

Mama's Close Call Sample Page 02

Louie: "You've seen it before, Mama. I need you, and your undivided attention here!"

Mama: "Well, in that case, it's nice to be needed. *(She puts her hands behind both ears and cups them.)* Alright, I'm all ears!"

(Louie continues where he left off and reads some more.)

(She begins munching on some more popcorn as he reads. About halfway through, Mama stops eating and her eyes open wide. She tries to swallow and can't; she has a piece of popcorn stuck in her throat. She holds her throat in distress, and tries to hit herself on the back. The actress should NOT making choking noises: she can't get a breath to make a sound! Her distress is signalled by her actions and facial distortions.)

Louie has stood with his back to her, and is caught up in his dramatic reading. As he gets to the part about "I wish I'd paid attention," the comedy stems from the fact that he doesn't notice all of her antics in the background. The actress should have fun with this part.

She is trying to speak to tell him she needs help, but can't make a sound. She is motioning to her throat and to her back frantically, waving and trying to get up, but falling back in the recliner. Rolling back and forth in it, she is sticking her tongue out as she silently chokes and making faces as she tries to get his attention. She tries throwing some more popcorn at him, but he only smiles, thinking she is playing with him again. He continues to read.

Desperate, Mama claps her hands rapidly to attract his attention.)

Louie: *(Stops, but says without looking)* "Thanks, but please, hold your applause till the end!" *(He resumes reading.)*

Finally, as she about to pass out, she notices the bracelet on her arm and pushes the button, setting off the alarm.)



(Play Track #4, alarm sound.)

(The alarm is so loud and sudden that Louie is startled, throwing the pages of the manuscript in the air and almost falling. Payback!)

Louie: "What in the world is that?" *(Looks out of the window.)* Is the convenience store getting robbed again?"

(He still doesn't notice her difficulty, and is looking around for the source of the alarm. Mama rolls her eyes in disbelief and points at the bracelet as well as her throat.)

Louie: "Is that your smoke detector? I'll check the kitchen!"

(He walks offstage for a moment. Mama smacks her forehead in dismay, shuts off the alarm by pushing the button again, and then quickly dials a number on her phone.)

Louie: *(Coming back into the room.)* "Well, whatever it was, it's gone now, so I guess there's nothing to worry about."



(Play Track #5 on CD, cell phone ringing)

(Louie takes it off his belt and answers it.)

Louie: ""Hello?"

(Mama tries to speak and only gurgles and gags into the phone.)

Louie: "Speak up, I can't hear you! This cell phone doesn't get good reception here at my mother's house!"

(Mama looks furious and her eyes are bulging! Louie shrugs and closes the phone.)

Louie: "Must have been some kind of prank call, all they did was make weird noises like a pig!"

(Mama has had it and slams down her phone. Hearing the sound, he finally notices Mama's plight and rushes to her.)

Louie: "Mama! Are you alright? What's wrong?"

(She points to her throat and sticks out her tongue in an exaggerated fashion, totally exasperated besides being about to die.)

Louie: "Mama! Speak to me! *(She shakes her head back and forth, 'no!')* Are you choking on something? *(She shakes her hand frantically up and down, 'yes!')*

Louie: "Hang on, Mama! I'll save you!"



(Begin Track #6, the "sproing" effect coinciding with the action described below, and the comic music -the "Can-Can"- accompanying the action.)

*(Louie leaps into action, stepping hard on the raised footrest of the recliner. **(Sproing!)** This has the effect of catapulting Mama up out of the chair into his arms, where he catches her! Getting behind her and reaching around with his hands, he begins the Heimlich maneuver, squeezing into her abdomen and lifting her off the floor in the process of repeated bear hugs. Mama is flopping around like a rag doll, her arms and legs flailing in the air, and her eyes are about to pop out each time he squeezes!)*

Louie: "Don't die on me, Mama, I need you! Breathe, Mama! Breathe!"

*(Finally, with one final heave by Louie, the popcorn is dislodged and Mama takes a big breath. This should happen just as the **comedy music ends.**)*

Louie: *(Holding her by the shoulders and shaking her.)* "Mama, Mama, are you alright? How do you feel?"

*(Mama's head snaps up, and with a deadly look, she **grabs** him by the throat with both hands and **squeezes!**)*

Mama: *(Panting.)* "How do I feel? How do I **feel?** A little like **this!**"

(Louie is choking and gasping for breath as Mama puts on the pressure!)

Mama: *(With a parting squeeze.)* **That's** how I feel!

(She sits down in her recliner holding her chest and Louie sits down in the other chair holding his windpipe. They both gasp for a few moments.)

Louie: "Why'd you do that, Mama? I saved you!"

Mama: "You and that poem of yours nearly killed me! No wonder you called it 'Memories of Mama!' A few more stanzas and a memory is all I would have been!"