

My Mother Delivers a Quick Lesson in Survival and History

The other day I was  
talking about my uncle  
and his house  
with fondness to her  
a mistake, I know,  
and she lit a cigarette  
because I disapprove  
blew the darkened air out  
surrounding us and said  
"I never went there, you know

that, and you should not have  
either. He only smiled  
for you kids because years before  
you were born, he threatened  
the older kids when I wouldn't  
do something for him,  
and I took that baseball  
bat the boys had and beat  
him to the point that he could not  
walk for a week after, and no matter  
what, he knew what was  
an arm's length away  
for the rest of his life."

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