

# YOUR FATHER'S IN THE CAR

By Jerry Rabushka

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ISBN: 978-1-60003-941-6

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# YOUR FATHER'S IN THE CAR

*A Ten Minute Comedy Duet*

**By Jerry Rabushka**

**SYNOPSIS:** Melinda's was told to be ready by quarter to five, so why is Mom going crazy at 4:15? Because... "Your father's in the car!" which means everyone has to go *right now!* This duet looks at several generations of a family that can neither tell time nor respect it, and explains why some teenagers don't like to admit having parents. But is Melinda as innocent as she plays? Not even! This is one script you should order early!

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(2 females)*

MELINDA (f) ..... A teenager. (44 lines)

MOM (f) ..... Melinda's mother. (44 lines)

**CAST NOTE:** Both performers play other characters as indicated in the script.

**SETTING:** Mom and Melinda's home.

**SFX:** Doorbell or knock on the door.

## COSTUMES

MELINDA – Dressed in everyday teenage clothing.

MOM – Dressed in more formal/dressed up attire.

**MELINDA:** (*Introducing herself to the audience and setting up the action for them.*) Melinda Wyden here, and today's topic is that I'm at that age where I don't like to admit to having a family. No parents, no siblings, only a fourth cousin in Hawaii and that's because he says he invented the pineapple corer. I prefer to think I was dropped to earth into a house full of people I had nothing to do with, but I have to play along in order to be clothed and fed.

**MOM:** (*More intense than Melinda thinks is necessary.*) Melinda are you ready yet?

**MELINDA:** (*To audience.*) That's mom. We're going to a wedding.

**MOM:** Are you ready?

**MELINDA:** (*Still to audience.*) She sounds like a cheerleader.

**MOM:** (*Notices how MELINDA is dressed, horrified.*) Melinda! You're not ready.

**MELINDA:** Then comes the clincher.

**MOM:** Melinda... (*Panic stricken.*) Your father's in the car!

**MELINDA:** We're not supposed to leave until 5 o'clock. It's only 4:15.

**MOM:** Your father's ready to go. He's in the car.

**MELINDA:** (*Finally addresses her mother.*) Can't he come back in?

**MOM:** You're not even dressed.

**MELINDA:** You told me I had until 4:45 to get dressed.

**MOM:** I didn't know your father was going to be in the car.

**MELINDA:** So what does that mean for me?

**MOM:** You know what it's going to mean for you if you don't get ready right now!

**MELINDA:** It's still going to take me until 4:45. (*To audience.*) I had it timed perfectly until dad got into the car. (*Starts to exit.*)

**MOM:** (*To audience.*) She does this every time.

**MELINDA:** (*Overhears and comes back to the action.*) Does what?

**MOM:** Makes us late!

**MELINDA:** I'm not late. Dad got in the car *early*! I'm going to text him and tell him to come inside.

**MOM:** Don't aggravate your father. He's already—

**MELINDA:** (*About to lose it.*) I know where he is! They won't get married any sooner just because we get there early. What are we going to do, tailgate with the bridesmaids?

**MOM:** He wants a parking space!

**MELINDA:** Then you should have said something sooner. Like yesterday. Or the day before. You should have said, "We're going to leave at 4:15. You had all week to say "We're going to leave at 4:15."

**MOM:** You know how your father is.

**MELINDA:** I don't know anything about my father, since he's spent my formative years in the car. Now suddenly I've turned into a rebellious teen simply by doing what was asked of me in a timely fashion.

**MOM:** Melinda, get ready! Now.

**MELINDA:** You're the one who's keeping me here. *(To audience.)* I know I shouldn't talk to my mother that way, but I'm trying to make a point. *(To MOM.)* Fine, I'll go. *(Exits.)*

**MOM:** *(To audience.)* I don't know what about this she doesn't understand. *(Explaining.)* Our family's been this way for generations. My great grandma had the same problem with *her* mother...

*For what follows MELINDA enters and plays "Great Great Grandma" and MOM plays "Great Grandma" however they are more or less the same age as and MOM and MELINDA are now.*

**MELINDA:** *(As Great Great Grandma.)* Roberta Susan Ellen Mary Elizabeth!

**MOM:** *(As Great Grandma. To audience.)* Great Grandma had a lot of names.

**MELINDA:** *(As Great Great Grandma.)* Roberta Sue-Ellen, your father's on the horse!

**MOM:** *(As Great Grandma.)* I know that. I'm not ready, Mom.

**MELINDA:** *(As Great Great Grandma. More insistent.)* Your father is on the horse!

**MOM:** *(As Great Grandma.)* Tell the horse to hold its horses!

**MELINDA:** *(As Great Great Grandma.)* I can't hold a horse once your father's on it.

**MOM:** *(As Great Grandma.)* We weren't supposed to leave until 3 o'clock, and it's noon! Why does he want to spend three hours on the horse?

**MELINDA:** (*As Great Great Grandma.*) He wants to get a head start. He wants to get a space in the corral, if that's OK.

**MOM:** (*As Great Grandma.*) It's going to take me three hours to get ready. I have to draw the water from the well, heat it up with the wood burning stove, and take a bath. Ahhhh, the simple life. Oh, and there's lunch which I have to make from scratch, and a pie to warm up.

**MELINDA:** (*As Great Great Grandma.*) There isn't time for pie!

**MOM:** (*As Great Grandma. Can't believe it.*) No pie? What kind of world are we living in?

**MELINDA:** (*As Great Great Grandma.*) A world where your father is on the horse!

**MOM:** (*To audience, as herself, she can come up front to "break" her Great Great Grandma character.*) Our family's been living in fear of men who want to go places early with no notice since at least 1892. (*To MELINDA.*) Melinda, get your sister ready too!

**MELINDA:** I can't get my sister ready and get myself ready too!

**MOM:** Mackenzie, are you ready!

**MELINDA:** (*To audience.*) Here's my goodie two shoes sister. (*Spins around, then, as Mackenzie, annoyingly cooperative, with clasped hands and a big smile.*) Yes mother, I've been ready for two hours. I got dressed and then did my homework. Then I fed the fish and walked the neighbor's dog.

**MOM:** You walked the dog in your good clothes!

**MELINDA:** (*As Mackenzie, less sweet as she goes along.*) They gave me five bucks to take it to McDonald's! I wanted to be ready in case dad got into the car. I know how you get when dad gets in the car. You turn from sweet mother into raving lunatic. So I walked the dog, washed the dishes, and did the laundry.

**MOM:** Our own Cinderella. In your good clothes!

**MELINDA:** (*As Mackenzie.*) At least I'm ready. Take it up with dad. (*Exits.*)

**MOM:** (*Calling after her.*) I can't! He's in the car! (*Addresses the audiences, turning the tables.*) Before you think I'm the only crazy one here, I should tell you that when Melinda has a date, it's a total opposite story.

**MELINDA:** (*Enters, trying to hush MOM up.*) Don't talk about that.

*MELINDA runs up to MOM who holds her back.*

**MOM:** I think they need to see what happened last Saturday when you had somewhere to go. *(Presents the upcoming scene.)*

**MELINDA:** *(Pacing, nervous, impossible to corral.)* Why isn't he here? I've been ready for an hour!

**MOM:** What time is he supposed to come get you?

**MELINDA:** 6:30. Where is he?

**MOM:** It's only 5 o'clock. Pretend I asked you to take out the trash and sit still.

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