

Family Album, USA

Episode 20 “[Quality Time](#)“

Act 1

Robbie Where’s Mom?
Grandpa She went to a school-board meeting.
Robbie I don’t know how she does it. She sure keeps busy.
Grandpa It’s import to her. There are lots of places to go, lots of things to do. She can’t sit around and do nothings to do. She can’t sit around and do nothing. Philip works late.
Robbie I guess you’re right. I wish I had her energy.
Philip Anybody home?
Robbie We’re in here, Dad.
Philip Oh. Hi, gang.
Grandpa Hello, Philip. How was your day?
Philip My day was just fine. So was my night. It’s almost ten o'clock. Mmm. I’m starving. Um...where’s Mom?
Robbie She went to a school-board meeting.
Grandpa There’s a note for you on the refrigerator.
Philip Oh?
Philip Did you have dinner, Robbie?
Robbie Yeah. Mike and I had a hamburger at the diner. I came home a little while ago. You’ve been working late almost every night this week, Dad. Aren’t you exhausted?
Philip I don’t have time to be exhausted.
Robbie You and Mom haven’t had dinner together with us in almost a full week.
Philip Yeah, I feel bad about us not having dinner with the family, but our schedules are so different. Either I’m at the hospital doing paperwork, or Mom is at a committee meeting. I frankly don’t know what to do about it.
Robbie I’m worried about you and Mom. You really have been working too hard.
Philip Well, I think I’ve had enough of that sandwich.
Robbie You didn’t finish it.
Philip It’s not good to eat before going to bed. A cookie can’t hurt, though.
Philip Well, I’m heading off for bed and a good night’s sleep.
Robbie Well, good night.
Philip Good night, son. Good night, Dad. I’m going to bed.
Grandpa Good night, Philip.
Philip Haven’t you finished balancing that checkbook?
Grandpa I found another mistake. I’ll be off to bed myself in a minute.
Philip OK. Good night.
Robbie I’m really concerned about them, Grandpa.
Grandpa Concerned about whom?
Robbie About Mom and Dad. They hardly ever see each other. Dad often works late, and Mom has all these committees she’s on.
Grandpa What do you propose to do about it? You have that look in your eye.
Robbie I don’t know, but there must be a way of getting them to spend more time together. Quality time.