

Uncle Sylvio

An Original Screenplay by:  
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FADE IN:

INT. CAR - DAY

A bus stopped at the corner of a street in an upper middle-class neighborhood. All houses look the same. Large green lawns. Trees and flowers in bloom. Birds CHIRP.

SYLVIO (79) walks off of the bus. He has white hair, wearing a beret, khaki pants too short, a sweater vest too baggy. He is holding two boxes of pastries.

Cars pass drive along the street frequently. ESTHER (42), is wearing an orange vest, holding a crossing sign. She waits by the cross walk. Sylvio approaches her. He tips his beret.

SYLVIO  
Good afternoon, miss.

ESTHER  
Hello, sir. Any special Easter plans for today?

SYLVIO  
Goin' to see my son, Angelo, at his girlfriend's house.

ESTHER  
Handsome name. That's lovely.

Esther looks both ways down the street. Cars bustle by.

SYLVIO  
I neva met her, though. Judy, the girlfriend. She's got a kid. Joey, I think.

ESTHER  
I see.

SYLVIO  
He's forty-years-old and he spends every holiday with her family. I'm neva invited.

Esther hesitates.

ESTHER  
Well, they invited you this time, so that's nice.

Esther looks both ways down the street. She gestures for Sylvio to cross with her.

(CONTINUED)

SYLVIO

Nah, they don't know I'm comin'. I haven't talked to him for five years. I brought his favorite pastries as a, uh, ticket or somethin' to get inside.

Sylvio CHUCKLES. Esther smiles. Esther and Sylvio cross the street.

ESTHER

If you don't mind me asking, how do you know where Julie lives?

SYLVIO

Judy. I, uh, got connections.

Esther LAUGHS.

ESTHER

Okay, Don Corleone. You have a wonderful Easter, then. Good luck with your son.

Esther walks back across the street. Sylvio salutes goodbye. He takes a piece of paper out of his pocket. He squints at it.

SYLVIO

Could be twenty-six...

Sylvio holds it farther away from him. He squints.

SYLVIO (CONT'D)

Or twenty-eight...nah.

Sylvio walks up the street. He walks up to house number twenty-six.

INT. FOYER - DAY

The front doorbell RINGS. NICKY (6) scurries to the door. His face and hands are covered in chocolate. He opens the door. Sylvio stands hunched with two boxes of pastries.

SYLVIO

Hey kid. You must be Joey.

NICKY

I'm Nicky.

(CONTINUED)

SYLVIO

You're name's supposed to be Joey.

Nicky puts out his hand to shake, Sylvio stares at it, looks disgusted.

SYLVIO (CONT'D)

Sorry kid. I hate chocolate.

NICKY

I love chocolate.

SYLVIO

I see that.

Sylvio peeks his head into the house. He steps in.

SYLVIO (CONT'D)

Do ya know where Angelo is?

NICKY

He was sleeping when he got here.  
But I gotta go. I don't want to  
miss the hunt!

Nicky scurries off. Sylvio closes the door behind him. He scratches his head.

SYLVIO

Sleepin' when he got here?

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

SOPHIA (35) is loading the washing machine. Nicky walks in.

NICKY

Is it time for the hunt yet?

SOPHIA

Not yet, sweetie.

Sophia looks at Nicky.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

You're a wreck! No more chocolate  
until after the Easter egg hunt.  
Who was at the door?

NICKY

Some old man.

(CONTINUED)

SOPHIA

Are you sure it wasn't Aunt Lotti?  
You thought she was a man at  
Christmas when she forgot her wig.

Nicky LAUGHS.

NICKY

It's not her, mommy. She's sleeping  
on the sofa.

Sophia CHUCKLES.

SOPHIA

Drink in hand, I'm sure.

NICKY

What are you doing in here? When  
are we gonna do the Easter egg  
hunt?

SOPHIA

Soon enough. Baby Angelo spit up on  
my blouse.

Sophia holds up the dirty blouse. She puts it in the washing  
machine.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cozy living room. ITALIAN MUSIC playing softly.

LOTTI (87) sleeping on the couch. Wig crooked. Mouth open.  
Legs sprawled. Wine glass half full in one hand. Biscotti  
cookie in the other.

ANETTE (70), attractive older woman, sitting next to GINA  
(45), wearing clothes too tight and too young, red lipstick.

Sylvio walks in holding pastry boxes. He waves. ANETTE and  
GINA wave.

ANETTE poofs her hair, looks to GINA, whispers:

ANETTE

Who's that? He's handsome.

GINA

I was gonna say the same thing!

Sylvio gestures to LOTTI.

(CONTINUED)

SYLVIO  
Musta had a rough day.

GINA  
If you think this is rough, you  
shoul<sup>d</sup>a seen her at Christmas!

Sylvio smiles.

SYLVIO  
You ladies seen Angelo by any  
chance?

ANETTE  
Sophia is feeding him on the lawn,  
I think.

SYLVIO  
No wonder he loves it here. You  
guys pamper him at this joint.

Anette and Gina smile. Sylvio exits. Gina nudges Anette.

GINA  
He's cute for you Anette!

ANETTE  
Shh! He might hear you.

Anette looks at the door Sylvio exited. She poofs her hair.

GINA  
And you know he ain't cheap! *Two*  
boxies of pastries!

Anette flattens out her shirt, sits up straight. Gina nudges Anette.

GINA (CONT'D)  
You know who I think he is?  
Sophia's uncle. From Jersey.

ANETTE  
Didn't he pass away in the '90's?

EXT. LAWN - DAY

Gina and Chiarra stand by the punch bowl. Sylvio enters the lawn, still holding the pastries. Gina nudges Chiarra.

(CONTINUED)

GINA  
Sophia's uncle. From Jersey.

Chiarra nods. Sylvio approaches. He smiles.

SYLVIO  
Hello ladies.

Chiarra waves. Gina smiles.

SYLVIO  
Do either of you know where I can  
find Angelo?

CHIARRA  
Last I saw, he was drinkin' a  
bottle on the deck.

Sylvio scratches his head.

SYLVIO  
Drinkin'? Why the hell is he  
drinkin' so early in the day?

GINA  
That's pretty much all he does.

Gina and Chiarra CHUCKLE.

SYLVIO  
Gee...that ain't good.

GINA  
What can ya do, huh?

Sylvio scratches his head.

SYLVIO  
Can I ask you ladies a question?

Chiarra and Gina nod.

SYLVIO (CONT'D)  
Has Angelo, uh, ever mentioned that  
he's got a father?

CHIARRA  
He doesn't really talk much...

SYLVIO  
I see.

GINA  
He's just a baby.

Sylvio nods. He begins walking away.

SYLVIO  
(to himself)  
Rude is what he is. Acts like a  
damn baby.

Sylvio exits. Sophia approaches. Sophia looks to Chiarra.

SOPHIA  
Who was that?

CHIARRA  
Your uncle, ya know, from Jersey.

SOPHIA  
What? No. He died in '93.

Anette walks over. She pours punch into a cup. She takes a sip.

ANETTE  
Jesus! This punch could wake the  
dead! How much alcohol's in here?

CHIARRA  
Lotti brought it.

Anette makes a face and puts her cup on the table. Chiarra nudges Gina.

CHIARRA (CONT'D)  
That's it! He must be Lotti's  
boyfriend! Ya know, the biker.

Sophia CHUCKLES.

GINA  
Yea, yea! Must be. Looks like he  
could have a wild side! Don't be  
fooled by that beret!

EXT. LAWN - DAY

Flavia is standing. Nicky and CHILDREN play. Sophia approaches.

(CONTINUED)



SOPHIA  
Flav, where's baby Angelo?

Flavia holds up a baby monitor.

FLAVIA  
Greg's been up there for twenty  
minutes trying to put him down for  
a nap. He should be good for two  
hours or so once he's asleep.

Sophia smiles.

SOPHIA  
Who? Greg or the baby?

Flavia LAUGHS.

FLAVIA  
Both of them, at this rate.

Sophia smiles.

SOPHIA  
We can start the Easter egg hunt in  
a few.

Nicky's eyes widen, he smiles.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
I see Nicky's all ready! Who's your  
partner this year, sweetie?

Nicky points to Sylvio from afar.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
Lotti's boyfriend? Why him?

NICKY  
He hates chocolate! I wont even  
have to share!

Sophia CHUCKLES. Nicky scurries off.

EXT. DECK - DAY

Sylvio sits on a chair, holding the pastries on his lap.  
Anette enters. She pulls up a chair, puts out her hand.

ANETTE  
Hi. Anette.

Sylvio smiles. He takes Anette's hand and kisses it.

(CONTINUED)

SYLVIO  
You have beautiful eyes, miss.

Anette blushes.

ANETTE  
I figured I'd introduce myself  
seeing as your, uh, *escort* is  
sleeping.

Sylvio smiles.

SYLVIO  
Sleeping, drinking...that's all my  
*escort's* been doing at this party.

Anette LAUGHS.

SYLVIO (CONT'D)  
Lovely family you got here, though.  
I understand why Angelo loves you  
guys.

Anette smiles.

ANETTE  
The feeling's mutual, of course.  
He's the newest member of our  
family.

Sylvio smiles.

SYLVIO  
Speak of the devil, I haven't seen  
him all day.

ANETTE  
Me either, come to think of it. He  
gets a lot of attention, that one.  
Just too cute!

SYLVIO  
(sarcastically)  
Yea...cute.

Nicky runs over and tugs on Sylvio's shirt.

SYLVIO (CONT'D)  
Oh hey, kid. You seen Angelo?

NICKY  
He was playing in the living room a  
few minutes ago.

(CONTINUED)

Sylvio scratches his head.

SYLVIO  
Playin'?

NICKY  
Will you be my partner?

Sylvio looks confused.

ANETTE  
He means for the Easter egg hunt.

NICKY  
Pleeeeeeease?

SYLVIO  
Uh...okay...sure, kid.

Nicky pulls Sylvio out of his chair.

SYLVIO  
What about the pastries?

Anette takes the pastries from Sylvio.

ANETTE  
I didn't catch your name.

Nicky drags Sylvio towards the lawn.

SYLVIO  
Sylvio.

NICKY  
Come on, Uncle Sylvio!

Anette smiles.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

LOTTI is sleeping on the couch, legs sprawled out. Anette enters, holding the pastries. She pats LOTTI'S shoulder.

ANETTE  
Your boyfriend's here.

LOTTI GRUNTS.

ANETTE (CONT'D)  
You are being awfully rude to your guest.

(CONTINUED)

LOTTI sits up startled. She opens one eye. She grabs for the pastries. Anette gently slaps her hand.

ANETTE (CONT'D)  
No! I'm leaving these in the  
kitchen. Your boyfriend's here!

Lotti lays back down. Anette shrugs. She leaves. Lotti sits up and opens her eyes. She takes a swig of her drink.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Lotti is eating Sylvio's pastries, beer in hand. ROBERT (70) chubby, gray pony tail, wearing leather jacket, holding a few, ugly flowers and a helmet, enters.

ROBERT  
Lotti, darling!

Robert hands Lotti flowers. Lotti takes them without looking at Robert.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Is it dinna time yet?

LOTTI  
Robby, don't take this the wrong  
way...

Lotti takes a swig of beer.

LOTTI (CONT'D)  
I think we should be friends.

EXT. LAWN - AFTERNOON

Gina and Anette sit in folding chairs. Lotti walks over, pours a drink and sits next to Gina.

GINA  
So how's the boyfriend?

LOTTI  
Eh, I dumped 'im.

Lotti takes a swig. Anette poofs her hair, her eyes widen. Gina nudges Anette. Anette smiles.

Gina looks to Sylvio from afar. Sylvio is hobbling behind Nicky with a bucket. Gina whispers.

(CONTINUED)

GINA  
He's better off, anyway.

LOTTI  
What?

GINA  
(louder)  
I said, he brought a generous  
housewarming gift and everythin'.

LOTTI  
Generous? He's a cheap bastard!  
Didn't even bring my favorite  
spread.

Lotti takes a swig. Gina whispers to Anette.

GINA  
Since when is she a picky eater?

LOTTI  
What?

GINA  
(louder)  
I said, is he still gonna eat  
dinner here?

Lotti takes a swig.

LOTTI  
Oh, yea. I can't get rid of 'im.

Gina shakes her head. She whispers to Anette.

GINA  
Poor guy.

LOTTI  
What?

GINA  
(louder)  
Pour anotha drink.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

A flood of PEOPLE come into the kitchen. Chiarra approaches Anette. Robert walks in behind her.

(CONTINUED)

CHIARRA  
I saw you talking to Lotti's  
boyfriend.

Anette smiles. Robert looks over at Chiarra and Anette.

CHIARRA (CONT'D)  
Was he nice?

ANETTE  
Very sweet. Lotti broke up with  
him, too!

Robert scratches his head. Sylvio and Nicky walk into the  
kitchen.

CHIARRA  
What?!

ANETTE  
Shh. He just walked in.

Anette gestures towards Sylvio. Robert looks at Sylvio,  
confused.

Lotti enters. Sylvio approaches Anette.

ANETTE (CONT'D)  
Hello, Sylvio.

Sylvio smiles.

SYLVIO  
Is there assigned seating tonight?

Anette LAUGHS softly.

ANETTE  
Of course not.

Lotti walks over to Sylvio. Robert watches.

SYLVIO  
In that case, would you like to  
join me?

Anette blushes. Lotti looks at Sylvio.

LOTTI  
Hey there handsome.

Robert frowns. He approaches Lotti and Sylvio.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT

Hey!

Robert pokes Sylvio.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Who the heck are you?

Sylvio puts his hands up. Anette looks at Robert.

ANETTE

What are you doing?

Sylvio looks at Anette.

SYLVIO

I don't understand.

ROBERT

Lotti, you've been cheating on me  
with this punk?

Lotti takes a swig of her drink. Anette looks at Robert.

ANETTE

Who are you?

ROBERT

Lotti's boyfriend!

LOTTI

*Was!* You was my boyfriend. No more.

Lotti takes a swig of her drink.

SYLVIO

I don't understand. I'm Angelo's  
father.

Anette GASPS.

ANETTE

What?

Sophia approaches Sylvio. Flavia walks over, holding BABY  
ANGELO.

SOPHIA

What's going on here?

ANETTE

Sylvio says he's Angelo's father!

(CONTINUED)

FLAVIA  
Who the hell is Sylvio?

Anette points to Sylvio.

ROBERT  
Who's Angelo?

Lotti points to BABY ANGELO. She takes a swig of her drink.

SYLVIO  
What? No, no, my Angelo's forty  
years old!

Sophia looks at Anette and then back to Sylvio.

SOPHIA  
I'm sorry, sir, but is there a home  
I could call for you?

SYLVIO  
No, no. *My son*, Angelo. He's Judy's  
boyfriend.

ANETTE  
Judy?

SOPHIA  
I have a neighbor named Judy.

Sylvio scratches his head.

FLAVIA  
I think you're at the wrong house,  
uh...Sylvio.

Anette looks at Sylvio. Sylvio pulls the piece of paper out  
of his pocket. He squints at it.

SYLVIO  
I can't read a damn thing.

Sophia takes the paper. She reads it.

SOPHIA  
Aha! You're looking for the house  
next door.

Sylvio looks down. His face is red. Anette gently touches  
Sylvio's shoulder.



ROBERT

So you weren't cheatin' on me,  
Lotti?

Lotti rolls her eyes and takes a swig of her drink.

LOTTI

Robby, shut up and go eat some  
lasagna.

Robert's eyes perk up and he goes towards the food table.  
Nicky walks over to Sylvio and pulls on his shirt.

NICKY

Will you sit next to me for dinner?

Sylvio looks at Sophia.

SYLVIO

Uh...I think I have to g-

SOPHIA

Nicky, go get our friend Sylvio a  
place mat.

Nicky scurries off.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

We have plenty of food. You are  
more than welcome to stay.

SYLVIO

I don't know...

Sylvio looks down at his watch. It reads 5:00 p.m.

SOPHIA

Do you want me to call Judy and let  
her know you're safe?

SYLVIO

No, no. My Angelo didn't even know  
I was comin'...

Sylvio looks down. Sophia looks at Anette, then back to  
Sylvio.

SOPHIA

Then you don't have to worry.

Sylvio hesitates.

(CONTINUED)

SYLVIO

I was gonna surprise my son...

Nicky comes back with a place mat.

NICKY

Ready, Uncle Sylvio?

Sylvio hesitates. He looks down. Anette puts her hand on his shoulder.

ANETTE

Why don't you surprise them for  
dessert? We can go together if you  
want...

Sylvio looks up. He smiles slowly. Anette takes Sylvio's hand.

SYLVIO

I'd like that.

Sylvio kisses Anette's hand. Sophia smiles. Sylvio nods at Nicky.

NICKY

Are you still gonna sit next to me,  
Uncle Sylvio?

Sylvio smiles. Anette nudges Sylvio.

ANETTE

I'll sit on your other side. Let's  
eat.

FADE OUT.