

From Powerline – the Story of Me, Mario, and your Mom

By Don Zolidis

MOM, a Mom

DAD, a Dad

Lights up on MOM and DAD, speaking out to the audience.

DAD

Kids... it's time. Your mother and I have talked about this.

MOM

We love you very much –

DAD

We're tired of your freeloading.

Mom looks at Dad.

MOM

Honey that's not what we were going to say.

DAD

Um... pretty sure that's what we were going to say. We're sick of your freeloading, kids. Super sick of it.

MOM

We're doing this with compassion, Gilbert.

DAD

I thought we were going to be a united front? I'm about to teach them a valuable lesson.

MOM

It's just that your valuable lesson is pretty bad.

DAD *(to the "kids")*

You eat our food all the time. It's kind of disturbing, actually. The amount you eat.

MOM

Honey –

DAD *(to MOM)*

They are SAVAGES.

MOM

What your father is trying to say –

DAD

I've seen that one eat an entire box of Ritz crackers in one sitting. One! Sitting! That's not even human. A box of crackers is meant to be eaten over the course of WEEKS – he's like a vacuum cleaner –

He mimes a vacuum cleaner sucking up an entire box of Ritz Crackers

MOM

We're not shaming them, Gilbert.

DAD

He unhinges his jaw like a SERPENT and swallows it whole!

MOM

Honey.

DAD

Sorry. I'll stop commenting on the inhuman appetites of our ravenous children.

MOM

What we are trying to say is that it's time for you to contribute around here. You're old enough now, so you can get... jobs.

Both MOM and DAD react as if there's huge protest.

DAD (*overlapping*)

That's right! Jobs!

MOM (*overlapping*)

It's not an alien concept! Other kids have jobs!

She reacts something.

You think we didn't have jobs when we were your age?

DAD

WHOAH.

MOM

We both had jobs in high school.

DAD

Darn tootin.

MOM (*to Dad*)

Please don't say that.

DAD

Tootin? There's nothing wrong with tootin. Toot.

MOM

"Darn Tootin" – who are you? You're not Yosemite Sam.

DAD

Darn Tootin' I'm not.

MOM

Anyway – We never told you about our high school jobs because... they were just too awesome.
Dad wipes a tear away from his eye.

DAD

It was glorious.

MOM

It was.

DAD

And you were glorious.

MOM

I was.

They look at each other, lock eyes.
I still remember you in that jacket.

DAD

And I remember you in that jacket, Johanna.
They have another moment.
Those were the best days of my life.

MOM

Mine too.

Short pause. She reacts to the audience.
Well I mean of course the best days of my life were after we had you children.

DAD

Yes. Yes it is so much better now than when we were young and free and had fun all the time and had spending money. And had hair and good skin and didn't have to wake up in the middle of the night to pee. My life is so much better now. With you people. Eating everything.

MOM

Which we love.

DAD

We love your eating. I guess it's better than not eating.

MOM

It is. Remember that job we had, honey? That's how we met, you know.

DAD

At work.

MOM

At the greatest job ever.

DAD (*to the "kids"*)

What was it, you ask?

He chuckles slyly.

MOM

We'll tell you. The year... was 1989. It was a different time. A different era.

DAD

A movie about Batman was good.

MOM

Richard Marx was right there waiting for you.

DAD

Cabbage Patch Kids were still cool.

MOM

No they weren't. They were cool in 1985.

DAD

THEY WERE STILL COOL FOR ME.

MOM

And there was an awesome new job for high school kids.