

All In The Family: Michael's Protest
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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. DAY - 704 HOUSER STREET

January 23rd, 1973. EDITH is sitting at the piano practicing a song and making mistakes.

ARCHIE comes running through door, quickly taking off hat and coat.

EDITH

Hello, Archie. How was your day?

Archie walks briskly toward kitchen.

ARCHIE

Don't bother getting up, Edith. I'll get my own beer.

EDITH

(confused)

Oh my...

Archie comes back into room with beer.

ARCHIE

Edith, you'll never guess what
happened to me on the subway today.

Archie sits down in favorite chair, puts beer on table.

EDITH

What happened to you on the subway
today, Archie?

ARCHIE

Edith, I'm very glad you asked me
that there question.

Archie lights a cigar.

ARCHIE

There I am, Edith, minding my own
business, see...

Archie takes puff of cigar.

ARCHIE

Just walking along and guess what I
found, Edith?

EDITH

What did you find, Archie?

Archie stands up, walks toward Edith.

ARCHIE

What did I find? What did I find?

Archie reaches into pocket, pulls out money.

ARCHIE

I found twenty dollars!

Whoop-dee-doo!

Archie does a little dance around the piano.

ARCHIE

Hey, Edith, how's about you and me
singing a song together like we used
to?

EDITH

(obviously pleased)

Alright, Archie. What would you like
to sing?

ARCHIE

Doesn't matter, Edith. I'm in such a
great mood I'll let you pick the
song there, Edith.

Edith happily shuffles around music on the piano.

EDITH

How about this one, Archie?

Archie sits down to the right of Edith at piano.

ARCHIE

Edith, you know what I like. That
there is one of my favorite songs.

EDITH

I know, Archie. You start.

ARCHIE

Yeah. I'll start the song there,
Edith.

Edith plays introduction. They begin to sing.

ARCHIE

Boy, the way Glenn Miller played...

EDITH

...songs that made the hit parade,

ARCHIE

guys like us, we had it made,

ARCHIE AND EDITH

those were the days.

EDITH

And you knew who you were then.

ARCHIE

Girls were girls and men were men.

ARCHIE AND EDITH

Mister, we could use a man like Herbert
Hoover again.

ARCHIE

Didn't need no welfare state.

EDITH

Everybody pulled his weight.

ARCHIE AND EDITH

Gee, our old LaSalle ran great...

Those were the days!

Edith finishes playing, looks googly-eyed at Archie. Archie gives Edith a light kiss on the cheek.

Moment is interrupted when GLORIA comes rushing through front door, looking frantic.

GLORIA

Ma! Daddy! Quick! You've got to help Michael!

ARCHIE

Ah jeez, what's that Meathead done now?

GLORIA

Daddy! He's in jail!

Archie walks to Gloria.

ARCHIE

What? You hear this here, Edith?
First I find twenty dollars, then
the Meathead winds up in the slammer!
This is my lucky day!

Archie looks to ceiling.

ARCHIE

Hey, Lord, there, I just want you to know I appreciate this here day, and hey, I'll tell ya what, Lord. I'll even go to church on Sunday.

Edith gets up to comfort Gloria.

EDITH

Sit down, Gloria.

Gloria sits on sofa.

EDITH

Now, tell us what happened.

GLORIA

Oh Ma, it was awful!

Gloria takes moment to collect her thoughts.

GLORIA

I went to the college to pick Michael up from school, and he was taking part in a student rally. They were supporting the Supreme Court decision made yesterday to legalize abortion. Well, just as I got there, another rally was starting which was protesting it. The two sides got into an argument, and everyone was arrested!

EDITH

Oh my. Archie, you've got to do something!

ARCHIE

What do you want me to do, Edith?
Bail him out?

Edith pauses to think for a beat.

EDITH

Well, yeah!

ARCHIE

Well forget it! I just found twenty dollars and I ain't spending it on no Meathead!

GLORIA

Daddy, please?

Gloria gives Archie pouty puppy dog look.

ARCHIE

Ah jeez. Okay little girl. let's go.

Archie puts on his coat and hat and heads toward door.

Archie looks again at ceiling.

ARCHIE

Hey, Lord, about that promise to go to church? Do you mind if I back out of that there deal?

Gloria pushes Archie out door.

FADE OUT:

ACT TWO

INT. DAY - 704 HOUSER STREET

Forty-five minutes later.

Edith is sitting in chair reading latest issue of
Cosmopolitan. Archie, Gloria and MICHAEL walk through door.
Archie and Michael are arguing as they take off coats.

ARCHIE

Serves you right, Meathead.

MICHAEL

What? What did I do? I didn't do
anything.

EDITH

What's all the yelling about?

ARCHIE

Who, Edith, me? I'm not yelling.
Meathead here is just upset because
Barney Heffner's dog, Rusty, left a
welcome home present for him on the
porch.

Michael and Gloria sit down on the sofa. Archie sits in his
favorite chair.

MICHAEL

Really, Arch, how can you say that about the decision?

ARCHIE

Dummy up, you Meathead you. I told you I don't want to hear no more about that there.

MICHAEL

No, Arch, really! I want to know why you say that? Don't you think a woman has a right to decide what to do with her own body?

Archie stands up behind chair, Edith and Gloria exchange a silent "here we go again" look.

ARCHIE

That there is not the reason for that there new law, Meathead.

MICHAEL

Look, Arch, I have been taking a civilizations class and Professor Novastein says...

ARCHIE

Novastein? Ah jeez. It's all clear to me now, Meathead. The Jews are behind this, aren't they?

MICHAEL

What do the Jews have to do with it?

ARCHIE

Plenty! When God gave out your basic twelve condiments there up on Mount Arabfat, who did He give them to? Look at what them there condiments say. Thou shall not cover thy neighbor's wife. Thou shall not regret adultery. Now the obvious choice would be your Italians, because they are always chasing women, but no! Did he give them to your Chinks or Krauts? No! He didn't even give them to your Coloreds! Who did he give them to? I'll tell you who He gave them to, Meathead, He gave them to the Heebs! And do you know why He gave them to the Heebs, Meathead?

MICHAEL

(obviously enjoying
this)

Why, Arch?

Archie's answer is interrupted by a knock at the front door.

Edith runs to answer.

EDITH

I'll get it.

ARCHIE

Yeah. You get that there door, Edith.

Edith opens door to see her neighbor, IRENE LORENZO. Edith is happy to see her.

EDITH

Hello, Irene. How are you today?

Irene steps into house.

IRENE

Hello, Edith, I'm just fine. Hey, I was wondering if I could borrow your blender. Frank is cooking up a gourmet meal, and ours seems to be out of order.

EDITH

Sure you can borrow it, Irene. It's in the kitchen. I'll go get it.

MICHAEL

Hello, Mrs. Lorenzo

IRENE

Hello, Micheal.

GLORIA

Hello, Mrs. Lorenzo.

IRENE

Hello, Gloria.

ARCHIE

Hey, Uh, Irene, there, why didn't you just fix the blender?

IRENE

For your information, Archie, the motor's burned out. I had to send away for a new one.

MICHAEL

So why did God give the ten commandments to the Jews, Arch?

ARCHIE

Simple, Meathead. When they was walking through the desert, there, people was dying of thirst and starvation. God wanted someone to still be alive when they got to that there whatdoyoucallit Promised Land, there. Only way to do that was to make yourself some babies. But the screwy Heebs was always coverin' their women at night with blankets so they couldn't get at them, and they had this stupid idea not to do anything with the girl next door, there. That there is the reason for them there two condiments, Thou shall not cover thy neighbor's wife, and Thou shall not regret adultery.

MICHAEL

Arch, are you saying that God wanted them to commit adultery?

ARCHIE

Certainly! It was the only way those stupid Heebs could survive out there in that there desert there! Mind you, Meathead, things have changed since then. They found their Promised Land all right, Meathead, but now those Heebs are still livin' by them there twelve condiments. Why do you think the Chinks over there in China are only allowed to have one baby? Because the nation is full of Chinky Heebs! That's why, Meathead. They're getting overpopulated there. Same thing is beginning to happen here in the good ol' U.S. of A! That there is the reason for that there law they passed there yesterday!

Micheal throws his hands up in the air.

MICHAEL

I don't believe this!

Michael takes a deep breath and calms himself.

MICHAEL

You've outdone yourself, Arch.

Archie looks very proud of himself.

ARCHIE

Well thanks, there, Meathead. It's about time you listened to my years of experience.

IRENE

Don't you mean "many" years of
experience, Archie?

ARCHIE

Was that a shot, Irene?

Irene closes her eyes, nods once slowly, opens her eyes.

Edith comes out of the kitchen, hands blender to Irene.

EDITH

Here you are, Irene. Keep it as long
as you like.

IRENE

Thank you, Edith.

ARCHIE

Goodnight, Irene.

IRENE

Okay okay. I get the message, Archie.
I'm going. Goodbye Edith. Goodbye,
Mike. Goodbye, Gloria.

EDITH

Goodbye, Irene.

MICHAEL AND GLORIA

Goodbye, Mrs. Lorenzo.

Irene leaves. closing door behind her.

MICHAEL

Look Arch, first of all, Moses went up on Mount Siani to get the Ten Commandments. Second of all, it's not Mount Arabfat, it's Mount Ararat, and that's where Noah's Ark landed!

ARCHIE

Ah, what do you know, you Meathead, you? It's Mount Arabfat, and everybody knows it. I'll even prove it to you.

Archie turns toward Edith.

ARCHIE

Hey, Edith, there, where's that picture of Mount Arabfat in our Bible?

Archie sits down in chair, lights cigar. Edith runs to find Bible.

EDITH

Just a minute, Archie.

ARCHIE

Yep, Edith knew what I was talking about there, Meathead, and she's a dingbat!

By now Michael is sitting on sofa with Gloria.

MICHAEL

Look, Arch, I'm telling you it's Mount Ararat!

ARCHIE

Now you listen to me, Meathead. I
know...

Edith interrupts Archie.

EDITH

Here it is, Archie.

ARCHIE

Just set it down there, Edith. I'll
take it from here. You just get dinner
on the table, there.

Edith sets Bible on table opened to "Arabfat" page.

EDITH

Okay, Archie.

Edith runs to kitchen.

ARCHIE

Now, I'm gonna prove to you, Meathead,
that this here is called Mount
Arabfat!

MICHAEL

Go ahead, Arch.

Archie holds picture up so Michael and Gloria can see it.

ARCHIE

What do you see?

Michael and Gloria study picture.

MICHAEL

I see a picture of a mountain. So
what?

GLORIA

Yeah, Daddy. What's so special about
it?

ARCHIE

What do you mean what's so special?
The reason it's called Mount Arabfat,
Meathead, is because when you look
at it from a distance, it looks like
an overweight Arab guy!

Michael jumps up off of sofa.

MICHAEL

That's the most ridiculous thing I
have ever heard!

ARCHIE

Ah you don't know nothin', you
Meathead.

Archie walks to door, puts on his hat and coat.

Edith walks out of the kitchen to announce that dinner is
ready.

EDITH

Archie? Where are you going?

ARCHIE

I'm going down to Kelsey's bar, where
a man can eat with real men! Don't
be surprised if the cops come to the
door saying that they found me in
the gutter, there, Edith.

Edith looks worried.

EDITH

Oh, Archie. Why would they say that?

ARCHIE

Why? I'll tell you why, there, Edith.
Because that Meathead son-in-law of
yours has driven me to drink! That's
why!

Archie walks out and slams the door behind him.

Edith, Michael and Gloria gather around the back of Archie's
chair.

FADE OUT: