

ACT I
Scene 8

(LIGHTS UP: SAME EVENING: SPOTLIGHT UP on Teenage Nona's bedroom. TOMMY is standing and TEENAGE NONA is sitting on the edge of the bed.)

TOMMY

I brought you a Christmas present.

(TOMMY reaches into his jacket pocket and pulls out a small music box then hands it to TEENAGE NONA)

TEENAGE NONA

Oh, it's beautiful.

(TEENAGE NONA winds the key and the music starts to play the first few bars then she turns it off.)

TEENAGE NONA (continues)

I really love it, Tommy.

TOMMY

I knew you would. I wrote that melody especially for you. Then I called my friend Mike, you know, the Mr. Fixit guy... I asked him how to get it in there. It took a while, but between the two of us, we finally figured it out. *(Tommy chuckles)*

TEENAGE NONA

Wow. You went to so much trouble. I really love you for doing this for me.

TOMMY

You're worth it...

(TOMMY kisses TEENAGE NONA.)

TOMMY (continues)

Honey, I've got something very important to tell you.

TEENAGE NONA

Yes?

TOMMY (Takes a beat then continues)

Carmela, I'm going to have to leave the band for a while.

TEENAGE NONA

Leave? Why?

TOMMY

I got my draft notice. I'm scheduled for boot camp the day after tomorrow ... and I wanted

to give you something special to hold onto.

TEENAGE NONA

I can't believe it. How long will you be gone?

TOMMY

I'm shipping out after boot camp but I'll finish my tour and be home by next Christmas. It'll only be for a year.

TEENAGE NONA

No, Tommy. You can't leave. It's not fair. We had it all planned out. How are we were going to finish an album and get a recording contract, if you're not here?

TOMMY

I know. I know, honey. But what kind of a man would I be if I didn't serve my country. Is that what you want ... a draft dodger for a husband?

TEENAGE NONA

Husband? What are you saying?

TOMMY

I'm saying that I want to come back to someone I love... and who loves me. Someone I can count on. Someone I can spend the rest of my life with. I need to know you'll be here, waiting for me ... before I can leave.

(TOMMY takes off his class ring and holds it up to TEENAGE NONA)

TOMMY

I love you. Carmela D'Angelo, will you marry me ... tonight?

TEENAGE NONA (*excited*)

Yes. (*beat*) No ... No I can't. I still need my parent's permission ... and it takes three days to get a marriage license in New York.

TOMMY

Ok, then. Let's get engaged. We'll get married on my first furlough right after boot camp.

(TOMMY takes TEENAGE NONA'S hand, places his class ring on her finger then kisses her once sweetly. They separate for a second but he comes back more passionately. TEENAGE NONA pulls back.)

TEENAGE NONA

Whoa. We're not married yet. This doesn't feel right. Shouldn't we wait till it's official?

TOMMY

What can be more official then love, Carmela? I'm going off to war! To Vietnam! Who knows what God has in store for me?