

"Mama's Close Call"



(Begin Track #1 on the CD, the skit intro music plays.)

(Mama, a lady in her 60's, comes in with a bag of popped microwave popcorn and looks for the TV remote.)

Mama: "The chores are done, just in time for my favorite movie! Now where is that remote?"

(She searches the room with no luck, then turns over the seat cushions in the chair she was going to sit in.)

Mama: "Aha, there you are, you little rascal! You're harder to find than a good man. And even harder to keep handy! If you were dear old Fred I'd look in the garage under the car hood."

(Sitting down in the recliner, then picks up the remote and turns on the TV.)



(Begin Track #2, the TV sounds.)

(As the sound plays, she clicks through a series of bits of old commercials. The actress should rehearse with the soundtrack to get the clicks timed right. She settles on one channel, then pushes back in the recliner, sets down her can of soda on the end table and opens the bag of popcorn.)

Mama: "Ah, nobody around to bother me, and the movie is about to begin. I've been waiting for this all week!"

(She pours some popcorn out of the bag into a bowl, which she places on her lap. The phone rings on the soundtrack over the TV sounds.)

Mama: *(With a grimace.)* "It never fails!"

(She aims the remote to turn down the TV, timed with the TV sound fading on the soundtrack, and she answers the phone right after the second ring.)

Mama: "Hello?"

Caller: *(a female, with voice filtered, on mic offstage.)* Hello, Mrs. Ima Whiffle?

Mama: "This is she."

Caller: "I'm with the Webugya Phone Company, and I'd like to tell you about our special long-distance rates."

Mama: "Well, hurry up, my favorite movie is coming on in a few minutes!"

Caller: "Thank you, this will only take a moment. May I ask you a few questions to help determine which calling program would be best for you?"

Mama: "All right."

Caller: "How old are you?"

Mama: "That's pretty personal for a stranger to ask. Let's just say I'm over 60. But not much!"

Caller: "That's fine. Are you married?"

Mama: "I'm a widow, my husband Fred went home to be with the Lord eight years ago when he was killed by a turkey."

Caller: "A turkey killed him?"

Mama: "Yep! Botulism!"

Caller: "I'm sorry..."

Mama: "Don't be! He's better off now. And to tell you the truth, so am I! But don't tell anyone I said that."

Caller: "I won't. Do you have any children?"

Mama: "Heavens, yes! I have two sons. All grown now."

Caller: "Do they often..."

Mama: *(Interrupting.)* "Larry is my oldest, he's a lawyer. He's given me two wonderful grandchildren. I'm so happy to see them when they do come to visit; but I'll tell you a little secret; I'm just as happy to see them go! I think it's a good thing they live a few hours away. After a couple of days all those loud cartoons can get on a body's last nerve."

Caller: "Well, I'm sure that when you ca...."

Mama: *(Interrupting again.)* "And then there's my other boy, Louie, we call him Little Louie, cause he's the baby. But he's not so little now, he's a big baby, and getting bigger all the time, but he's still my little Louie. I keep telling him to lay off the pizza, but he's still a bachelor, and he doesn't eat the healthiest food. All that cheese just plays the devil with his regularity. "Eat more greens and salads," I tell him, but does he listen? He's a writer, real creative that boy is. He writes a daily column in the newspaper. But I give him most of his ideas!"

Caller: "That's wonderful. I bet you enjoy talking to your sons when they call. Now I can recommend a money-saving plan..."

Mama: *(Interrupting again.)* "When they call? Are you kidding me? Getting Larry to call is tougher than toenails! But at least Louie comes over pretty often, he lives just down the street in a basement apartment. Whenever he gets writer's block, which is about as often as he gets all bound up, he comes over for my help! He's a good boy, though, he bought me a Medic-Alert bracelet that sets off an alarm if I need help. I don't think I'll ever need it, but it makes him feel better."

Caller: *(trying to speak quickly.)* "That's nice. Now, let me tell you about this money-saving calling plan that will help you..."

Mama: "Whoops! My movie's starting! I have to go now, it was nice talking to you!"

Caller: "But the plan!"

Mama: "I've got a plan... it's to watch this movie, and it's on! Goodbye, and God bless!"

(She hangs up over the caller's continuing protests, and aim her remote at the television to turn the sound back up.)



(Begin Track #3: the movie comes back after a commercial ends.)

Mama: "It's already on! I'd be real mad if I had to miss this movie, I've only seen it 5 times, and I love it!"

(She watches intently as the movie plays. She is eating popcorn and smiling. After a few moments, as she is relaxed and into it, the door suddenly slams open and her son Louie bursts in with a yell.)