

CALL ME MAMA!

By

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INT. OLGA'S LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

MUSIC - "Hand in Hand" - Official South Korean Olympic Games.

FADE FROM BLACK

A pixelate screen of a 80s vintage TV set slowly reveals the images of the 1988's South Korean Olympic Games opening ceremony. LISA (17), a white teen seething with boredom and anger, sits glued to the TV with her trusty Walkman in tow. The music "Tell it to my heart" from her earplugs blends to "Hand to hand" and takes over.

Linda (38), a fashionista-wannabe, caked in layers of makeup and a frigid demeanor, drowns her sorrows in copious amounts of wine and cigarette smoke. Fatigue weighs heavily on her, yearning for an escape. She saunters over to her daughter, Lisa, and pulls out her earphones.

LINDA

We are leaving now. Grab your things.

LISA

Don't touch me! You stink!

Linda pokes Lisa's head in return.

The dining room table is set for four.

With a trembling grip, Olga Benowitz, a diminutive Jewish octogenarian, frail and forgetful, shuffles into the room, a tray of pastries in tow. She scurries over to her son Adam (45), eager to offer him a treat.

LINDA

No, no, no. We are leaving, Olga. This was a short visit. We are meeting friends for dinner, right Adam?

Adam kisses Olga goodbye. Lisa changes the channel to a cartoon, disinterested.

ADAM

Mama, please, answer your phone! And don't forget to check your mail. You need to stay in contact with your bank manager, you can't afford to lose another deadline. Mmm... Delicious!

Adam leaves. Lisa hugs Olga and takes a couple of pastries.

LISA
 (bored)
 Love you granny.

ADAM
 And please! Answer the phone when Dr.
 Levin calls you to reschedule your
 therapy session, pleaseeee?

Linda waves goodbye to Olga from afar.

Olga is left in the middle of the room holding the tray. Her sight lost in solitude. Voices take her out of her trance. She leans on the window.

OLGA'S POV

LEROY(18), JON JON(19) and Trey(18), two African Americans and one Latin American, smoke pot by a fence in the courtyard two stories below. Trey has a BOOMBOX that plays RAP and R&B. Trey drops on the floor and does some breakdance movements. MICHELLE (17), a sexy African American arrives with her Latin friend GLORIA (18), they all leave the scene.

Linda, Adam and Lisa leave the building.

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

Linda drags Adam away. RUSSELL (20) and ICE-G (19), wearing the local gang uniform, matching shirts and bandanas, follow them with serious looks.

LINDA
 Hurry up Lisa!

Lisa and Trey exchange curious glances. Russell and Ice-G nod to Leroy. Leroy greets back uneasy, the rest avoid them.

MONTAGE

Following "Real Muthaphuckkin G's - Eazy-E" - (Each beat is an edit cut - Create Match Cuts)

- A) DAY - Trey break dances
- B) DAY - Olga pours wine into a glass, and eats alone.
- C) DAY - Leroy and Jon Jon sing along while smoking pot.
- D) DAY - Olga washes dishes.

- E) DAY - Michelle argues frantically with Jon Jon. Gloria and Leroy are holding her, trying to prevent from her punching him.
- F) DAY - A dish slips Olga's hands and breaks on the floor.
- G) DAY - Jon Jon and Leroy share a complex hand shake.
- H) DAY - Olga struggles to put her clothes on.
- I) DAY - Trey break dance. Leroy and Jon Jon dance along.
- J) DAY - Olga brushes her hair, lost in thought.
- K) DUSK - Olga waters a plant. The phone rings.

ANSWERING MACHINE (O.S)

Mrs. Benowitz. This is Lana Waters from Wetcher & Levin medical center, this is the third time that we are trying to reach you today...

- L) DUSK - The boys laugh at a joke. Michelle looks at them from afar with Gloria, and gives Jon Jon the finger.
- M) DUSK - Olga takes her medicine.
- N) DUSK - Michelle, Gloria and the boys dance together.
- O) DUSK - Olga places a glass of liquor in front of her deceased husbands picture.
- P) NIGHT - Olga turns the TV on. It's only showing static.
- Q) NIGHT - Leroy smokes lost in thoughts.
- R) NIGHT - Olga is taking a shower. Early symptoms of dementia kick in, she freaks out and slips... (music stops) Olga regains balance holding to a fragile handle in the wall. She clearly knows she was lucky to be unharmed.
- K) DAY - Olga drinks coffee and looks through the window, her gaze lost, blank. A movement on the street gets her out of her trance.

OLGA's POV

Leroy is sitting on a bench smoking. He looks downcast & discouraged, but changes his mood when Trey and Jon Jon approach. They leave the scene.

BACK TO SCENE

Olga notices the subtle moods. Her eyes open up. She has had a revelation.

INT. OLGA'S BEDROOM - DAY

At the mirror, Olga talks to herself, awkwardly - These are acting warm ups, easily confused with Alzheimer delirium.

INT. BUILDING STAIRS - DAY

Olga goes down the stairs with difficulty.

EXT. COMMUNAL COURTYARD - DAY

Olga passes the group and hides behind a tree. The BOOMBOX is playing loud - 80's RAP. Trey is performing break dance moves.

LEROY

You just let her leave with your car... You're slippin' man!

JON JON

... Yo man, da shiit was mad real.

TREY

Shut up, fool!

Olga stops in front of Leroy, awkwardly.

OLGA

Adam! Great, you are here.

Leroy snorts uncomfortably. Trey turns off the radio.

LEROY

Grandma... You OK?

Jon Jon rolls his eyes. Trey laughs.

LEROY

Sorry Lady... I'm Leroy! I ain't no Adam!

OLGA

I don't know what your game is Adam. Quit fooling around. I need my

medicine, where is it?

JON JON
Whaaaaaaat?

LEROY
Lady I don't know what's up with you.
Yo, I don't wanna be disrespectful,
but you Ok?

Olga just stares at him, arms crossed.

LEROY
Aight...
(He thinks things through)
Whatever! Where's the money grandma?

Olga gives him some money and a small piece of paper.

OLGA
Here is the prescription!

LEROY
Yo... Aight, no problem. Now go home,
ok? Go home!

When she's gone they burst into laughter. Leroy shows the money as a trophy.

SOME TIME LATER:

The group is smoking with Michelle. Olga is back.

JON JON
Seriously!?

Olga stops in front of Leroy hits him with her bag hard.

LEROY
Are you buggin' lady??? What's good
witchu...???

OLGA
I needed that medicine at ten son...
it's 10:30. You know better! What are
you thinking?

The group looks at her, stunned.

LEROY
Damn!... OK! Go back to your house,

ok? I'll get them, fo real... Go!

Olga stares at him as she leaves. He feels her cold gaze.

TREY

What tha fuck was that, yo?

MICHELLE

Who was that? She sayin' you her son
and shit - yo, if you her son then I'm
Debbie fuckin' Gibson! What gives?

LEROY

Chill out! This gon' be my good deed
for the day.

MICHELLE

Then do it!

LEROY

Yo, and not a word about this wack
shit, man. Anyone who speaks on this
gon' get the head bust open, fo real!

EXT. HARLEM STREETS - DAY

Leroy walks towards the pharmacy, swearing, AD LIB.

INT. BUILDING CORRIDOR - DAY

Leroy knocks at a door in front of him. He notices a Jewish
mezuzah in the door frame.

LEROY

Yo!... Mrs...
(Checks the receipt)
Benowitz. Here's your...

OLGA (O.S)

Oh! Adam! Stop it! Come inside.

The door opens. Olga's hand pulls Leroy inside.

LEROY

Mrs. Benowitz... Nah, I gots places
to... I...

The door closes.

INT. OLGA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Leroy is sitting on the sofa, looking very uncomfortable.

LEROY

Ohm... Aight, so, yo, Mrs. Benowitz...
I'm 5000, alright? Here's your meds or
whatever. I'm out yo, I gots moves to
make.

Leroy curiously observes a wall of old pictures. A guitar
resting on the wall grabs his attention.

OLGA (O.S.)

At least eat something! You can't go
around all day on an empty stomach.

Olga places a tray of pastries in front of him.

LEROY

Well I guess...

While eating, a picture on the wall grabs his attention.

LEROY

Wait a tick! I know him!

OLGA

Luigi?

LEROY

Luigi. Luigi?! Are you fuc... Sorry!
Are you kiddin' me? You talking bout
Louis Armstrong, right? That cat is
dope, yo! My grandpa used to have all
his records and shit.

OLGA

Well, we did a couple of events
together back in the day, you know.
Very cheerful...

Olga mimics smoking pot.

LEROY

You have to be kidding me! I heard my
grandpa playing trumpet like Louis
Armstrong, like ALL the time... Yo, I
play too, you know, guitar.

In a fast move Leroy grabs the guitar and surprises her with

a few nice harmonies. He stops a little embarrassed.

OLGA

That was marvelous honey!

Leroy feels uneasy, he turns to the wall of pictures.

LEROY

Yo, who that bitch with him there...?

OLGA

Language!

LEROY

NO SHIT!... Mrs. Benowitz! You were fine, yo!

17.1 INT. OLGA'S KITCHEN - DAY 17.1

Olga cooks and practices her lines awkwardly. She knows exactly what she is doing.

EXT. COMMUNAL COURTYARD - DAY

Olga arrives. The group is rolling a joint. The BOOMBOX is BOOMING!

OLGA

Going to the grocery store!

LEROY

OK... Take care, Mama!

The group stares at Leroy in surprise.

JON JON

Ya have to be kiddin' me bro? Hey, whatever you smokin, pass that shit over here, yo!

LEROY

B, chill out, man! She's harmless, just a little old lady is all.

MICHELLE

Boo ya, you like that, huh Leroy? Leroy like 'em experienced, know what I'm sayin'?

LEROY

You too? Forget this shit man,

whatever.

MICHELLE

No!... I think it's cool yo,
seriously. It's like... sweet or
somethin', fo real.

Leroy likes what he hears. Olga returns.

OLGA

I forgot my bag! This head of mine!

TREY

Iiiiiiii...

LEROY

Zip it Trey!

Olga trips, but Leroy catches her before hitting the ground.

LEROY

You OK Mama?

Jon Jon and Trey chuckle. Michelle rolls her eyes, but helps her.

MICHELLE

Are you OK Grandma?... You wanna go
home? You need somethin'?

OLGA

No sweetie! I am fine I just
tripped... What a fine beautiful lady.
What's your name?

Michelle snorts at being called a lady.

MICHELLE

(proud)

Michelle.

JON JON

Beautiful lady? You need to change
your meds or somethin', grandma! This
popcorn hoe chicken heads everybody
intha hood!

MICHELLE

Fuck you herb!

TREY

Gurrrrl you got me stressin' out...

MICHELLE

Like I give a damn! Y'all can go to hell...

JON JON

Oooh, alright, I get it, how 'bout I just call you a goddamn slut instead, how about th...

Olga slaps Jon Jon across the face. Everybody stops.

JON JON

What tha FUCK was THAT...?

Jon Jon is about to hit Olga. Leroy stops him.

LEROY

Calm down bro! Damn! Yo, chill out!

OLGA

That's not the way you treat a lady. I didn't raise you to talk like that Adam!

JON JON

I ain't no ADAM! My name is JON JON, you crazy bitch!

OLGA

In my time... men would hold your arm while you walk. Men would always escort women while walking on the sidewalk...

TREY

Yeah, in yo time. In yo time there was dinosaurs walking around eating motherfuckers and shit... Ain't nobody even remember yo time no mo, these days bitches be...

Olga stomps on his foot.

TREY

What tha hell? Yo, I'm serious man, this old lady can't be doin' this shit man, I swear.