

Those Were the Days

by
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Scene 1

(Current Time)

Stage Set:

Living room cluttered with papers, toys scattered on the floor and clothes pile on couch.

Grandma is sitting in rocking chair.

(Play “William Tell Overture” or “Flight of the Bumble Bee”.)

(Mother hurriedly enters carrying grocery bag with child in tow.

Mother: Oh Grandma! I’m so sorry I’m late!

(Sets down grocery bag as child gives Grandma a hug then sits to play with toys)

It’s been such a hectic day! I woke up so late this morning. Jody, the carpool driver for today, called to say she was sick couldn’t drive today. By the time I got all the kids to school and rushed to do my grocery shopping...Grandma, some days I wonder if I can keep this up!

(Moves laundry pile over and collapses onto the couch.)

(Mother sighs)

What’s a mother to do?!

Grandma: Don’t worry, my Dear. I haven’t been here long and I remember when my children were small. I didn’t have to worry about carpools or driving here and there.

(Chuckles)

But we had our own troubles.

Mother: Yes, I suppose you did.

Grandma: Well, I’d best be going. Come along, _____ (Name of child)

(Mother gets up, hugs child and say goodbye. Grandma and child exit. Mother, with hands on hips, looks around the room, groans at the mess and flops down on the couch.)

Mother: Hmm...I wonder what life was like back, in the good ole days...

(Mother drifts off to sleep.)

Play “Calgon Take Me Away” jingle, current sleep aid jingle or other familiar sleep music.)

(Lights out)

Scene 2

(Old Days)

(Mother’s asleep on the couch. Grandma and child enter carrying armloads of firewood)

(Play “She’ll Be Coming Round The Mountain When She Comes” before entering)

Grandma: Wake up! It’s getting late. Here, you start the fire while I get
 _____ (Child) ready for school.

(Startled, Mother sits up on the couch as Grandma puts her armload of firewood into her arms.)

Mrs. Morgan won’t be able to walk the children to school today.
She’s home sick.

(As Grandma exits with child)

Mother: Hmm...that sounds familiar!

(Looks around the room and shutters)

Brrrrr...

(Tries to start fire, unsuccessfully at first then finally succeeds and begins to warm herself, rubbing hands and shoulders. After warming herself for a minute she begins looking around and shifting from one foot to the other. Grandma enters with wash bucket full of clothes.)

Grandma: What's the matter, my dear?

(Grandma sits and proceeds to wash the clothes through this scene.)

Mother: Well...

(Pauses before she continues)

Where's the bathroom?

(Grandma looks a bit confused and then replies with a chuckle)

Grandma: Oh...of course! You mean the outhouse? It's out behind the woodshed.

Mother: Oh, of course.

(Rolls eyes exits and re-enters rather quickly and quite cold. Looks around the room)

Grandma: (Quizzically) _____, that was quick! What are you looking for?

Mother: Well, there's nothing but this Sears and Roebuck catalog out there...

(Mother holds up catalog)

Grandma: What else do you need?

(Mother catches on and looks out at the audience with disbelief.)

And to think I used to read these!

(Mother exits.)

(Play "Please don't squeeze the Charmin" jingle or one you choose to play)

(Mother enters as Grandma finishes washing the clothes)

Grandma: There! I'd best be walking the children to school. Could you hang these clothes up to dry?

Mother: Sure.

(Grandma exits. Mother hangs the clothes.)

Mother: There! This isn't as bad as I would thought it would be. And at least the phone won't ring!

(Friend walks up to the door in view of audience while Mother continues.)

No interruptions!

(Friend knocks on the door.)

Ah, just a moment.

(Mother panics and hurries to take the laundry down, shakes her head and throws her hands to show she gives up)

Forget it!

(Opens the door)

Friend: Hello, I've come to help your Grandma pick and can her green beans today.

Mother: Oh, I'm sorry. She's not here right now. She's walking the children to school today. Mrs. Morgan is sick.

Friend: Well, if you don't mind, we can get started on it together.

Mother: No, I don't mind.

(Pauses and look back at the mess in the house. Turning back to the friend)

Come on in. Ah...Please excuse the mess.

Friend: Oh, I don't mind the mess. That's what I'm here for!

(Ducking through clothes both begin to clean up the room.)

Mother: You know it's really nice of you to help Grandma.

Friend: Oh, we help each other all the time. It makes our work so much easier and there's nothing like moral support, you know.

Mother: Yes...

(Pausing from cleaning and wistfully continues.)

It would be nice to work together...do things together, share the load and stress of it all...

(Grandma enters)

Grandma: I'm back. Hello, _____ (Friend's name). I see the two of you haven't wasted any time. We'd best start picking those green beans or we'll be canning them till morning!

(Mother says with horror out toward the audience.)

Mother: Morning?!

(All exit)

(Grandma and Mother enter. Mother, exhausted, is yawning and dragging her feet)

(Announcer says "Twelve hours and countless jars later..." or play "Hard Day's Night")

Grandma: Goodnight _____, sleep well.

Mother: I sure will! You sleep well too, Grandma.

(Mother settles onto the couch, pauses, gets back up and exits stage.)

(Re-enters stage triumphantly with Sears and Roebuck catalog in hand.)

(Resettles on couch with catalog across her chest and falls immediately to sleep)

(Play "Take Sommenex Tonight and Sleep" jingle or other sleep medication commercial)

(Lights out)

Scene 3

(Current Time)

(Grandma and child enter)

Grandma: We're home! Wake up sleepy head.

Mother: Huh?

(Slowly sits up)

Oh Grandma! I've just had the strangest dream about the good ole days! And I'm not so sure they were so good! It must have been so hard for you back then!

Grandma: _____, yes, they were harder in some ways but they weren't so bad...

Mother: Maybe not, but I don't imagine that you miss much from those days.

(Holds up Sears and Roebuck catalog)

(Grandmother pauses to think)

Grandma: Well, actually I do...

Mother: You do? How could you with all that hard work! Washing laundry by hand, canning and without any luxuries we have today...

(Holds up laundry)

Grandma: We had each other and we helped each other. That made the work load lighter and kept our spirits up.

(Mother sighs)

Mother: I wish I could do that. By the time I've finished all my errands and housework I just can't seem to find the time.

Grandma: _____, You will never "find" the time. You have to "make" the time. Besides what is the value in all the running and rushing and cleaning if you have no time left for family and friendship? All the business leads to isolation and loneliness. Things have to get done but that's not where eternal value lies. Remember the story of Martha and Mary?

Mother: Hmmm...

Grandma: Well, I have to be going, _____ is coming over to help me pick and can beans today and if I don't get home soon I'll be up till morning getting them done!

(Hugs and say goodbye to each. Mother pauses thinking as she holds the Sears and Roebuck catalog in both arms across her chest. After a long pause, phone rings)

Mother: Hello? Oh hi Sandi.

(Pauses to listen)

The women's _____? (Fill in one of your upcoming events)

No, I'm sorry, I don't think I could "find" the ti---...Wait! Wait! Sure, I can "make" the time. We need to do more together! I'd love to go! I'll meet you @ 6:00.

(Play "Those Were the Days")

(Lights out)

Songs

- 1) As skit begins "William Tell Overture"
- 2) "Calgon Take Me Away" or other commercial jingle about being worn out
- 3) "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain When She Comes"
- 4) "Please Don't Squeeze the Charmin" or other commercial jingle for toilet paper

- 5) Announcer says "Twelve hours and countless jars later..." or "Hard Day's Night"
- 6) "Take Sominex Tonight and Sleep" or other sleep aid commercial
- 7) Telephone ringing or cell phone
- 8) "Those Were The Days"

Directors Notes

Take your time with this skit. Pause when Grandma says something and the Mother listens. Done too quickly, the skit will be funny and entertaining but allow the audience has time to absorb the message as well. Most of all have fun!

God bless always,

in all ways!

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Notes