to use the phone. A lot of people in them days didn't know how to read and phone and they got along. There's a grand opening of a restaurant tonight. I don't know if I should go. Should I? I don't like the guy. I know his wife. This water's delicious.

Hey Jay did you read in the news last night the Italians beat the storm and took in 100 Chinese. They're taking them to Italy. The Pope must have gotten after them. Let me go wash my face. Let me go take a crap.

No, I didn't care anymore. I got cheese, juice, soda and beer that's all. I was talking to your friend he was in here today. He has hair on his head. He says he knows you. I don't know his name. Maybe he wears glasses in the office. I got to ask him his name. He was laughing. I used to sell the Spanish paper. They should never got ridden of it. He used to be a good swimmer. I don't know about now. They threw me in the water. I sold Spanish papers on the pier. A penny a paper. You know the night before they broke five windows in Chinatown. You know who died? Tommy Book. I just found out. He had a bum leg. He's Rosie's age. I called her up for her birthday. Jimmy Piselli hit me on the head with a flower pot, What are you talking about?

The kid got fed up I don't blame him. What Jay? If you're going to have an argument with your father--close the door and talk. I went to see my brother. He's buried the one that died. I brought some flowers and I stayed there a while. He's a pain in the ass. Did you watch this here last night soccer? What a pain in the ass. Now he can't hear too good. He's worse. You know what I mean the generation's are different. Like me like you like Al's. Like Ronald. He doesn't know. He just drinks Vodka and Sangria. That's what I was going to do in the beginning. Pay me next week. Where's Doug? In the park? Elmer's straightening him out. His partner went to where do you call that? Where they had that trouble. The Dominican Republic.

I don't even want to talk about it. I'm not going down any more. What liars they are. Both those Chinese guys they were trying to doubletalk me. But I was too smart for them. He was getting mad the prosecutor. He told me How fast did he take the gun out of his holster. I told him I don't have no time watch. She told me the only thing she brought on that was the tires. He was questioning me

and he was repeating and repeating. I can't tell about that I want to forget it. They should give me a day's pay. I was up there from ten. I'm waiting and waiting. Then they say recess. I was in that case. I was a witness. I was going to look for Albie. These two cops the Chinese people hate. They hate these two guys. You could ask Albie. When I seen what these guys went through I felt sorry for Albie. I don't know. The other lawyers were laughing. I'll get my jacket. Excuse me.

I want to find out what happens to them. We're not going to be here Monday. We're not going to be here tomorrow. Ming What do you want? You're going to get me fired over here. He can't wait till he moves to 89 Street. They told my sister he doesn't belong there. Jay What is he back from his boat trip? He had to be back because of the election. His vote voted me in. Him and Louie. They vote when you go in there Jay. Jay you just walk in there right? You got to be voted in there Ronald. He's talking about his son in high school. He goes to Brooklyn Tech. Does he beat you in paddle ball yet? Nice meeting you. I'm Spanish myself. The bus stops at Fulton and Canal doesn't it? I've got to go to Houston Street. This bus takes me to the corner of Sixth Avenue and Houston and I walk right there. I've got to go to Sullivan Street You get me Ross? Everybody puts a buck in and that's it. I'm going to the Legion tonight and pay my dues. St. Anthony's Church is the next block Get what I mean? This way youse not walking by yourself. They voted yesterday. I didn't go. I don't know anybody up there Ronald. Just a few guys that's members. The last picture I saw of Elvis Jay Maron he was heavy.

I wanted to rap this guy some day. You would do the same. I said to myself I got to get out of here. Your pouring a six dollar drink in orange juice.

Down at Christie's they should start work at night. They could put a mountain in the park. A lot of lawyers you see today they came from the East Side. He's a good Jew. He's just like a neighborhood guy. But like when Abie's son was born they went by the Jewish faith. No one was staying in a hotel around here. They were sleeping in the office. He must have money. Him and four other guys wanted to buy this building. That would be a front too you know. We had pizza Jay and it was burnt on the bottom the way you like it. I even told Harry God bless these guys that climb the mountains. I went to bed I was out like a light. I been eating too good lately. I been sleeping with a clear head nothing bothers me anymore. Jay the guard told me this is a bad day to go to the bank Friday. In the day they got the First War Veteran in there in the night the younger fellows come. I saw a big water bug in there. I killed it and threw it in the toilet.

Get out of my way. I want to work. Don't beat my girlfriend. He's getting to be big as Harry. I put the water in there to get it cold. Gee what a belly you got. You're getting to be big as Harry in the back. I'm only kidding. You look good. Youze guys always buy the wine--but you never buy cigarettes. That's why it rained. That's my theory thank you. I remember when you were a goalie--for what high school did you go to? Hotchkiss or something. Ronald today's your best cousin's

birthday. Angelo he's 53 Ronald. Good thing Marie left the toilet paper. I'm glad Marie left the toilet paper. Don't give her nothing otherwise she'll still be going there. Her party's over there. One day I'm doing Mulberry Street. My feet were killing me you know the toes in here. I seen her. Believe me you seen the fastest guy.

Youze got milk in the refrigerator? Then I'll get one for Nina me and Nina black. Like this tell me what kind of sandwich was it so I can tell him it was good. Who's Andy? You got me now? Mr. Cameron you got any Bristol Cream with boxes? I know there's cases coming in. I'll bring you to my boxing coach. I'll bring you to my manager. I'm lucky I got up this morning. My foot bothers me. Otherwise I'd go home. You're on the third floor aren't you? The paper didn't go to waste Frances. I think you're like me Frances. I don't eat meat Tuesday and Friday. My sister Rosie does the same thing. I think I'll have chicken wings. Today's Tuesday night. Chinese style. I got up at a quarter to eight. I made sure I ate. I had oatmeal, eggs, potatoes, juice. I got to keep out of there. They cook with lard. I found out today. I watched the kitchen.

When they send you to RCA it can drive you up a wall. How's skinny? He got heavy didn't he? He looks good with that weight. They're right behind where the wine rack is. If you can drive in New York you can drive in any other state. Everybody comes here. It's already been proven. New York has the most pollution. I can't get there. There's a lot of boxes.

Max will show you very good. Jokes don't sell cameras. My nieces treated me like a king. Here my love. See how I take care of her. You don't take care of her. My sister and I were driving. We were going to Staten Island. Marie 12 o'clock you told me. Hi brother George. Hold the line please Miss Jay.

Here hand them down the line. Christmas paper or regular gold and white paper? Did she fix that for me? It is cold outside not only the wind. You gave me 15. What's today? The 27th? That's dead. I always do that.

I do that with Mike and you. You know what I'm talking about. They fix the office yet? That was last year. I'd like to go up there when it's fixed. Carlos is on the 96th floor. He's crazy. Right here Miss. It's good wine. Carlos showed me you showed me. Mike showed me. You know the place. Right here. Ronald throw these in the drawer. Excuse me Charlie. He's writing a book this guy. I had gabazelle. I ate the eyes and all. They still sell it. On Hester Street. Hester and Mulberry. Everytime I say something he makes it down. I'm surprised you don't make carbon copies. Have a nice New Year now. Isn't that something Jay? I don't know to be honest with you. I got robbed you know. At the hotel. They didn't take much. They just took underwear and socks. I saw Harry. If you go to his room, you get stinked out. You fixed it for me. Thanks Ronald.

You need a shovel out there. You can't use Fran's dust pan. It's cold outside. What'd I do with the shovel? I don't use gloves Michael. I freeze more with gloves. I don't wear scarves. I'm going to put it here Frances and when I'm through I'll put it over there. This is all garbage over here. I'm going to get the broom in a few minutes. The only thing I need is a big box you can throw the Massie boxes in there. Save those boxes for me. All right Ronald? I like this weather. My face is as numb as anything. Give me that box. I can use it. A good thing it isn't me. I would have never heard the end

of it. Let me get my jacket and get back to work. It's nice outside. You want a Tango? Jay I could use these boxes. I could throw all the Massie wooden boxes in them. This is out in the street. See Ronald when you're out in the cold you got to think of something else. I need a nice wide one. A long one. You can give me either one. Marie Steve gave me a big box. I got to sweep the street too. I like it out there. I remember when years ago Al gave me a pair of leather gloves when he went on a cruise. I wore them and I was more freezing with them than without them. Those are more dress gloves. Yes. I'll never forget that. I never said you're dumb. I just said I seen the Anazone on the side. I'm not finished yet. The street I got to do too. That's why I need a box. See what I did outside. Frances remember you told me to put the garbage on the sidewalk. That's what I did. Go out there and look at it. I'm tired.

You remember me? The big guy. He died. His name was Robert. Last month I was talking to him and he was laughing and drinking soda. You remember Willie? He died. Who do I have to ask for Marie? I broke my hump outside. You think Harry would have did a good job on the garbage out there?

I picked all the stuff from the street too. You try the first one. If you don't like it you bring back the second one. I breathed all that dust outside. You live at 106 Cherry don't you? I have a picture. I have Sammy Venti's father's tailor shop. I have the whole Cherry Street. You lived in Minny's building. We were brought up in the same neighborhood. You be surprised you see the whole street. I was looking at them Christmas. What dropped over there. My broom? I'm the sweeper in here. Hey I didn't recognize you Mr. J.D. Mustache. Glasses. Every year you're learning Michael. You're doing all right.

Is that Mr. Quigley there? I know I got them here some place. You see the Turkey's on the bottom shelf there in the window. Every two every three week's they got a new teller in there. I don't know. I don't know. They got lousy benefits. Hey Frances it's a good thing I put the stuff on the sidewalk. He'll be here three o'clock. I'm going to give him two of these Jay Bardolinos. If your father's looking for me I'm across the street. If you close up with me Ronald remind me to throw out the wood with the other garbage.

You go get Chinese food. You turn around he takes half of it. He's your buddy. I don't want to take anything that don't belong to me right? We got to get you a pedestal. Get her a pedestal Michael. The boss is on the way you know I can't move. That's Elizabeth Taylor. She just made a movie. She's going to kill me later. Let me sit down for five minutes. They put these in the wrong spot. It is snowing outside. Put it on my counter. I went to Chinatown. I ate. I have a couple of beers and I went home. Marie went home early. What time is it Ronald? I was so tired I couldn't sleep. It's sugar. Take some to wipe your face when you get back. I'll see you. You got to pull the sign down. I'm glad you turned it around John. They're nice people. They know your mother. They know your father. You got it on the shelf. Harry you got a piece of cheese on your belly. This rain makes you beautiful Ronald.

You better send John out. I went to get Red Devil paint. I painted the window. No one knows what type it was. She used to make the baskets. Then I started to learn. It took me two years. Then I made all the baskets. She used to get letters from Beth Steel. You know who made nice baskets

until he got mad? Gus. When he came in he gave me a little relief. I wasn't behind the counter. I was a packer at the time. At 2 Broadway. Down the next block. Jay got on the gravy grain years ago. That's why Harry got mad at her. She showed me the letter. If you're ever in Chinatown drop in Lucy's. I'm always in there. If I'm not in there I'm in the Italian restaurant around the corner. Those are the only two places I hang out. Sometimes I walked out of here in the morning Jay used to get the credit. I made them better than her. Every basket I made Michael not one basket broke. Happy never made a basket Harry. I watched Jay two times I went out on my own. Happy taught me how to wrap. I'm so fucking tired. Harry when he becomes attorney general of the United States you're going to say I knew that kid. The pride of 57th Street.

I came in late. This is all one drop almost. Let me get that phone. Where's Pete? You get these in Jersey not in New York. If I eat lunch I can't work. I go out. I'm talking to myself. What's the other one. I'm going out in a few minutes. Something's wrong with her. Ronald I'll be across the street. We share and share. What is it a gift? Give me one of those boxes there Margie. Excuse me. Just move your leg a little on the side. He makes me laugh even with this 90 degree weather you see him with his raincoat on. He makes me sweat. Why don't you take the train at the Brooklyn bridge? It comes right into Wall Street. Don't worry about it.

I went there Frances just for curiosity. I bought a pack of cigarettes. Maybe a little piece of paper. I love this weather. I know guys who went 16 years to college and they wound up in the fish market. I got to buy ear plugs so I don't have to hear nothing. Matty was just here a half hour ago. Watch yourself sir. Where's Joseph? I didn't see him for two weeks. She's taking the teeth right out of her mouth. It's making me sick. I'm going to take you to places. Then you see people who really know me. She's a waitress. She's money hungry. She's after a buck. She's making my stomach turn. Which one did Johnny bring down here? Who does he look like Johnny? I'm sick with that. I'm over here. You're over there. What do you want?

Hey Al when you eat up there do they give you the home made mustard? Here's a soda, you know. You know that skinny guy--the bartender over there? I know him from Chinatown. I've been doing this a long time Mary. It's not like years ago Frances. They were given out quarters half-dollars. Today they don't say thanks. They don't know what it is. Joe knows it too. What's his name Harry's friend? 40 Wall Street that's near William Street. They can walk there. I'm going on this here one. I'm going to have to put this one on top Marie. Mary where do you want me to put it? She was letting her teeth out of her mouth. It was making me sick. You know who's like that Frances my brother-in-law. Open the back window and let the smoke out. He bullshits too much.

I should never have had that donut. You want me to go take the test for you? You'd eat anything. How could I eat anything? I liked to be checked Marie? I made her check me. Frances I went upstairs to get one of these. Look Marie on this here I can't make it square. For a gift. Make it round. No I'm just saying. There's nothing underneath. Let me get a box for this. I'm not sleeping anymore. That order's completed now Marie. I never use a marker Mary. That's a dead soldier.

Hand me the Christmas paper Nina. Last night we were discussing who taught me how to wrap. I know what he's thinking. He figures I never had an education. You know how to read a micrometer? It measures thousands of inches of thickness of metal. You work pretty good over there. I watched

you one day making sandwiches. Am I right or wrong? Harry was a teacher with the army. He was a sergeant in Kentucky.

Guess who sends regards Happy. I just came from the house Ronald. I have more for your report. Gee I saw people last night I didn't see for twenty years. I went to a party last night. I'll be right with you. That's her handwriting but I'm the one who wrapped them up. What a time I had last night the best time I had in the last twenty years. I met old friends old girl friends. Puppy love. They introduced me to their kids. Everything was on the house. I went to buy a pack of cigarettes. You couldn't. They are all married Jay. One has nine kids one has four kids. One girl went to college and everything. Margie. She's got around four kids. She married a cop. His name is Charley. Jay I was with Happy last night. He sends his regards. His son looks older than I do. Bald headed and everything. I didn't recognize him. I said Where's Henry? and he was standing along side of me. Maron. I'm not even awake yet. I slept on the floor many years Jay. That's why you got a better back than they got Jay. Ronald is that your coffee? I had eight beers last night Jay. The little bottles. I was flying. Carmine's his brother-in-law. It's a club. It's a gambling casino. Frankie Pizza runs the club. His name is Carmine. He looks just like his uncle. Hey Carmine came here. What's the matter don't you speak English. Tell your uncle Frankie from Broadway says hello.

Do less talk and more work Ronald. Right Frances? I don't know if I get tired or if I get headaches. You do a good job too John. You ever try this one? That's the one they advertise on television. They come from the same area. Two dollars and seventy-nine cents. Okay. I'm going out to my sisters for Christmas if the dog lets me in. Your dog hated me Michael. She used to bite my pants the little French poodle. I don't know to be honest with you. I don't know he even went to school. I'm putting them in there. I don't hear nothing. You know Ronald that that cardboard not that cardboard that corrugated that Harry has upstairs Tell him to send that down. That's been laying there for three weeks. I'm supposed to do something for your mother and I got people. And you're just goldbricking. Mary what brandy do you use for cake?

You can throw this in the garbage. There's ice in there. Have a nice holiday. See I don't even have a seat any more. You sound just like Harry. Margie ruined yesterday. I never heard a woman talk much as I seen here. Down the neighborhood they curse but among themselves not in front of men. I got drunk. Happy told me to come down. Happy's son was there. Ronald a man comes in with a hand envelope I send them to Miss Jay. You know what Harry does? He eats he sits in the park and he goes home and sleeps. I don't know how he does it. I don't know where he goes in the winter. Was you here when we had the fire? They both see good. You know he never picked up no towels. I don't like to touch nothing there. It might be Marie's.

Tomorrow and Christmas I'll be having a good cooked meal. My other brother's going to be there Joseph. My sister's picking me up. Sunday I'll go to church with the kids. That's Marie's broom. Don't use that. Joseph doesn't know Siggy's dead. He's retarded. Siggy was a caretaker in the cemetery. They named him after the doctor. He used to take care of our teeth for nothing. I never knew him. My brother's were born on Madison Street. I met him when I got older. Dr. Goldstein. Gee I hope the phantom don't come around. The fire last week Harry froze like a piece of chicken. He's scared. My sister's going to tell Joseph about Siggy tomorrow.

My sister knew him. She was an elevator operator when she was a kid. A guy like him and I we have no place to go. He could be good when he wants to be Harry. Someday I have to go see my brother Jack in Brooklyn. He lives in a Puerto Rican neighborhood. My mother came here first. She was sending money to her sister to come over. By accident they took the wrong boat. It went to Argentina. My mother was 17 when she came here. I used to go to my mother's cousin's place when I was a kid. El Chico. It's not there any more. He died I know. There's a lot of good places around there Ronald. There's the Grenada. Then you've got a lot of them on 14th Street. Harry you know who worked in Alaska? Remember Louie? The Gallo guy. His son worked there. He came right back.

I think Louie went to Central Islip. Nutty Louie who used to work here. He was a nut but he knew how to make a buck when he was a kid. I don't know if it was his wife or ex that did that to him. He goes in and out. Youze guys laugh at him but he's living better than we are. He gets two checks a month. He gets \$360 from the United States of America and \$250 from the city. Everybody laughs at him. What a nice mother he had Frances. His brother Benny's a captain in the Salvation Army. Johnny is still in the marines. George went bananas he used to work here. Pete went bananas too. Pete's in the bug house for forty years. In the old days his brother's took care of him. You remember George Ronald? If he's normal he was a good worker. Louie was a punching bag. We used to train together. He was our sparring partner. You got them on the shelf. What the hell is this? Louie's a full blooded Sicilian.

I was waiting for this guy. I was getting bombed. Luckily the television was there. Chinamen were buying drinks like crazy. This was last night. I got to get up early tomorrow. I'm not going to go home. I'm going to get something first. Gee am I going to sleep in that car tomorrow. It's a nice ride too. You got a hole in that sweater. I don't know where yiz get this bread from. On your mother's birthday you should give her the Congressional Medal of Honor. Right Frances?

Hey Pete you got gabozelle? The cheese is good. Come down to the neighborhood. You'd laugh. You'd see Zula's Candy Store. Vinnie's Barber Shop. 104 Cherry. What's this? For the horses? Now I can have my coffee. The judge is my friend. You get what I'm trying to bring out? I go to the Legion tonight. They're going to say Frankie You missed a party Christmas. You know what kept me going that cheese. I told your mother. She said Keep it up. I had it myself. That's why I recommend it. That isn't bad itself. I thought you were giving that as a gift. I thought I was hearing things. I got a little detail for you Michael. You're not going to sit around. You're not going to fart around. I'm going to my brother's next week. I'm going to get my mother's picture. If he don't give it to me I'm going to throw him out the window.

This is the wholesale department. Tell him about your uncle who works in Seattle the sheriff Ralphie Slattery. Margie you feel like a nice cold bottle of ginger ale? Take care now. What do you want them gift wrapped? I feel like going home. You know Margie when I was going to school and I was six I couldn't speak English. But I could understand Portuguese Spanish and French. I was born here Margie. She came around and I was walking and she went bamn. The customer said Maron You can take a punch. Then another time she gave me a shot with her elbow Margie. Throw that away. She gave me a good belt.

You know who makes a good pizza? The little guy with the mustache. He used to have a mustache. This guy Louie is the guy who brought the business in here from the American Legion. It's a mixed crowd down there. Irish Italian Polish. Nice people. You know who make a good pizza Marie? The guy on New Street. He goes to Lucy Jung's the restaurant I hang around in. He made a big thing in there about color like he does in here. They gave him some beating in Chinatown. I'm going to my sister's on Sunday. I told my brother-in-law not to tell her. My brother Joseph is going to be there. The one who's in that retarded school. But he's all right now. He's got a telephone and everything. You put that back in the refrigerator and take it out. It's just as good.

I'm worried about my legs. I ain't worried about disputes. My sister would have been down today. But she probably had to do something. This thing has got to be cleaned out. That's the first guy I always think of with glasses and pencils Ronald. You're just jealous. We're going to be open tomorrow. You weren't cleaning elephants. When they were waiting what were you doing? We have some on the wine racks. Just turn it. You'll see some laying there. You know I was a letterman at school baseball basketball and soccer. A lot of the Greeks were coming in and they played that sport. She said I reminded her of one of those bouncers in the bars in Singapore.

He might not come back you know. Just mention the name Harry Cameron and you're okay. My oldest brother was there Burma in 1937. My oldest brother Jack was there then he came back then he went in the Flying Tigers. What are we going to stay here all night? I know he came home. He got a big thing a big citation. What are we going to stay here all night? You're supposed to help me here and your sitting on your rear end writing. He's still sitting there. Where is he? Watch your head Frances.

I went to Forlini's. You can take his money while you're doing nothing. Where were you? I didn't see you all year. I know you work for Hartman Company. You work with George and Mike. How was Pennsylvania? We have one fellow buying this stuff. Here Michael drink this coffee. Leave me some. All right I'm going. Button yourself. Your belly button is showing. I don't confuse you. I'm not even near you. I shall return. That's right I deliver there too. I never knew your last name. Marie I got your change and everything. At least we found it. I knew it was somewhere. The bottle's tall Ronald.

In the neighborhood I don't even mention about here. I forget the place when I leave. They don't even know where I work. Frances you know that woman who came in here while youze left? She bought them all. I had to take them off the rack. We're not girls Ronald and I right? I ain't talking about these two. I'm talking about the center wires. What? Take it down. Let me go. Did you take my cigarette Ronald? If you see your sister say Happy New Year to her. He's going to work harder more than he did there. Watch. We had a little fire. On the outside. He gets the house brand. Wish your son a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. My hands are legal weapons. You never knew that Ronald. Amateur or professional it's all the same thing. That's why if I hit anybody I can't hit them in here. I have to hit them on the outside or you'd have a lawsuit. This guy won't let me in there. That's why with these black guys I'm afraid of hitting them or you'd have a lawsuit. One day I bought your mother soup early there and it was warm.

You ever see her picture in a bathing suit? Ronald we got Harry's television upstairs. Hey Pete I got the shovel there. You want to take it back for me for Jay? I got it on the door knob. Harry never used to be on time on Saturday. And he has the nerve to tell his father I was always late. This year the counter business was very good. I was at the American Legions yesterday. I still say the Commander's wrong. A lot of people didn't even know they were having a party. They got 300 members. I saw him yesterday. He curses like crazy. I didn't even want to bother with him. He's the bartender he's the Commander of the post. If you swear you get fined. I was getting crucified with the can. A drunk in there was picking on me.

It looks like nobody's open Michael. Look around the street. Abe opens at nine o'clock. That's the way I know it's nine o'clock when I pass by there. He's a sloppy looking Jew. He should take care of his sister did you ever see what she looks like? Don't get me wrong he might be a nice guy but he should take care of his sister. He's got the same shirt on since I know him. He's got these black guys black white guys working for him for peanuts. Is the heat on? This guy's name is Louie too. You don't talk like that you know what I mean. They got kids in there. They have a barrel and everything. They have a name for it you don't have to be in the army to belong. A lot of these guys their wives are in it. This garbage ain't going to be picked up till Tuesday.

Benny was best man to his friend. He mentioned him. He was talking about him last night. I don't think there's a switch for the middle one. In school when I was a kid we had Sister Bernadette. I didn't understand when she spoke to me in English. She smacked me and I smacked her back. She threw me out of school. I was sleeping good. Your father thinks we're going to do business today? He's crazy. You know what I mean Oggelstein? I'll be in the toilet Ronald. We had the garbage on the sidewalk and they threw the garbage toward the building and poured kerosene on it. Cardboard don't make black smoke it makes white smoke.

I want to ask you a question now Remember years ago when we were open on Saturdays. Who was here alone like clockwork? And Harry was here sleeping. And he goes and tells his father to protect himself. You were all dressed up and everything. Remember that Saturday? Remember Felix down here? The one who sells the stamps? He was funny. I know him over twenty-five years. I started in the old store 1953 1954 and Felix was there. I never forget the day Felix came in here and said Listen kid I want to buy three four bottles and I want to pay fifty cents a week. He still talks about it. How stupid could you be to want to pay on time and talk about it. This seems like the old Saturdays. You know that. You know that fat guy Harry. He knocks the girls on Saturdays. You know he was waiting for me to tell him Al Why don't you let Harry come down. I'd rather have you around Ronald. I didn't have to listen to his bullshit.

Michael you want a pack of cigarettes? Jay wants you to check where the register is. We have all those plugs there. That's what she called up for. It's like this friend of mine with this girl. He wanted to marry her she didn't want to get married. So they broke up and she jumped off a building in the Village. It's the same thing Ronald. Where's Pete? That Genovese bastard was supposed to give me heat. Happy's son invited me to a New Year's Party. But I'm not going I don't like the people there. It's cream sherry. You want the straight sherry. You're like Pete. You don't know how to do nothing. This guy does everything. Like if you need a new sidewalk in your house he'll break it up and put a new one in.

We're not here to do business. We're here for the electrician. When he's finished we're going to go home. That Pete's funny. I owed him some money. I owed him forty dollars and I gave it to him. I paid him and now I feel a little better. Abe trusts that guy and he's honest with him. They got a dog in there. You know what I think he should do? Take those plastic things off and throw them out in the street. Machine and Metal was the number one trade school. That kid jerks off or what I don't know what he says. You're an electrician all your life right but he'll tell you you're wrong. You get these guys who went to college and they don't know what this guy knows. When I was going to high school we had a couple of German guys German Jews and they knew more than the teacher. They even made a micrometer. But they were just going there for an education. You know that Sunday when I passed by here Ronald Christmas Eve I seen all that shit on the floor there I thought they broke the glass. You seen upstairs is all water. He's not a junkie. Taking pills is not a junkie. The water in your system keeps you warm. You piss. Tell this guy Oggelstein he don't believe me.

I bet a number for today 23 Ronald. This guy take single action. I bet a deuce for two. I bet two dollars and the two if I win sixteen dollars on the two it rides on three. Like if three comes out on the first number I lost. They pick up numbers at the American Legion. We play cards for drinks. There's no money. The coffee's a dime. I used to help a rabbi when I was a kid clean up the synagogue. That was when I got caught robbing. I took what do you call it off the alter with his son. I think it was a horn it was in a little valise. I don't even know myself. He made us clean up for six months. He was a good rabbi. Everytime he saw me with the mop he used to laugh. I never knew how to use it. If Harry was here he'd be crying. He'd be talking to himself right Ronald. He'll be here. His son's a big lawyer today with the DA's office. He still sees me he says Hi Frankie.

By accident I walked into an opium den. There was all mattresses on the floor. I said What the hell is that? There were four ways to get out. That's where Irving Berlin met his wife. In Chinatown. I think they smoked the pipe together. It was in the basement. Put on the hot water I got to shave anyway. They're all over. The paper says if Hitler still lives he'll face a trial. How stupid. Right Ronald? Angelo made himself crazy. There's a guy who would have been president of a steamship company today. He loved his juice. His uncle got him all those jobs. Your father got him those jobs. His mother didn't make him crazy. My brother lives uptown on 89th Street between First and Second. Beef is going up next month.

Seagram's had good products in them days. Then Schenley came out and knocked the shit out of Four Roses. Like in the neighborhood they were telling me last night I didn't know you had a fire where you work at. When I leave here I forget everything Ronald. He sells shirts. He sells toys out in the street. When we were kids he had a bread route. He was even a fight promoter. I knocked him out twice in the ring. I fought him at the Jewish Settlement House. We used to call him Stanley the Jew. Everybody fought good in the street everything went garbage pails bats maron. He was a good fighter. But the only thing he fought better in the street. He buys by the truck load. He's a little guy. He's a bald headed guy. He fought flyweight. He has pushcarts all over.

He came from the Clinton Street area like Willard Street. It was a good neighborhood. They got along with the Italians like brothers and sisters. This was another side of the street. The Jewish Center ain't there any more. The University Settlement ain't there. If you wanted to learn to play an instrument they taught you for a quarter. Today you pay through the nose. They had acting. I forget

Ronald. He wasn't a bad looking guy either. Considering he was a fighter. There was no money. There was watches and a ring. If you win you get the gold one. If you lose you get the silver one. You miss that dog. I know that. They got to go like human beings too. He was down here a few times. Once I got into that house he wouldn't let me out. I liked that dog. At least the floor is clean Ronald. Let me go take a leak. He knows what he's doing. That's why your father gets him. Like these other guys say I'll be right back. They never came back.

His son graduated Xavier Military School the academy on 17th Street. Sometimes it doesn't stick. You got to go double or triple. You know what I mean. Did you ever have Cherry Kiajifa? That isn't sour. He looks like a Wooden Indian. You got to be sick. We were brought up together. Shut up the guy's singing. She looks like my sister's face no? Have a nice Christmas now. If Ross was here he'd eat the whole box. The only one who gives me back talk is that moron upstairs. You should have come with me last week to the American Legion. You don't have to be a real drinker. You sip on your beer. They got B&B in there and everything. Jimmy that stuff came in and gone. You can play cards Ronald. They got a pool table. And you meet nice people there. They got those Highlanders. I think they're from upstate.

He's got hot water there. They have everything there. You can bring your wife your girl friend. Have a nice Christmas. You know St. Joseph? You know what it has on top of it I realized it this morning. It has St. Giuseppe. It must have been an Italian church. Hey Harry tell them the story about the psychiatrist. He laid down and you were talking to him. You told me that Harry. You went in there for a problem and you sat down and he laid down and he started talking to you. You were asking the questions. He laid down on the bed. The one in the corner was the same one.

Harry had a beautiful yellow bike. He used to ride the bike like Humphrey with all the junk in the back. When I first met him he used to wear bow ties sport jackets remember Harry? One time I was taking cases of Dewars to 17 Battery Place in those days they had wooden cases and a guy jumped out of the window. Seventeen stories. He landed 500 yards from me. I was splattered with blood. Where's Jimmy? I want to tell him about Louie. What do you want Harry she fainted on the way there. One night it was Louie's birthday. So we said We got a surprise for you. There was this house. We took him to this room where we had an electric chair. We sat him in this chair. He was going crazy. We put a lampshade on his head. I said since when does a guy wear earrings.

One day there was a drunken bum on the bus. She said Hey you get out of my bus. He saw her get out of the seat he almost sobered up. She said I don't want no bums on my bus. I don't care if he's black or white. She gave them the right answer. She was a good looking woman. She handled the bus good. These cleaning women all like her. She just started that route. They all gave her a Christmas present. She was crying on the bus. I was almost in tears myself. She said all her life whatever happened today on the bus I'll never forget it as long as I'm alive as long as there's another Christmas. Some people don't walk good she helps them. She's not supposed to.

My brother used to have all my boxing equipment. You know where the Tombs is. You know where Murphy's bar is on the corner? Up the street is a vegetable stand. The guy has five daughters. They all drive trucks but one of them died. Listen to this here. You know that yourself a lot of Chinese people don't believe in checks. I took the bus at 11:30. Sophie was there. Listen

everybody's a good fighter until he gets beat by anybody. Now they see movies and that's how they learn to fight. Like me I thought I could have beat this kid but he outsmarted me in the second round. You know who sends his regards to you? McCarthy. He's a very good doctor. He's got a lot of patience he never asks you no questions. He just does his work and that's it. Hey Ross why don't you clean the refrigerator.

Get your noodles. These are a lot of noodles. Let me open it up first. I let the noodles soak for ten minutes it's a meal. That guy was some barber. When I'd get through I'd say Please God are my ears okay? You mean the cardboard. All right. That's that woman that came in and asked me about that. I pawned her on Marie. What do you play the violin? I didn't touch it. I didn't even touch my soup yet. I wait until these noodles soak into it. Yesterday I had a lot of fun. I'd tell her she looks like Tina Louise. She's prettier but she still has a little resemble. Who knows? Good morning. What floor are you on over there?

Every time I go on a delivery I'm looking. I usually come in late but I'm coming in early because of the holidays. I think they should keep John with you here. He can lift a mountain that guy. You don't understand they have an elevator over there. He's a pain in the ass. If the kid wasn't here you'd be in Kalamazoo right Marie? Right Michael? You want some air? Here's my cutter. No it's all right. Clean it this way. Sometimes you find figures of more in there. You know Jimmy hates to climb. You know if I know the party I go over and say Jimmy no tax. Maron those guys were getting drunk so early Frances. The Christmas party at the American Legion. One night we were here till twelve thirty cause you dropped Harry and I off at the restaurant. It's that old guy. Ronald's the supervisor. He's writing everything down.

George went with the wagon. Hi Louie. Where's he going? Either bus I take it takes me home. You saw the other guy the little guy. I'll go home and youze close up. Then you'll see what you get. She agrees with me again the kid is starting to look like the father. I saw him in the car. F and H came out today for the Exactor. You know what made it the potatoes made it. They got the best from Jersey. I walked one Friday from here to there. I like to walk. I walked you understand from Sullivan Street to the Avenue of the Americas. I was laughing at the buildings. I was looking around. It was a nice walk. It took me forty-five minutes.

I'm just saying Jimmy. What did you shut this again Ronald? How you doing? We had that years ago. No that's been out for over five years now. There's no more of that small bottles of sherry we used to buy by the case. You can't get it anymore. He's a lucky guy when they made that big move at Anaconda his name was on the list. They crossed it off. He's a receptionist now. They cut his pay. He didn't care. He's on the pension fund. If they came back with Chile his name's on the list.

You look just like Hitler no? Here big mouth I know you're going to tell Harry. These nuts came from Italy. Hi Tony How are you? You look all right. This is Marie. Say hello to her. I was just thinking of it now going up the ladder. You know what I'm talking about? You know who that is Vinnie's Clam House. Maron a me is right. The kid's telling the people to move. Have a nice weekend. I told Morty that I saw, "Joe the Seaman." He said Where'd you see him? You know how much he beat Benny's for running up tabs? Seven hundred fifty dollars. If I don't see you have a nice Christmas Mike. Sometimes I get an order I call her. I should call Jay.

I don't blame her. I got to do this Mary cause you can see through it. He don't listen to me. I don't give a shit. You know who used to do it Traders. If it's over twenty dollars they throw in a sandwich a coffee a French fries. You're in the back when he comes Harry. That ham is delicious. I like the fat on top. I don't know you got to ask her. The one who has a nice tan is nice. The other one is nice too. Hey Mary you know that camera shop on Broad Street where the liquor store used to be? They was robbed. They took the whole two windows. She's dead too. The mouse's still going strong. When she lived in Brooklyn she stayed late. When she bought the house all the furniture came inside it. Did you ever see the house? It's a beautiful house. The inside's beautiful too.

According to the life story in the movies he was a Jew. An Amsterdam Jew. He was a corporal that's all he was in the army.

His girlfriend's still alive. I asked him how much it was. I said forget about it. See like Conte's order. He doesn't care if they go out next year. I think that that booze he bought here went to that Chinese place. You want to go there sometime? It's a new nightclub. It has an escalator going up for the old people. You don't understand what I mean.

You know Harry reminded me about those two packages. I almost forgot. Two heads is as good as one. I was in there today they were cashing them. Like this I'm saying the guys that go in there and cash them are porters. I never knew he was here till I bumped into him. There's where the beauty is in the country. You don't have it in the city. On the branches on the hedges on the grass. It's around their houses.

The way Johnny told me they told him even before he starts You know you got to keep your big mouth shut. He must be returned by now. So Albie's wife is having a kid Harry. I wish them luck. The whole three of them are name John. Uncle Johnny's car was an air-conditioned car in the winter. He was terrific. Even though he died broke he was okay. He organized upstairs. That's when we had upstairs. I almost got killed down there. All the cases fell on top of me. We never got nothing for that. You almost went crazy downstairs. I don't think he's drinking beer that much cause his belly ain't that big anymore.

You got to sue the sidewalk okay? You'll be there all day talking to Andy. What do you want he's going around with a girl 14 years old. He used to be a bad kid my brother straightened him out. He got him to study. Listen when he met Ronald he thought he was a nut. He said You can keep him. I said He's a nice guy. He said You know that cake you had in here the sponge cake? I don't know where they hide it. Tell her we're closed. I had a woman in here she wanted Giacobazzi. She wanted it gift wrapped. I said Maron a me. She had a shopping bag. I hid it. She had boxes. It was skinny when she walked in. She never wore pants underneath. I know there's something wrong. I'm nuts. I got to throw this thing out anyway. You can save this one. This one's all right.

Hello hello. It's our neighbor Rhoda. The store looked very good. You could have anything you want even if there's no party. Tony's father in law has an interest in that place. As long as I have a little space I can work on the floor. Let me sit down. As far as I know he has a good job. I don't know what he does maybe he works for the government. Those guys don't tell you. He had a lot of respect for my brother. He regarded him as an uncle. He loved my brother. Harry remember Black

Diamond? Remember that boat they had? We used to deliver booze up there. Tony downstairs has two Rolls Royces.

You know Frances I had an uncle on my mother's side who fought in the Civil War. He came here as a kid. I don't believe it. His name was Castro. They claim that he worked in the grape vines in California. Onassis's brother in law owns this building. He made cabinets for the Jews. They burned him. She married an Englishman. I thought he was something with the Queen. You know how many Greeks bought that Brooklyn Bridge? You know something Jimmy a lot of people went to Gold Street. They thought it was gold. They were knocking on buildings. They were ignorant people. Watch my ashtray Harry.

Where do you want me to put these on the floor? You know Willie? The one who got sick. The Chinese who manages the place told me a girl went in and put 2,000 dollars on a horse. He was telling me he was praying Please God don't let that horse come in. She won \$20,000. They were knocked off twice Harry. Show him the picture someday of you when you were skinny. I had a credit card I never paid. What about your sneakers. You never wore sneakers. They don't even know my name half of these people. They call me Frank. My name is Frankie.

Jay you remember serving this man Calvert or Seagram's? This here one here. I don't do nothing. I don't know. He must be home. I don't know. I go with a truck. The guy drops me off with a car. I should go to Hollywood. The walk will do me good. We watch the football games at Follini's. We watch a couple of movies. I met what's his name there Larry our bookkeeper. I made the reservation in my name. Larry said they got very good service.

I don't do nothing. I go home now. I went back to the hotel. I been sleeping too much. Twelve hours sleep. I get up dopey. I been sleeping with a clean head. Something should bother me that way I'd jump out of bed. I used to worry about the store. I don't worry about the store anymore. It never fails when I have hot coffee I have to go somewhere. Did you watch Pearl Harbor? Did you watch it Jay? A lot of guys in the neighborhood didn't want to look at it. There was no blood. It was all sex the way I hear. My aunts are in Argentina.

I don't know nothing about it. You know what it is. It's not cold down there and the hot water gives heat. I didn't know it was like an apartment. Ronald the law library my friend Eddie he's the superintendent of the whole building. He'll make you use the law library if you want to. He's got a penthouse apartment. I know they got a cake store there. He changed the menu in there bacon and eggs.

I'm tired. I don't know what I'm tired about. You know who has a monkey Jay? Basilegole. He spits at you. He's in a cage. He's a clean monkey. He wants to get rid of it. I haven't been to his house in a long time. I don't know. I'm going to ask him. I'll ask Louie Friday. I never asked Phil. He's a retired Con Edison man. He's 77 years old.

One day a guy was telling me You know I saw you at Willowbrook. He saw my brother. We look the same with a hat on. Here he is right here. This is the only one you got. That's what it says there. That's the only one we got. Who do you think I met this morning? Your father. I thought I was half-dead in the morning. What time does he get up? I see him getting the paper. You know the ball

player Joe Torre? That's his cousin. You know my cousin Frankie? that's his cousin. His daughter gave birth to a baby. He asked me if I'm going. They didn't give me no invitation. I wouldn't go anyway. He said He's going to get his hat and coat.

In the day time like around eleven o'clock you see the First World War guys there. The old guys. They own the building. There's a big pot there with hot dogs and all at night. That's a new guy. Bobby got rid of them. You better believe it. You could see they're not Americans. They're from the Island. I had a guy he came in here one year he said he don't pay taxes. Look at this here. I'll take care of that Frances. I don't know. Oh come on. I told you before. What a repeater. That's his cousin. His brother was good. His brother was a big guy a first baseman. Baseball is not baseball anymore. With all this million dollars. Now the Yankees are looking for a shortstop. Any guy years ago could have been making more money. Those guys were pros. These guys are semi-pros 90% of them.

If that bartender leaves they tell me become a bartender there. Everybody take a turn there. I could never work as a bartender there. I'd been pouring more stuff on the bar than in a glass. It's an unprofit organization. Like if I bring you down there Michael you don't pay you're a guest. Don't forget to take the bagels home. He's writing everything I'm telling. Andy that guy he don't work he tells you he works. He collects unemployment. Maron this guy wants to know everybody's business. Like that guy in the DA's office. His father won't come to this country because he fought against us. That's stupid. How many Italian guys fought against their cousins. We had a church goer around our neighborhood. He's a button man he never misses. Like this they don't fall on the floor. I put the rubber ban around it.

A few came in with them. You know I'm the late man. I'm the VP. I had my breakfast. I brought it in here and ate it on your father's desk. You're talking about years ago not now. The yogurt place they close it as soon as they finish cleaning. That's what he told me. Youze won the horse came in second. These Chinese guys bet hundreds on a horse. My sister's taking him home for Christmas. He's not going to New York he's going to Jersey. Just for the day. It's up to him if he wants to come home he comes home if he wants to stay there he stays there. He's got a mind too you know.

My brother left me a nice selection. I think Vinnie got them. Marie youze ice skated didn't you? I'm talking about when you were younger. What about handball ever play handball? I didn't touch nothing. That's not his first name. His first name ain't John. Gee I didn't know his mother weighed 350 pounds. Johnny told me. When he said she was heavy I didn't know that big. Marie right? Johnny one hour you're talking and the next fifteen minutes he's different. He's a little sick in the head. Little Johnny I met him once he looks just like his father. The only one in that family whose normal is the kid who works in that store on New Street. The daughter's stonad too. I never knew she was sick. I didn't ask John. Take that. I'll use this. Nobody touched that.

Marie before you go in the back what are these here? I don't want to lose them. I don't know what you're doing right Mary? What is Ronald marking down everything we talk? That's a poor seller anyway. You mean One New York Plaza? That's not yours. It's all right nothing will happen. There's one dented one don't grab that one. You need seven. I don't have any just one this here. The coffee's right there. One time I had a horse. On the sheet it was 3-1. It paid 28 dollars. That don't mean nothing. OTB takes their own bets illegal booking.

Harry why don't you go to Lenny's in Staten Island. I heard the food there is very good. It's a seafood place. It's on TV. You know when it opened up? In July Harry. When my mother used to cook for Thanksgiving I used to love to eat the fat. She used to hit me.

You know some people were a little short he has a buck. He's shylocking in a bank. Like you go over to him and say Freddy I'm a little short. He got the red carpet treatment. They told him do like what you're doing and mind your own business. He's a trouble shooter in the bank like all the complaints go to him. I introduced you to him in Keno's. He got probation for two years. Look Margie he had a good job. He lives on Hurt and Second Street. He inherited it. Someone ratted on him. Look you need 150 you go to him. I don't even know what's upstairs. You should ask Harry. Like he's the man who's in charge of upstairs. They're all going to the same place. This way he'll probably never get it. There's the man in charge of upstairs. What did you write a history tonight? I'll have to get you a secretary. One more and that's it Margie. There was two more the one you were wrapping and the other.

The Chinese men have a little one. They go boom boom boom. But Americanized stay a long time. See the new buttons they have down the neighborhood? The American flag with the Italian flag. For Rockefeller. The Knights of Columbus brought them out. My friend Phil had one. You know what got me mad last night? The President of the United States is on television and this Chinese is playing the jukebox. I asked What are you? She said What can I do Pull the plug out?

I was always home. I was always with my mother. I got to get friendlier with that dog they got. He almost took my arm off in here so imagine in the house. They say like father like son. They say his father was just like that. Last week they were picking up Chinamen as if it was water. Shorty married Terry. He knocked her up then he married her. I would have spit in her face what are you kidding? I used to see him in the lot there eating that box. Remember Gracie? How many times did you bang her? She still lives by Avenue B. That little colored girl Jackie she's now in the Fish Market. She has no teeth. She resembled a lot of Pearl Bailey. When she was fourteen years old she had a pair of tits as big as your head. Her tits go right down to her ankles. He reminded me of Dopey Benny. He thought he won fifty dollars. He was doing this he was doing that. It turned out the horse lost.

Hello. All right. All right. Who is this Rosie? You coming down tomorrow? I got a pair of shoes for Shorty. Raymond bought them. I told him what to get account of the snow. He's a changed guy. Yeah. Yeah. You bringing the kids listen. All right. Okay. I want them to surprise him. No. How's Vinnie feeling? I'm taking some pills for my legs. They're all right. I had it since Sixie died. So far I didn't touch a drink. I'm taking these things and taking liquids. I'm feeling much better. Before they tell you I wanted to tell you. After the holiday I have everything for you. Don't forget the little television.

He was 47. He's doing better than anybody. A couple of guys went around the neighborhood looking for him. They thought he was on vacation. So Tommy Husken told them he's on a long vacation. It's about people sitting at all these tables and they don't know each other and at the end

they fall in love. There he goes Marie. It don't bother me. See the way I saved your cigarettes. You want my baby pictures? We were busy this morning. She won't get a ticket this time tonight.

I don't even know where I'm going tomorrow. You know the Chinese fellow who was around here he told me to come up the house that was nice. His name is Willie. He comes from a nice family too. The bag is reopened so I'm going to put it in this bag. Hold the bottom now. Take care. Use mine you're better off. Let me get out of the way. Don't touch this. Hit this here one. They have the same food as Americans. I know they have Turkey. He was talking about the underwear he wears. It cracked me up. Let me put this over here--like this here. Marie ain't going to be here Friday. They won't bother you or me or Harry or your mother if she's walking with Esther or Margie. They may say hello to Margie she looks Chinese. I think they set the steam off in here. If I'm not in the Chinese restaurant I'm in Follinis. You know I'm in the neighborhood Harry.

I know him since 15 Whitehall. He was telling me that her mother's a wealthy woman. She sounds like an Irish girl. They tell me she's Czech. Everything's okay. It's raining like cats and dogs outside. You know that. They forget about it last night. I got my new apartment and it's nice and everything. It's in a good section with people I know. Hold it Jay. This is the bar. Is that okay this here? That's the Chairman of the Board. That's Harry. What's her name Marilyn Green your daughter? I ain't going in that joint. I know people in there. I don't want them to know I'm doing business. I don't go in there. I don't go to Valentino's. I don't go to the White Horse do I?

Excuse me. What's that? I don't go upstairs. They were bringing it up themselves. There's steps going in the place. You know what I got to do now? I got to leave the handtruck outside. You know what's good about it? I go in the back. It's not even open. I was saying to myself How the hell can this restaurant make money? I tried to get in through the other side you know what I mean? I couldn't get into the building. When a paper stand gets rid of 850 that's a lot of papers. What about here? Look over there. Where's it from Germany? I don't wrap I just take money.

That's a paper. I got there before the girls got there. I got this roll over here. I had a pepper and eggs sandwich. I don't know. She wants it. I didn't even know it came in. Maron a me all of a sudden they go in the garbage. You going to see that picture again? Here's your Wild Irish Rose Marie. I got string. Thank you. What's that? What happened to my cigarette? The bus takes me right there Jay. I haven't seen your brother in two weeks. You should have seen Harry looking out of the car Jay. He thought I was getting a tip. I didn't get anything. I made five dollars so far. I put it in my can.

In the Revolution in Spain instead of going to South America they went to North America. They took the wrong boat. They were in such a hurry to get out. Every week you get a new name. How's your friend McCarthy? I hear he goes to Jimmy's house. Yeah. He's quiet in here with me. We missed you. McCarthy told me that he was in Bellview. Who knows?

I was thinking of going to that American Legion Club. You play cards. There's a pool table. There's a dart game. You know that dart game Harry. You know that fat guy with the bald head. A beer in there is 35 cents. You see if I bring either you or Ronald there you don't pay nothing. Like a guest. I thought that was Bobby in there. I sit down and watch television. Every time somebody

buys a round you're included. That's the way it goes down there. Four or six dollars is the limit--that's what I think. The last time I bought a round you know what it cost? Six forty five.

You ate those rolls that Charlie brought in. He said he never ate pizza. One day I passed Exchange Place and he was in there eating pizza. He said he never ate gabozelle. Just walk like a duck and you'll never fall down. Wait a minute Harry I'll be right back. The only ones you are going to get now are the melangians. I don't bother with nobody. I ring until you tell me not to. Oh there they are. Like this there's an old saying Where you eat you don't shit. There's no heat no electric. He's in there for good for a while. People are trying to say that there's stone is four billion years old. They can't remember twenty years ago. The moon was a mystery. Now all of a sudden they can tell you all about it. What theory they had.

I'll take the Park Row bus. Hello there. I got a kick out of it. If Lamston's don't have it the hardware store down here has it. You see how nice and neat they are? You got five of them in here. What Jay? I had enough for breakfast. I'll be right back. Ronald has a friend there. That's going in the back. You know it's a nice banana smell too. I didn't know you work in that building. You want a gift or a box? They're better off stale. That ain't Brian's brother. Brian went nuts. You're the one who made him nuts. He was more with you. Don't forget your bottle lady. I don't know. I got a lot of places to go Christmas. I don't know. I got to pick it out of a hat. Hey Jay what is this? I'm just saying it. I got to take a train and a bus and another bus. I never touch nothing.

All right George. That's George isn't it? I got to do a favor for your mother. I seldom eat cake. I ate crumb cake. You want me to bring back that sweet stuff with the honey on top? Wrapped together sir? I got there fast but coming back was bad. That First Avenue bus was bad. I went to the wrong building. I was supposed to go to 180. I went to 170. You know down where I live it was nice and warm Jimmy. You know me I was sleeping. I fell asleep during Kojack Jimmy. Look what she did to me. That bus was a beautiful ride. Let me find out tonight when I go home.

Maron you didn't stop yet. Just give us a break Harry. Maron a me. You know that guy Artie? He works for IT&T. He was more in the shithouse than on the phone. He's an operator. You know how many packs of cigarettes he owes me in twenty years. Who knows? Gee I couldn't believe it last night. It never happened to me before. I had a few beers. I caught the right bus home. I put on Kojack. I said Maron that's it. I got to take a Madison Street bus. I got to take a Broadway bus. I'm better off taking the train--the Seventh Avenue train. You know where you live Harry. It's a fast train. Every ten minutes there's a train there.

You went there Keno's where I introduced you as my nephew. On Nassau Street. Not that place that's a high class place. That's the original of Japanese restaurants downtown. Don't forget to bring that slip tomorrow. Paulie's a fast man behind there. The other two guys are slow. What stuff. Harry you want to visit his son? I been calling you Nino all these years. If you're at the house you try it. You know something you're going to like it. I wouldn't lie to you Nino. What's that over here? What's this? I wouldn't fool around with you you know that. You know brandy is nice. Have it with pussy. You like brandy don't you?

I went to Nino's barbershop one day at 2 Broadway. You should know you got a haircut from him. His son is a psychiatrist. That's why I told Harry to go to him. You wouldn't like it anyway. We used to have it years ago tripe and gabazelle. You wouldn't like it. It's like rubber. 180's going this way. 170's going that way. It's two different addresses Harry. Where I used to live. There's a beauty parlor there. It's on my way home. He's a well-liked black guy. Otherwise they wouldn't have kept him.

I thought it was Brian's brother. Brain went wacky. He had a real nasty attitude. Then he became a waiter. I don't have nothing against him. The last time I saw him in here he was laughing to himself. I think that girl did it to him. I like Leslie. Leslie was nice. She still cooks for you Ronald. I looked at him. I looked at your mother. She let him go home. You hit a Chinese. Who's fault was it? You replaced it? They think I'm nuts anyway.

You know who brought the bar on Madison Street? Joe Beck's brother. Joe Beck looks like he got old. What do they have meetings down there every night? One guy gave me a dirty look one night I said Maron I'm minding my own business watching TV. That must be the Columbo mob. Those guys come from Brooklyn. The car's parked outside. I don't know what today's date is. I go to that little place on Mulberry Street. I don't know the name of it but it's very good. You got on Mulberry Street they're all big restaurants today.

You got them over here. So long now. Thanks. It comes out even. I'm going to give you a handle. I have a box big enough for it. I got pickpocketed for the first time. I don't know why I carry these two things. I should carry one thing and that's that. The only pen I got here is a great one and a red one and a ruler. Yes miss. Jay you should have had the pea soup. It was nice and thick. Did you watch that thing they had on on MacArthur? I enjoyed it. It was all right. They had the right guy acting as Truman. They should have had the other guy who was William Rogers. Ralph Bellamy was better as Roosevelt. We were watching it in Follini's.

I don't know I just got them today. We had that wine years ago. Jay like this I don't know who said it like this over here sold very good. Nobody's around. Everybody was going home one o'clock who's going home two o'clock. It took them four hours to get to work. Up further underneath there. She took care of everybody. Mary collect seven thirty. Hold it. He's helping me. He's got a customer over there. I'll give you a call when you got too much. Those circulars are keeping me awake.

I eat in there. We watch the football games. At the bar we eat. I met Harry in the restaurant Christmas Day. Dave's corner. I was having breakfast. That's all right. Go ahead. I'll get rid of a lot of this junk. Maybe it's them pills. I called her up. She said it would be in today at four. This thing is full. I thought it was empty. I even told Marie Harry that thing is full. I had a lot of people they said Are you open? I said I'm here. You got to be kidding. Those customers ain't around. Who went to Jersey who got laid off. What's that? That's Marie. Tell Jonsie.

What's her name? This is all finished now here. You like them rolls? You got to give him a little break. He just told me that Lena is my kid. I'll see what Marie wants to do with these tomorrow. Wait a minute. All the boxes are cut. There's no stand. You have to buy the stand. Let me see what he wants me to do. This is since Friday. It's on the other side. He's a broken record. He repeats the

same. Who's she take after? Her son-in-law came in here lately. We didn't recognize him. We thought he was a salesman. Anybody's better than Luna. We go in there and order and in two minutes it comes out in a second.

I said he's in the 80's. I'm just saying. I just mentioned it. He comes in here all the holidays. He gave you cheese from France is right. I see him there. I was going to rob one from the bread guy. That's a Scotch. Where am I going to go? To Follini's and sit by myself. Even though I know the people they want you to get in on it. Excuse me ninety cents please. Pete Jimmy was looking for you just now. That belongs up here. I never got the car keys. His father blew his top last night over nothing. Over car keys. A guy down the neighborhood was 81. He got married to a woman 83. Let me go to the bathroom. I gave her a lot of credit. She showed a lot of respect. The way she ran over to your father Uncle Al. It was quiet for me anyway. It wasn't too bad. I saw him Monday. The kid's were fooling around with him in the street. I hollered at them. They were smacking him in the head. I seen that I stopped it. I'm better off going home.

How's her brother? Is he still heavy? What's this that other friend of yours Tiny. Let me give him the loose bottle the hell with him. A Happy New Year to both of yiz. I heard that one of the kids got married. Your sister still got the restaurant? You got to move that Anisette over. When I finish here where am I going to go? Why don't you go to Molock's house? Some Saturday you come with me Ronald. I forgot my hat this morning. He's not going to stay there long. Can I have a shopping bag? She's half-bagged. I never saw that girl with a skirt or dress. Maybe you left it home. I left him alone. He didn't listen to me so I said the hell with him. Right where the empty stop is. The girl in Trader's was telling me what she saw on TV this and that. He's in better shape than Harry. Where is it? It's not bad it's better now than it ever was.

At least there's no Italian ship in there. We got a Spanish ship. Here Margie give them to your nephew. No but I'm saying. She'll love that there's all the ship. Yeah there's an Italian. Harry it's all of them Swedish Russian. Everybody wanted to look at that Winston Churchill's one. You won't believe this here. Maybe he needs some stuff. Margie you want a yoga? Harry said there's nobody downstairs. I don't know maybe I'll take a walk down there. Who knows? You know how old that picture is? I seen it in high school. the only one I got right now is Port Thunderbird Rose and Irish Sherry. Tango is a buck thirty. That's the pint. Excuse me.

You seen a lot of Koreans and everything. They're taking over Staten Island. Japs and everything. He gets good checks. Pension and social security. He got mugged. He was going to buy a newspaper. You seen the new light they got on it. You got a colored-set home. They get five dollars a head on those buses to see the Statute of Liberty. When I was a kid and the Democratic Club used to give five bucks to get them out I used to throw them in the garage. I never liked the guy anyway. They'll be a lot of noise in the neighborhood tonight.

How old was I? I was seven years old. You know I'm surprised the camera shop ain't open. I ran around three different places. Yesterday I found ten dollars in the street. I saw something green and bended. You see that little fat one Lena? I figured she'd be a little girl from Reynold Security. The elevator system there is bad. I wasn't the only guy waiting on the fourth floor. I never got nothing

off that guy. One day they sent me up there I seen a sign that said, "Private." I'm banging on the door. What do you think? It's a toilet.

The Jewish guy gets after them. He's still a partner there. He still owns the corner store. Let's go out there and start a fight. You know who they got behind the counter--the cashier? Don't you want a coke? He charged me a dollar. There's more ice if you want it. He lost his job. The guy was here yesterday. Don't forget we opened late too. It's getting hot now. Even the girl from Wolf's said Gee I hope the people come in. He's got a lot of food. She told me that she said that's what's going to save him the catering. She said he's got more workers than people in there.

You know who's going to get a good view 29 Broadway where Uncle Herbie was. You see the Customs House? The front looks beautiful. The last time I was there 1953. I wonder if they fixed the street. The guy told me they were working double shifts triple shifts. Where I used to sit in the park. That's Joey's brother-in-law. He gets regular customers. It looked better today than the other day. You know the American Legion I went down there with Louie. The pizza was stiff as a board. My friend Chicken had a newsstand. I've got an Italian hat at home with an Italian flag on it. I'm going to wear it tomorrow.

There he goes with his pencil. Hey Jay. Chevas Regal is 11 dollars. I woke up Frances this morning. When I opened with you. It's the same old baloney. We got a lot of new faces in here that's what I'm talking about. Why don't you post the telephone on it. These are all new faces. I wanted to find out if I could go to the doctor today. They bring in themselves and they look around. It's raining hard outside. A few people came in today. You know why cause I want to go home and change. I did very good Saturday. I made over six hundred dollars. The first time in history. He spent around two hundred dollars.

He got it up in his office and he came down. The long skinny one. Who's that Jay? that's before my time. The window helped out a lot today. I got my new apartment. I don't smoke home. There's no ashtrays in my house. It's nice and quiet but I think I got neighbors on top my me with kids. Hi George. Don't forget this is the first time Jimmy. He's an engraver. He has metal he carries around. What are you doing then you really ruin me for tomorrow. The girl straightened me out. Where are you going to get a girl like that to take his abuse?

She was in here twice. I met her three times. Years ago we used to eat together and I could take him to my sister's house. He could tell you. He pays thirty two dollars. My sister seen it. He stunk. He smelled. The only way I did I took him to the Curb. Bobby was asking for you. He started to get a little wacky. You know why all these tutzunes are here? For the relief. Ronald Reagan passed a law in California. You have to be there five years. Is that true?

Like this Benny's always asking for you. I saw three funerals. Chinese funerals. They really send them off good. They carry them in the street. The kid left a tape recorder. It cost \$175. I couldn't live there. My sister got a letter from that family in Ithaca. I started when I was twelve and quit when I was seventeen. I was in that 112 pound class then the 136 pound class. My mother rapped me in the head with a broom. She saw me on television. My mother caught me fighting a three

rounder. You know who could tell you my friend Pat. I couldn't believe when he got divorced. I thought that wedding would last a long time. He could take a punch.

Boy you sound like you're in Chicago. Everything's all right. Tell your father that the barber guy came in and spent \$100. Like this he'll sleep at night. You want it wrapped or in a bag sir? I need to get laid. That Rangers got some team this year. It sells very good no complaints.

Jerry was here asking for you. He's 89 he ain't 90. He must eat good. Look you need three packs of cigarettes. He works off and on. In the winter time he don't work because of the snow. He stays home. The restaurant where I eat is drafty I had to put on my coat. You know what moved good today roses. I got it out in the window. She's got a young brother and sister. They're younger than her. Coffee with a little rum in it that's Rum Royal. I'll eat then go to the park. Last night I went to see somebody everything's all right I told him I didn't know nothing about it. I put ten stitches in his head. It cost me 1,800 dollars. I got tried across the street. Everything come to 1,800 dollars. I had to pay his doctor's bills his lawyers everything come to 1,800. I'll see yiz honey. Some guy said you looked like my brother. I had to scratch my head.

Harry what's Asia like? It's like Thailand. His two kids are fooling around with narcotics. At 17 she was built like an ox. He cursed on my mother in Chinese. He's cunt crazy. He eats it. He told me. What's wrong with him? When I feel like it I go. On Saturdays Harry watches the ships come in. I don't kiss nobody's ass. That's the way I am. He's better off. I never asked nobody for nothing. That's why he never had a successful life. Harry used to eat in them missions. They gave you coffee hot soup and a piece of bread in East St. Louis. In Boston the mission was run by the police.

You should go to Val's bar Ronald. It's owned by three cops. It's under their mother's name. Like this here if you said Harry was the owner here. One uncle's a captain another's a lieutenant another's a court attendant. They're all cops in that family. On Saturday they have a nice thing like cold cuts. Harry joined the army twice and they took him. The mice and the two cats in that restaurant were like buddies. They protected them. Like if a black cat would come around they would chase him away.

His father raised him and he raised them. In that neighborhood who married a girl in Brooklyn who married a girl in Queens. Everybody protected everybody's sisters like each family protects their kids. Everybody married out of the neighborhood. The Irish got more beatings in that neighborhood years ago. I gotta take a shit. The Irish cops didn't want to work. The Italian cops would go up to your house to tell your mother like this to correct you. I know the whole two bartenders in there. The Chinese they're all over in Spain in Ireland in Italy.

When I was a kid in Catholic school I couldn't speak English. This nun said to get over there. I didn't understand her. She grabbed me and smacked me. So I sat down. She smacked me again. So I smacked her back. They threw me out of school. My mother gave me a beating. The time I had Louise we were in the warehouse. She was fifteen. I thought she was 18. Louie always says Lena is yours. The kid looks like my sister Rose. Maron. Louie always had money as a kid. He hustled. He sold newspapers. He sold bread he swindled people. One time he told me to go to the paper stand with him. He robbed them and I got blamed for it.

I think I'm catching a sore throat. That's been up there almost a year. How's your television? You're that busy? Look at all the money you make. You know who I'm thinking of? The kid. Five dollars all together. It's going to go down with this peanut guy. A lot of people on Wall Street don't want to believe that he won. Listen to this here. He lugged two cases of beer to my apartment when I was on Jane Street and put one in the refrigerator. He's crazy. His brother was a judge. They found him in a car. Some people say he took drugs. A watchman found him in a car with a condom on. It was during the war. Down the neighborhood they say he died at the front.

Harry said Los Angeles has over 100 million people. You know what I saw last week? A pin ball machine. Jimmy What ever happened to the pin ball machines? We used to have the highest score of the week when I was a kid. If you got 399 and someone else got 398 you play him again in the candy store. Now they have it in bowling. Those guys practice night and day. One guy was the champ for the week. He got five dollars. If you were stranded in the desert and you didn't have no food or water you know you could live off beer.

In the winter time you die in Ithaca. People up there are different than New Yorkers. I took a drive for two days I wound up staying eight months. There you say good morning here you say it they want to kill you. I came in early today at nine. Then I went out to eat. I usually go to the movies on Saturday like this let me keep from Benny. You see all these places in the movies like I do. When you see it a couple of times you think you were there.

Youze telephone guys must be busy. Down where I live they're fixing all the phones. Like if I call this Chinese woman she won't get a call. The pipes went bad. They're broke. Nobody answers no dial. They're full of shit. Them guys don't want to work. Like here if they catch a guy selling dope they're loopholes. Too much money is involved.

Where I live there was a fire. They woke us up around six. I wanted Harry to get a room in the hotel but he wouldn't. Right Harry there were bums there. This guy's mattress was on fire. I take the Third Avenue bus up to Fort George. Maybe I walk to Yankee Stadium then I'll come home. It relaxes you. You'd be surprised sitting in Battery Park. I drink in bars down the neighborhood. Maybe I'll take the ferry to South Beach. My friend owns a carnival there. I help him out. My friend went to bed smoking. People from the other side could see smoke. The fireman had to break down the door. He was in bed sleeping. They had to wake him up. I wonder if the floor stinks. From the fire this morning.

I was better as a kid in athletics than Louie. I beat him out in this dancing contest they had at the church. He died of a heart attack like Clark Gable that's what killed him. You should have seen this place at twelve we did some business. You remember Grant Ronald? That's what he died of. He used to work in here. Jimmy liked that guy. He worked in this place up in Times Square he told Jimmy during the war. It was filled with sailors and soldiers all day. They were about to go over seas and were out for a good time. It didn't matter what you charged them. They would pay anything. The guy who owned the place made some money during the war.

You got gay on the brain. Harry never had a home-cooked meal since he was fourteen. The last time he had one he was in school. He even ate horseshit that guy. He ate anything. He ate goulash. He rode freight trains. He rode the train from El Paso to Phoenix. The cops chased him. I met my old flame down the neighborhood. The one who double crossed me. I helped her husband out. He needed thirty dollars for the rent. I figured I'd do it for the kids. I never saw the money. I didn't recognize her. She had her hair different. You know what I mean. She told the kids to call me Uncle Frankie. I went up to Buffalo from the neighborhood. She got married when I was working on construction. Maron it was cold that winter.

They have free speech in this country. But tomorrow if you get up and say to hell with the Italians or Jews they say you're anti-Jewish. What do you think Jimmy's brother got pinched for? What do you call it molesting a young kid. I saw him across from the Tombs. He came in with the bondsman when they got bailed out. You knew Jimmy's brother Harry? Not this Jimmy Jimmy down the neighborhood. What characters were in that bar. Ming beards long hair. I only touched he said. We had a few beers. I said How old was the kid? He said she was eight. Get the fuck out of here I said. That bar was clean Harry. I told him Get the fuck away from me. Harry all my life I ate it raw now I want to see how it tastes cooked. He worked at the Hilton Hotel. I told him You need a bath.

My father met my mother through a dance. He was a seaman. I could have got a job as an elevator operator at the school there. In the autumn time you see the leaves change. This place Joe's has hero sandwiches. I almost rapped him one day. That's a big place I hear today. Tell me Harry California is that all hills? That family had some money. He had a job in the post office for years. His brother had two carts down the feast. They got seventy-five cents for sausages. He had some nerve. You knew Chicky Harry. He was a junky from the Bronx.

I'm talking serious. I'm serious now. Don't write this down. Tony G. Hey Al I broke the rules. First time in how many years Al? It was better than Chevy Harry. I'm only kidding. Someday you're going to hear a nice story. I had a friend who was in the Coast Guard. We have a lot of your chefs in here. The guy with the beard. I used to make a lot of those deliveries to the colonels. They were lawyers. They used to have Kangaroo courts over there. They used to knock off the bourbon. I wish yiz fellas luck. I'm talking about the Army. What about that time Gallagher was with the Koreans. They had all that trouble over there.

Hey Harry my brother came in at 8:00 o'clock this morning. How come he'll be leaving 10:00 o'clock tonight? You try Charlie's cordial? They have another one too that's a 3 star. This is Frankie. I didn't see them in here. Maybe they were busy and they forgot.

He said he worked in a circus. Every time the elephant was taking a shit he was picking it up. It was a good movie but anyone could have acted that part Harry. It didn't do good on Broadway. I was surprised Charie gave me a shot. He's a nervous wreck that kid.

Harry Channel 9 and 13 are the best. They don't talk about Benny anymore. Harry knew Benny many years. You know why Harry he had respect for you because of me. The only time they talk about hi when they're drinking and they bring out loco Ben and this and that.

Last week I went down to Follinis and they didn't know I was a boxer. I want to get my mother's picture off my brother. If anything happens to him they're no used to this wife's kids. They're his step-kids. What the hell should my mother's picture be there?

You see signs in the windows. Down the neighborhood they want bus boys. The blacks don't want to work. You knew Siggny's son the painter. He went to school for that. Ming you should see what he painted. They say he takes it on the brown Harry. You know who was like that that actor. His wife left him on account of that. Tell him about the old days when you used to go down on it. That's how I lost my teeth. Lately I get along with him. I yes him to death. Right Harry? He goes this and that and I go Yeah Yeah. You got to watch these melangians. They work in pairs. They wanted to get to Thirty Broad Street.

Louie had some beautiful daughter. She looked like Heddy Lamar. I didn't get up Sunday until three around four. I got up four o'clock. I went to eat. Then you blame me. I got rid of him out of here, twice. Louie. What he did to Al that year. He took his thing out and he was waving it at him. What. Yeah. All right. Yeah quite a while. She gave me a check that bounced. He asked me for money. I got him half a buck and got rid of him. Benny's got money. He was a cab driver truck driver. He sold fire crackers. That's when money was money. He sold them in Long Island and Jersey not down the neighborhood.

You got everything in the feast now Greeks colored Puerto Ricans. I didn't even go through it this year. It isn't the same thing as years ago. I'd rather have it once in a while not everyday Won Ton soup. Excuse me. Clean this out for me. Throw it in the bowl. Where's those things you put it for the coffee pot? I found it. Where's that thing for the water? Here it is. I'm looking for that thing for the coffee. I got a cigarette. How would I do two thing at once? You see this thing here? There's water in here and when you put the water in here it goes in there. You put the water on top and the water comes up.

I wanted for him to pass a remark. Harry what do you want? If my brother in law didn't have them bum eyes he would have taken that all the way out to Engletown. But my sister in law don't want to drive. You know what I mean? What's that? Leave it over here I'm going to use it. That's something else. Before the thing slides off the counter pick it up. You know the coffee tastes good. The customer says you're going around in circles. I'll tell you something. I'd rather walk in the street with Betsy than with Margie.

I don't know. Maybe it's my eyes. He's something that guy. I'm still here a quarter after seven. I'm looking for a box. They cut up everything. He eats it I bet. They go all the way. He even sucks her asshole. The first time I met him he was here. What's that his brother's with him? You know that company laid off three hundred people. Then they were doing so good they hired six hundred people. I don't understand that company.

When a customer comes in give me two of this give me three of that. We get the worst kind down here. With the gift certificates. That's what I'm trying to bring out Jimmy. I charged him a nickel more. She wouldn't last a week down here. Jimmy and I get the worst of it. She used to fight every year with them. What are you talking about? What's the one underneath? It goes to some fuck on Broadway. I thought the whole three of them went together. The only thing I don't like is where you go up there they give you a lot of nickels. They must be superstitious. They must have a lot of Chinese working up there. Harry he's no fucking good that cocksucker.

She gave me a headache Saturday. Where's a spoon? When was it years ago with the money drawer he used to put coupons in it. I can't open it. I don't want to talk. Like I used to tell Al if I'm going my sister's on a Saturday I'd say I'm going to take this. He'd say Take this expensive stuff. I always take what he tells me. Only one person that aggravates me is that Molly. I pawned her off on Jay. She started off with that 49 cents wine. She wants it gift wrapped. She's a ball breaker.

What do you want he had to go sometime. When Al used to go shopping he used to make me hold that dog. He used to shake. You know something that dog never liked me. Who's gloves are these? That dog's fifteen years old. I never hear of a dog living that long. Harry said it's like an ice box in here. Maron if you ever saw that dog you'd run too. Harry said Al can't talk to him like that he's no moron.

You know who was asking for you? Vito. He's got a good job Harry. He comes in here every night before we close. Bristol Cream. He makes some overtime. Grant was a driver before he worked here. Right Harry. He drovered for a polo player years ago. You should hear him tell the stories Harry. He couldn't read or write the kid. He had this blonde wife maron. She signed checks. Harry tell them about Annie across the street the waitress in Jiffies. She lives in Bay Ridge they're nice Italians right Harry not like Al. All he did was play polo this kid. Grant said he was stupid like Louie. He took the test for the post office but they didn't give him enough time to finish all the answers.

Harry passed the test for the University of Oklahoma. Right Jay but they took him in the army instead. A guy in front of him got killed. Harry hit him with a wrench Tell Ronald that story Harry about the colored guy on the ship you belted that time. He thought he killed him. We took in 600 dollars on a Saturday. Money never meant nothing to Harry. That's why he had to leave the ships. I'm Spanish I'm Italian. You know what they say that Al Smith was Italian.

Chicky's son takes it on the brown. No I'm all right. The only thing that annoys me is him. Ask the stock man there. I never knew he was shorter than me. How come they call him Shorty and me Shorty? He doesn't know yet. My sister's going to bring the news to me. Maybe Rose will be down Saturday. What a cake the kid cooked for me. He's mad as it is about the kids that went on the delivery. I'll never forget it. Youse forget about them things. How many times did I take care of you?

A pink of Johnny Walker. Around eight cents you owe me. What? He said nothing. I'll see you later. I don't use those there. That's what I don't understand that's why I'm arguing. I have a cough.

He'll come in now. Like the other guy. Watch you'll see. Al took him in the back to have a drink and they robbed his shirt. A forty-five dollar shirt.

Hello big mouth. All right. But not today it bothered me a little yesterday and today. It's the phone. Yeah. Yeah. How's big mouth doing? You got a cold? Hello Marie. You got a boyfriend yet? Is he fat? What? Maron what a name that is. Listen I want to wish you a Merry Christmas. That Patricia moved right? That's that Amaratto. What's the problem's name? He must have been from Neal's. What time is it? Seven thirty. You want to know something if I clean this she goes over it anyway. You know what it is? With this here thing eight people got to drink it all at once. If it lays here it gets cold.

Brian's in the bug house. Every time he came in he looked at me and laughed. He used to look at me and smile. He'd work two hours and walk out. He went to Fordham and took up law like Ronald. Close the door when yiz go out. Spanish is going to be the big thing today. That's all they teach in is Spanish. What's that kid's name? Ira? You see that thing there? Inside. Over me pull it. Pull that thing down. Underneath it. You know the things that's up you pull it down. That little door over there. That's it. I think it's these showers too.

Before I became behind the counter I had a list I put orders on it. This is going back. Years ago. You get what I mean? At that time the expensive stuff is what it costs today. A friend of mine was here. You know him. Curly. I had the fellows from the fishmarket coming down. Those guys went out of business. My brother that I just lost two months ago. We got to wait another year we might put in a tombstone.

(Ron Martinetti attended The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut and later studied art history and literature at Columbia.)

lost chapter/

Jay you remember serving this man Calvert or Seagram's? This here one here. I don't do nothing. I don't know. He must be home. I don't know. I go with a truck. The guy drops me off with a car. I should go to Hollywood. The walk will do me good. We watch the football games at Follini's. We watch a couple of movies. I met what's his name there Larry our bookkeeper. I made the reservation in my name. Larry said they got very good service.

I don't do nothing. I go home now. I went back to the hotel. I been sleeping too much. Twelve hours sleep. I get up dopey. I been sleeping with a clean head. Something should bother me that way I'd jump out of bed. I used to worry about the store. I don't worry about

the store anymore. It never fails when I have hot coffee I have to go somewhere. Did you watch Pearl Harbor? Did you watch it Jay? A lot of guys in the neighborhood didn't want to look at it. There was no blood. It was all sex the way I hear. My aunts are in Argentina.

I don't know nothing about it. You know what it is. It's not cold down there and the hot water gives heat. I didn't know it was like an apartment. Ronald the law library my friend Eddie he's the superintendent of the whole building. He'll make you use the law library if you want to. He's got a penthouse apartment. I know they got a cake store there. He changed the menu in there bacon and eggs.

I'm tired. I don't know what I'm tired about. You know who has a monkey Jay? Basilegole. He spits at you. He's in a cage. He's a clean monkey. He wants to get rid of it. I haven't been to his house in a long time. I don't know. I'm going to ask him. I'll ask Louie Friday. I never asked Phil. He's a retired Con Edison man. He's 77 years old. (added to page 37)

lost fragment

Boy you sound like you're in Chicago. Everything's all right. Tell your father that the barber guy came in and spent \$100. Like this he'll sleep at night.

lost chapter

You want it wrapped or in a bag sir? I need to get laid. That Rangers got some team this year. It sells very good no complaints. (page 46)

I'm talking serious. I'm serious now. Don't write this down. Tony G. Hey Al I broke the rules. First time in how many years Al? It was better than Chevy Harry. I'm only kidding. Someday you're going to hear a nice story. I had a friend who was in the Coast Guard. We have a lot of your chefs in here. The guy with the beard. I used to make a lot of those deliveries to the colonels. They were lawyers. They used to have Kangaroo courts over there. They used to knock off the bourbon. I wish yiz fellas luck. I'm talking about the Army. What about that time Gallagher was with the Koreans. They had all that trouble over there.

Hey Harry my brother came in at 8:00 o'clock this morning. How come he'll be leaving 10:00 o'clock tonight? You try Charlie's cordial? They have another one too that's a 3 star. This is Frankie. I didn't see them in here. Maybe they were busy and they forgot.

He said he worked in a circus. Every time the elephant was taking a shit he was picking it up. It was a good movie but anyone could have acted that part Harry. It didn't do good on Broadway. I was surprised Charie gave me a shot. He's a nervous wreck that kid.

Harry Channel 9 and 13 are the best. They don't talk about Benny anymore. Harry knew Benny many years. You know why Harry he had respect for you because of me. The only time they talk about hi when they're drinking and they bring out loco Ben and this and that.

Last week I went down to Follinis and they didn't know I was a boxer. I want to get my mother's picture off my brother. If anything happens to him they're no used to this wife's kids. They're his step-kids. What the hell should my mother's picture be there?(page 53)

lost fragment

He's brainwashing me about the feast now.

You got to go in the day time.

You know what get's me when I see the kids.

I got to get out of there I'm afraid one of them might suffocate.

I would have had it in the drawer there till next week.

Give me a big wide bag.

Nobody ever knew where Benny was buried till the last minute.

I said a prayer for you. Saint Rocco I went to.

It used to be a big feast years ago in the old neighborhood.

My wish came true. Ronald's going to law school.

St. Rocco's church we had. Mother Cabrini was a nun there. I must be nuts talking to this guy.

He's writing a book about me and Harry.

You know what it was like I'm saying. They had zupplas. It's not the same. You go through it now they have Koreans they have Japanese.

You know what they get for a stand now I hear \$2,000 You have to sell a lot of sausage.