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Family Album, USA

Episode 12 “[You're Tops](#)“

Act 3

Grandpa Hi. I'm Malcolm Stewart.

Marchetta John Marchetta. Sit down, sit down.

Grandpa Susan has told me a great deal about you. She says you're quite a man.

Marchetta She says a lot of wonderful things about you too, Mr. Stewart.

Grandpa That's always nice to hear, Mr. Marchetta.

Marchetta Call me John. May I call you Malcolm?

Marchetta Let's talk business.

Grandpa That's music to my ears.

Marchetta I understand you used to be in the construction business.

Grandpa Yup. Forty-three years. Here's a brief description of forty three years of on-the-job training.

Marchetta That is some history! You're a valuable asset, Malcolm. Very valuable.

Grandpa Thank you. Yup. Forty-three years. Half that time in my own construction company. Big jobs-factories, shopping malls. That kind of thing.

Marchetta Then you retired.

Grandpa Yes. After my wife died, and I felt I should spend more time with my children and grandchildren. I live in Florida, and they lived in New York.

Marchetta I understand. My daughter Cami lives in New York. I like being near her.

Grandpa When I came here, I planned to take a few months off. Relax with the family and then look for some work. Put my experience on the line...but, unfortunately, there isn't any work for a retired person my age.

Marchetta Sometimes there is, and sometimes there isn't. Well, I'm involved with an organization, and we're trying to resolve that problem.

Grandpa What's that?

Marchetta TOPS. T -O-P-S- means Talented Older People's Society.

Grandpa I'd like to be a member. How much are the dues?

Marchetta There are no dues...The organization serves major men and women like you. Experienced, talented, retired. But our members want to go out there and use their talents. They want to work.

Grandpa That fantastic, John!

Marchetta I've got an idea for you, Malcolm. Just fill out this form for me. It'll only take a few minutes. Sit right here, and do it while I talk to my secretary. When I get back, we'll talk about my new factory. My company is a member of TOPS. So I try hard to find opportunities for people like it. Well, I can use your brainpower on the job right now. Have you got time this morning to go over to the construction site with me? I'd like to have you meet my foreman-get some background on the job.

Grandpa I've got plenty of time.

Marchetta I'll be right back. We'll go over to the job site together.

Danny Malcolm, you worked on the Spaceport project?

Grandpa My company was the contractor. I built the theater there with my own two hands, practically.

Danny I understand.

Marchetta Well, I'm glad to see you two guys getting along so well because Danny, Malcolm is on the TOPS team. He's going to be working with you for a while. His experience will be valuable to both of us.

Danny Welcome aboard, Malcolm!

Marchetta I'm going back to my office. Give me a call later, Malcolm. I'll tell you the time and date of the next TOPS meeting. I'd like you to meet the group.

Grandpa I will, John. And again-thanks.

Marchetta No...thank you. And thank Susan.

Grandpa He's quite a man.

Danny A real inspiration for me.

Grandpa OK, Danny. I know you didn't expect to have me around, but I think I can be of some help to you.

Danny Let me tell you something, Malcolm. With your background and experience, I can learn something...and I do need some advice on a difficult problem. Let me show you this.

Grandpa I don't want to give you a final opinion without studying these building plans more carefully. But a simple solution might be to move the air-conditioning units instead of redesigning the entire system. It might be simpler and less expensive.

Danny You just earned your weight in gold, Malcolm. Welcome aboard!

Grandpa It all happened so quickly! I can't believe it!

Susan I'm glad Mr. Marchetta was so helpful.

Grandpa He was more than helpful. He actually took me to meet his foreman.

Susan I'm thrilled for you, Grandpa.

Grandpa I don't know how to thank you, Susan. You're a wonderful granddaughter.

Susan It's good to see you so happy.

Grandpa I'll be at the construction site tomorrow. What are you doing tomorrow night?

Susan I'm not doing anything. Why?

Grandpa How about a date with your grandfather? I owe you a good steak dinner.

Susan I'll accept. Tomorrow night. You and me. Dinner. What time?

Grandpa I'll pick you up here at seven. Is that OK?

Susan I can't wait! And you can tell me all about your first full day back on the job.

Grandpa It's a deal!