

Sacre:Conversazione

On an evening in the years Before Giuliani, before Pfizer's little celestine rhomboid... Before the rare event of an erection lasting more than... Let's not get ahead of ourselves...

Fredo, a twenty-something Italian American guy, lives in a New York City studio apartment, until recently all alone. For several months, he's been recuperating from a workplace accident under the care of June Lee, his twenty-something guerrilla artist girlfriend, whose Art Attack graffiti proliferates Gotham. June Lee is a willing nurse but unrewarded and unsatisfied, for Fredo is temporarily impotent from his wounds.

But June Lee and Fredo are thrilled tonight. After their unbearable term of abstinence, and the necessary preparations such as the procurement of cigarettes and condoms, they will at last attempt their Apollo-Soyuz sexual mission.

Sadly they discover Fredo has not satisfactorily recovered to be physically pliant or sustain arousal. They decide to take a drastic measure. June Lee goes for the pump.

When, with a clap, June Lee turns on the lights, they find a well-dressed elderly woman has crept into the apartment - and made coffee. Perking and entering! June Lee and Fredo find themselves awkwardly naked and defenseless against this elegant invader who, even when threatened, refuses to leave. The old woman sits down to have the coffee she's made and boldly asks for a cookie.

With this familiar request, Fredo recognizes the intruder as Filomena, his favorite aunt; however, "Aunt Fil" has been dead for seven years. This is her ghost, and she demands a snack.

Once clothed, June Lee and Fredo sit down to coffee. Aunt Fil reveals that she has done her time in Purgatory. Her eternal soul is now free; however, she still misses some aspects of her former Earthly life. She's stepped off the stairway to Heaven not just to visit her favorite nephew, but for a long awaited last trip to Atlantic City.

Aunt Fil embarrasses Fredo with some reminiscences. June Lee embarrasses Fredo with some reminiscences of her own, as if the man, after his failure to perform sexually in front of an audience of two, could be more embarrassed tonight.

At last, Aunt Fil asks a favor. You see, of everything she's longed for, she's missed the daily lottery most of all. Aunt Fil has a scheme for Fredo to play the three digit numbers every day for her without financial risk to him. She just wants the thrill of knowing she's in the game.

Sounds good to June Lee and yet Fredo won't do it. What's the use of having a favorite nephew who shows you no respect? Angered, Aunt Fil flies off out the window. After June Lee chides him and Fredo feels guilty, he agrees to the plan. He stands at the open window and prays for Aunt Fil to return.