

#1

1939 to 1945 - World War 2 - the Second World War



#2

Top page left - Marx Brothers - top center - Churchill - Roosevelt and Stalin - top right - Chaplin as Hynkel - Daniell as Garbitsch - Oakie as Napaloni - middles left - 3 Stooges - middle middle - Hirohito - Hitler and Mussolini - middle right - Ritz Brothers - lower left - Andrews Sisters.

#1

Songwriter Sammy Cahn hears *Bei Mir Bistu Shein* - *To Me You're Beautiful* - sung in Yiddish by African-American performers at the Apollo Theater - in Harlem. Cahn - with Saul Chaplin - rewrites lyric in English with swing rhythms n'persuades - still unknown Andrews Sisters - to record the song November 24, 1937.

It becomes their 1st major hit - earns 'em a gold record - 1st to a female vocal group. #2.

A Jewish song - worldwide hit during World War 2 - a song Fannie Wunderlich sings - in Yiddish - David says - as she rocks children'n grandchildren to sleep - inna '50s and '60s. Dudie's lives overlap - over and over.



Seward Park Library ↗

#1

Dudie's favorite books ↓ in 1940s -



are mystery books - by Augusta Huiell Seaman. He never talks with anyone about what he reads - so - he's surprised when Yvonne Rainer says - in 2015 - she read the Seaman books too - as a child.



REGULAR PRETENDERS: Nila Mack, producer-director-author and one-woman talent agency with a list of "Let's Pretend." Many big-name young actors and actresses were starred by Nila.

#2

I am given and read Grimm's'n Andersen's fairy tales - David says - n'listen to *LET'S PRETEND* on Saturday mornings - fairy tale adaptations - onna radio - Rose - surprisingly - takes the 2 of us - Richie'n me - David says - to see the radio show. ➔ Men in regular suits - women in dresses'n hats - stand at mikes - n'cackle like witches - and crones and read from scripts. Sounda thunder - n'horse's hoofs are made by 1 man. Ordinary looking people make magic onna stage. A transformative experience - David says.



#1

Russian Fannie Wunderlich don't read or write English - but -
inna '30s - the story goes - she walks uptown from her Orchard Street tenement -
 to Scribner's book store - how does she know to do this - on upper 5th Avenue -
 ← to buy Laura Lee Hope's *Bobbsey Twins* series -
 1 atta time - as they are published -
 for 1st daughter Rose.

#2

Inna '40s - Dudie - that's David - holds Rosie's legs -
 as she climbs onna unsteady kitchen chair - to reach a kitchen closet.
 She keeps her childhood books up there - and doles 'em out 1 atta time -
 to 1st son David -
 who's gonna read 1st - about the Bobbsey family -
 2 setsa Bobbsey twins - Nan'n Burt - and Flossie'n Freddie Bobbsey.

#1

Did Rosie ever ask if I like 'em - David says -
 or tell me if she liked 'em?
 I don't think so.

(Turns out - Norman Mailer's 1948 novel - *Naked and the Dead* -
 is up inna closet too - teen age David climbs up - finds'n reads it.)

#2

Seward Park Library allows ya to take 8 books in 1 go.
 Once a week - when David's old enough ta go alone - he lugs 8.
He frequently chooses books about families -
to tryta figure out - he says now -
how other people's families work - grown ups'n kids -
do they actually talk'n listen to each other?

***The Saturdays* - a series by Elizabeth Enright →**



4 books about 4 Melendy children determined to take turns having adventures in pre-World War II New York City.
 And ***The Moffats*** - by Eleanor Estes - 4 young children and their mother live in a small town in Connecticut.

Based on Estes' memories in a working-class - single-parent American family - during World War I. →

#1

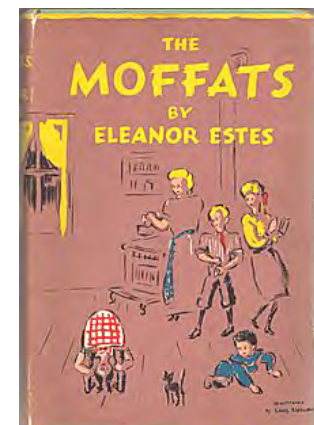
I also read - David says - books that get made into movies -
Cheaper by the Dozen is a biographical novel -

by Frank Bunker Gilbreth, Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey - published in **1948** -

I ain't allowed to see *Lost Weekend* - movie with Ray Milland as an alcoholic -
 not for kids - Rose says - but I take the *Lost Weekend* book outta the library and read it.

#2

Rosie don't know. If she asks what I'm reading - I will lie.





#1

Mama's Bank Account - stories of a Norwegian family - in San Francisco - in the **1910s** - is published in **1943** - transformed in the **1944** play - by John Van Druten -
 ← **I Remember Mama** - a **1948** film version of the play - RKO Pictures - stars Irene Dunne as Mama and - Barbara Bel Geddes - as daughter Katrin - a would be writer.
 Kathryn Forbes is a radio scriptwriter - before she begins to write - short stories



#2

Mama - TV series - based on the film
 ← stars Peggy Wood - broadcast on - CBS - July 1, 1949 to March 17, 1957.
 I read the book - David says - see the film - and watch the TV series - what useta be called - "religiously" - for years - once a week with all my family Does that include my father? Maybe not.

#1

The movie stays in my head - I wonder now - David says - if *I Remember Mama* - ↓ - ain't a genetic grandma - to *The Mysteries*?



#2

Irene Dunn ↑ as the practical'n heroic mama - and the aunts - Sigrid - Jenny - Trina - the Greek chorus - commenting on the family action - and - the disruptive entrances'n exits of Uncle Chris - acted by Oskar Homolka - the lowering of the window shades to darken his room when he dies - and Philip Dorn - as the hard working - patient - philosophical father who's never angry - and the actor Florence Bates - as the famous author - who advises mama to advise daughter Katrin - to write what she knows.

#1

1950s - David who don't go to a lotta parties - goes to a party - sees a girl - she's Dagmar inna TV series *Mama* - TV show I watch half my life. David says do I say hello? Which her do I say hello to?

#2

1957 - Rose'n Sam show up at my 1st professional dancing job in Roanoke - 20th birthday surprise (see '50s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY) - my real Mom'n Dad drive into my new real other life - I dunno howta talk to 'em - David says - I needta rehearse. 1990s - hafta cast actors - 1st time - for new show - I know I know 'em - characters on TV and in films I see again'n again - howda I talk to 'em? Hello - I see ya on TV - ya sure you wanna do this?

#1

1948 - *I Remember Mama* is directed by George Stevens - David sees *I Remember Mama* -

1951 - *A Place In The Sun* is directed by George Stevens - David sees *A Place in The Sun* - and sees it again -

and sees it again - with those haunting close ups of Elizabeth Taylor'n Montgomery Clift -

n'sees it again and walks inna door of 115 Ludlow Street with "red eyes"- again - and Rosie says - you saw it again? (see '50s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY)



#2

1947 - in real life David - still don't have no long pants like other boys.

Has 2 pairsa brown corduroy knickers - hardened with spilled milk.

Rose buckles Alfred's old cap with earflaps under David's chin. She pulls someone's old coat collar up around his neck.

Cover ya neck - she says. Ya want pneumonia?

Rosie thrusts a paper bag in his hand. Kosher salami n'mustard on Wonder Bread. Or hard boiled egg'n sliced tomato.

Or peanut butter and red jelly on Wonder bread.

David runs down the 3 flightsa Ludlow Street stairs. Stuffs the brown paper lunch bag in his briefcase.

#1

Bigger boys - are gonna grab the briefcase - David says - to himself - inna school yard. N'yaa - n'yaa -

Boys pull his hat off'n toss the hat - and the briefcase - and the hat - and the briefcase.

Back'n forth.

Does he chase the hat? Or the bag? Or stand still?

N'yaa - n'yaa - ha ha - they goad and laugh.

They laugh at his hat with earflaps - and his bag - his bagga books - and how he don't defend himself - and they laugh at his knickers.



#2

☛ KNICKERS ARE LOOSE-FITTING TROUSERS GATHERED AT THE KNEE OR CALF.

1962 David Gordon performs 1st Judson Church solo. (see '60s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 1)

Mannequin Dance rotates to the floor as he sings *Second Hand Rose*.

Fanny Brice sings the song in Zeigfeld's Follies in 1921.

Even tings I'm veering - somevun vore before. It's no vunder dat I feel abused. I nevva get a ting dat ain't been used.

No family ever sees or hears Dudie sing *Second Hand Rose*.

#1

So - David don't choose his own clothes - dunno if other kids do or don't.

Inna '40s - no Wunderlich or Gordon gives anything away.

David wears what he gets "handed down" which once - mosta the time - belonged to someone else.

Fannie's boarder Hymie - uses Singer sewing machine - turns worn yellowed collarsa - Sam n'Alfred's shirts.

Guys wear collars turned up at the back inna '40s - David don't.

#2

He wears Uncle Alfred's old shirt and 6 button double-breasted herringbone jacket - with faded yellow shoulders'n Sam's tie n'clutches Alfred's too long sleeves in his armpit.

So they don't stick outta the too short sleevesa Sam's blue winter coat.

Rose'n Fannie save terminally old clothes fa the ragman - at the bottoma the closet -

in David'n Richard's shared bedroom - in a canvas laundry bag.

Ragman looka like Fagin in *Oliver Twist*. Big hook nose'n wet nostrils. ➔

Fingerless gloves n'rubs his hands'n breathes through his mouth.

He yells rags - yells at the bottom of the stairs inna hallway. Rags!

From the 3rd floor Rose yells - come up. He climbs 3 flights.

Rosie empties rag bag onna tile hall floor. A "rag" gotta be real old or it's a "hand me down".

Ragman examines each piece. Does he add in his head? 75 cents - he says.

Fannie wantsa dollar - bargains in Yiddish. Ragman grumbles n'counts out a dollar in change.

Rose returns the now empty bag to David's closet.

David eyes exchange of shmattas for 4 quarters. Hard to get 5 cents from Rosie to buy lemon ices.

Or a sweet potato from the guy on Orchard Street. Are we poor mama?

Pleasa ma - buy me a paira long pants. Alla boys got 'em. I'm the only one not. Rosie don't smile.

IF EVERYONE JUMPS OFF A BRIDGE - ROSE GORDON SAYS - ARE YOU GONNA JUMP TOO?

#1

Inna '40s - Rosie finally buys David a paira long pants for Junior High - ain't allowed to wear 'em till he graduates P.S. 160.

David is threatened weekly with lossa his long pants. I'm gonna take 'em back to the store If ya talk back. SUCHABIGSHOTWIDLONGPANTS.

#2

Talk back is - someone older says do something 1st - and something 2nd - and you say - maybe it's better if I do the 2nd thing 1st - and the 1st thing 2nd - that's talk back.

Rosie says - suchabigshot talking back.

Yettie says - toldya not to buy'm long trouserrs. Yettie lights a Pall Mall. Rosie lights a Chesterfield and passes an ashtray.

David takes his library book inna bedroom.

#1

1940s - David's in Miss Reilly's 3rd grade class at PS 160. Quiet down please! Miss Reilly's out sick the substitute teacher says - and writes her name onna blackboard.



#2

1 boy volunteers - If teacher's out - we getta tell stories. David - he points - tells stories. There are 2 other Davids inna class. He points at me - David says. David don't realize - till the '70s in the improvisational Grand Union - making up stories is improvising - and improvising is related to lying. David makes up stories or improvises. Or lies and invents the truth he needs - or wants - instead of the truth he has. (see '70s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 1)

HE BEGINS TO LIE INNA '40s AND NEVER STOPS.

#1

David faces the 3rd grade class. Once upon a time - he says - a boy hasta get a chicken.

Rose - it's true - sends David on Friday - to the live chicken market - say a good chicken - not too big.

Under the Williamsburg bridge - inna live chicken market - women holler what they want. →

A woman hollers gimme da big brown chicken - da reddish brown - ova there. No - not ova there.

She points at chickens in wood cages. Ova yeah - that one - the red-haired woman yells.

Oh - I was gonna get that one another woman says to another woman. David don't make this up.

David continues chicken story for the class. The boy gotta dollar - maybe 2 dollars'n holds 'em in his hand - in his pocket. Walks to da cawna of da street where he lives. Waits fa da light to turn green -

like he's supposeta but the light turns white. Someone in the class says white? The light turns white?

Or anudda color but the sign says cross. Cross anyway but now he's onna different street.

New street he never saw befaw. In fronta him's a boy like him. He wearsa same clothes as me, David says.

I holler - David says - hey kid, hey where ya goin? He's buying chicken fa his mother too. Me too.

Now it's back about him but there's 2 of him. 2 Davids. What happens next? Don't know.

Makes it all up'n don't know what's next till he hears what he says next. What he says next'n next.

Kids get quiet'n listen. They laugh - teacher does too. Nobody tells'm to stop. **It's 1947** - David "improvises".

#2

Chicken guy in bloody apron pulls screeching flapping bird from cage'n chops the head not altogether off.

Class goes oooh or they laugh. David enjoys the laugh. Substitute teacher says quiet down.

Onna way home he holdsa leaking bag away from his corduroy knickers.

Rosie lines the kitchen sink in yesterdays *Daily News*. Begins to pluck - feathers fly up in her hair - and stick to the sweat on her face. And her eyeglasses. Reaches up the altogether bald chicken's ass -

or downa hole where the head useta be - and pulls out alla insides. Lights the gas stove with a little explosion. Grabs the neck'n feet'n holds the chicken - like a hammock over the flame. She sears the endsa the feathers till they're black. Pinches warm dead chicken skin - to pull out the blackened pieces.

Chicken neck'n feet and gizzards - and little meatballs'll - make chicken fricassee tomorrow or next week.

Ma - David asks - how d'y know this dead chicken'll taste better than another one? Did you finish your homework - Rosie asks. Go finish your homework.

#1

In 1940s - inna 4th grade - Mrs. Garfield is David's teacher. Mrs. Garfield? Garfine?

Mrs. something with a "G". Bring in cansa food fa starving kids in Europe - Mrs. G says.

Ma - teacher says about starving kids. Tell ya teacher - Rosie says - charity begins at home.

But alla kids are gonna bring a can. Don't make me the only 1 not.

Talk back in knickers - Rosie says - what'll happen if I buy ya long pants?

Every kid stands up. Formally presents canna condensed milk - corn niblets or peas. →

2 cansa Heinz baked beans! 2 cans! Must be rich!

My mother says - David says still sitting - charity begins at home. Kids laugh as if he made a joke.

Mrs. G says stand up. Tell ya mother we'll tell that to a starving child - siddown!

#2

By 5th grade - David is a "regular comedian". Crosses his eyes and makes fart noises. You're a regular comedian - Rosie says - when he misbehaves.



#1

Miss Mae Ratkowsky leads **5th grade** class in song - *Beeeuteeful dreama* - come unto me. List while I woo thee. With strict harmoneeee. She conducts with a 12-inch wood ruler. She is serious'n stern'n ecstatic - in navy blue print crepe. A tent of a dress with bits of lace around the open vee neck (see *Sleep Walking* - with Trisha Brown & Nancy Lewis - in '**70s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 1**) Heavy forearms push outta elbow length lace trimmed sleeves. Sidesa her dress hike'n dip and her slip is revealed. David crosses his eyes'n imitates the action as she conducts. Kids giggle. Teacher says what's so funny? Kids shout'n point. It's his fault, Miss Ratkowsky. Miss Ratkowsky hits the palma her hand with the ruler. Whack. What did David do now? He stops breathing. Disgusting noises'n stupid faces. He's crazy. Crosses his eyes - 1 kid says. He goes inna girls toilet when I'm in it - 1 girl giggles. Pretends he dunno where he is'n peeks in da booth. She laughs. True. What she says is true. David thinks it's a game. He thinks the other kids think it's a game.

#2

He always wantsa gimme stuff - kids say - wantsa gimme. What they say is true. David triesta bribe kids - bribe 'em to like him. Buys crayons - colored pencils'n pencil sharpeners. Pencil boxes - rulers'n fruit-shaped erasers. Buys Tootsie rolls. Chocolate covered raspberry jellies - mints'n Hershey Kisses. Buys 1 n'steals 1. Or just steals. Steals change from Rose's purse. She falls asleep reading a book inna night. She won't know. He steals a dollar. Buys rectangular colored pinky red desk blotters - inna 5 and 10 - patterns of squares'n diagonals - covers his school desk. David cuts along lines with stolen 5 & 10 scissors - blotter pieces to kids - for their desks. They take 'em. Miss Ratkowsky says we have a problem. I need to see your mother.

#1

Dudie hasta tell Rosie he's been stealing from her. Rosie's angry. She never hit him before - he says. She grabs the 1st thing handy. A wire hanger. Rosie hits Dudie with a wire hanger. Scrapes his arm. It bleeds. He cries - I promise I won't do it again - mama. I promise. He cries too. Wipes the blood with her flowered hankie. She holds him in her arms - and cries - and rocks him like a baby.

#2

1940s - 6th grade Public School graduation -

David stencils hearts - clubs - diamonds'n spades on colored pages of his autograph album - family and friends write greetings. Yours till the side walks. Yours till the book ends.

David's finally bossa something. Bossa his own book.

Only **he** can choose who signs. In bed at night he think who to let? His brother. His aunts.

Grocer Frank Cooper'n his wife Sadie. They're famous. Pictures inna *Daily News*.

They adopt a baby but they hafta give it back. Birth mother changes her mind.

Sadie can't have children. Everybody says so but she gets pregnant after all.

Everybody says wotta miracle so Dudie says it too. Sadie'n Frank gotta sign. And Hymie.

Fannie? Fannie can't sign - she can't write. Not even her name. She could make an X.

No. Don't bother her. Bessie from across the street? Sits all day looking outta her 1st floor window.

She lets down her shopping bag. David'll put the album in - she can sign and send it back.

Teachers he likes can sign. Kids who let him sign their books. Kids who ask him. They can sign.

1 kid he don't like wantsa sign - David ain't gonna let him. Dunno how he gets the book'n signs it.

Roses are red - violists are blue - sidewalls are cratked and I will cratk yow.

The only message in the album David never forgets.

#1

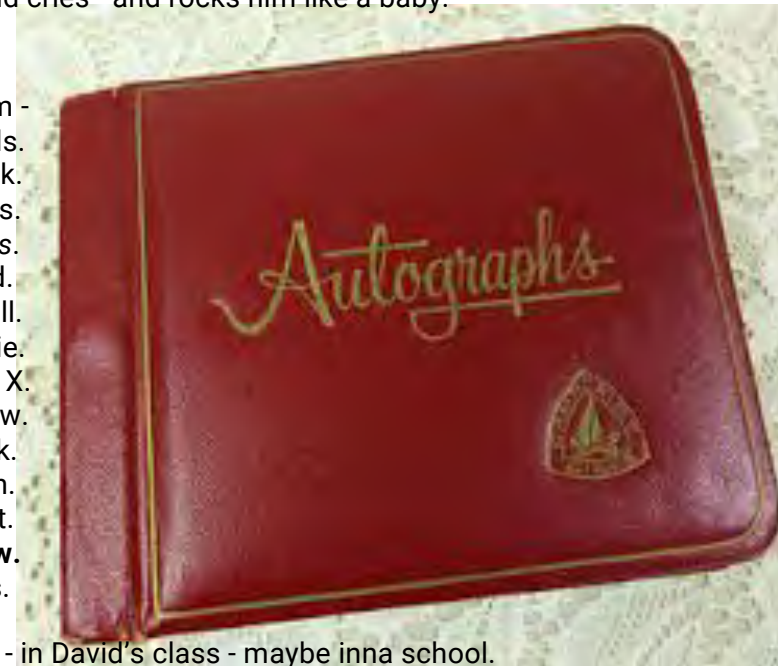
Carlos Rivera and Stanley Hill transfer to PS 160 - from another school. Stanley's the 1st black kid - in David's class - maybe inna school.

And Stanley wears knickers. Not corduroy - but knickers - it's a miracle. Nobody makes funna David's knickers no more.

Carlos is the 1st Puerto Rican student. Carlos bikes by 115 Ludlow. Hey - ya wanna ride? David puts down his book'n climbs on.

Onna backa the 2 wheeler. He holds on like Carlos says. Arounda block a coupla times. Fast. Dudie wishes Sam could see him.

Sam's back inna Marines. Re-enlists. Yettie says he owes money. He owes so much to the bookies - she says - they're gonna kill him. Rosie hasta get a job



#2

Outta PS 160 - Junior High School 65. Ludlow Street to Eldridge - instead Ludlow to Norfolk. Same old briefcase. Same old lunch inna brown paper bag. Rose adds meatloaf'n ketchup to lunch menu. On Wonder Bread. Wrapped in wax paper. Once in a while he begs for money for a hero. Ham'n cheese or meatball. Inna sandwich shop he shouts his order like other kids.

He hides coins in his shoe onna way to the store.
David's geographic world don't get bigger. Only more dangerous.
A big kid sees David get change from the hero'n follows him'n shows a razor.
Gimme ya money - the kid says. Dudie says ok.

#1

Junior High 65 - David learnsta use a sewing machine - →
makes a bow tie fa Sam who never wears one
In metal shop - for Rose - who don't bake - David makes a cookie cutter →
Learns to type fast in typing class. Serves him well now onna computer.
Hasta take Gym. Fizz Ed. Can't climb up on - jump over or unda anything.
Nobody picks him for a team unless teacher says they hafta.

He's George in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* -
with Marilyn Kratka as Emily - he has a crush on her -

but - teacher decides to only do act 3 - Emily's funeral - George has no lines - so - David getsta be - instead - Mr. Webb - Emily's father.

1940s - David goes to school with Sam's coat - in June - hat and galoshes in a shopping bag - and with a big umbrella.

In penciled mustache n'sideburns - dressed in Sam's winter clothes he's ready to enter - where's my girl? Where's my girl? Where's my birthday girl?

Marilyn Kratka - as Emily - forgets to say the cue - the line that brings him on stage. David packs up Sam's coat - hat - galoshes'n umbrella.

Sam don't know David's in a play - David figures out his "artistic" talents don't make Sam Gordon happy - and Rose is too busy to go ta see it.

David imagines what Rose will say when he gets home - and what he will say n'what she will say and what he will say back.

How'd it go - Rose asks Dudie - okay he says - she gets him a glassa milk'n an Oreo cookie - thanks he says - he imagines the resta the scene and the last line
the line he might say - before he hangs Sam's coat back inna closet with the rag bag. He prepares to lie - rehearses over and over in his head onna way home.

Not getting onstage in *Our Town* becomes a "script" called *Not Getting Onstage In Our Town* to be acted by Rose Gordon - David Gordon and Marilyn Kratka.

#2

1940s - Dudie hasta go - after regular school - to study Hebrew inna Jewish Settlement House on Stanton Street. In his corduroy knickers - n'argyle falling down knee socks - and in his ox blood lace up shoes. Ox blood goes with anything - Orchard Street shoe salesman says - ox blood's sorta maroon. A blind man can't see the "second" - he says. A second is an irregularity. David looks at his maroon feet. Perforated design onna fronta the left shoe - is wider than the right. And crooked.

Left maroon shoe squeaks - grettz. Corduroy thighs make whoosh - whoosh noise. Whoosh - whoosh - grettz - whoosh - whoosh - grettz.

#1

Inna Jewish Settlement House they discover David's a soprano. He hasta sing inna synagogue - called a shul - they say - and also -in another shul - and - in a Purim show.
He's King Achashveros - n'no family knows - or comes to see.

#2

A Jewish boy is officially a man at 13. Hasta learn parta the Torah for his Bar Mitzvah. Study the Haftorah daily to sing it inna synagogue - in long pants - if ya lucky.

Other kids go home after regular school. David walks very slow from Norfolk Street to Stanton Street. He picks up cigarette butts inna street - puffs 2 or 3 times.

Prefers filters but maybe he only finds unfiltered. Ends get wet with spit. Tobacco pieces go in his mouth. Tries to spit 'em out with an arc like the guys do. Ptoo - ptoo.

Dribbles down his chin and his jacket - or Hymie's jacket. Or Alfred's jacket.

#1

Why are you late? teacher asks. I got lost, David grins. He's fearless in Hebrew school. Won't sell Jewish National Fund lottery tickets. Don't ya wanna be a good Jew? No. Jewish Settlement closes the enda June. David Gordon is left to practice his Haftorah daily on his own. Gonna get Bar Mitzvahed about 3 doors down from 115 Ludlow.

Congregation Kadisha Anshei Podolsk Synagogue - ↓ - at 121 Ludlow.





#2

July 1949 - 2 weeks before his Bar Mitzvah - David learns - he learned the wrong Haftorah.

6 months - after school every afternoon - inna Jewish Settlement House - David learns a wrong Haftorah - wrong music symbols connected to wrong Hebrew words. He has 2 weeks - to learn a new Haftorah. Hasta teach it to himself - alone - inna bedroom - at home'n to make it easier to remember - and to sing - he changes some melodic symbols - and waits for Rosie'n Fannie's God to strike him dead.



#2

#1

Dudie's supposeta get - a real new suit - or a jacket of his own - for his Bar Mitzvah.

Fannie knows a man - on Essex Street -

just got in stock - a -

browndoublebreasted1buttonlounge

Maybe big - Fannie says -

but big ya can take in -

n'let it out if he grows.

#2

Please - Dudie says - can we go to - S. Klein onna Square.

Okay - okay - they add Yetta.

Yettie'n Rosie buy same gray dress with 1 white lace shoulder.

I'll wear strapless bra - Yettie purrs.

Practical Rosie cutsa lace in half'n - makes 2 sturdy straps.

David holds out for 1 button - half-belted - blue jacket with button cuff sleeves.

Purple rayon short sleeve shirt. No tie.

He dunno the shirt's purple. Thinks it's blue. Don't know he's red/green color blind till college. (see '50s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY)

#1

Women can't sit with men inna Synagogue. Rose - Fannie'n the aunts hafta sit upstairs. In backa white curtains'n inch 'em open - to get a better look at Dudie. Old men downstairs yell in Yiddish - close da coitins. Crippled Bessie from across the street climbs the stairs with her cane'n her milk box - 1 step at a time. David never sees Bessie anywhere but framed in her 1st floor window. She calls out to Dudie'n lets down a tired bag onna frayed rope - with money - and - a handwritten grocery - from her window. Pulls up what he buys'n her change. Sometimes he runs'n pretends he don't hear - she calls Dudie. Dudie!

#2

Enda Bar Mitzvah service - women toss white net wrapped bundles - of raisins and almonds from the balcony. They bounce off David's head and shoulders. Toothless Bessie eats her raisins'n almonds. Stuffs a crumpled dollar bill in David's hand. Rosie says give it back - say thanks'n yashouldlive'nbe well. David gives it back like Rosie says. Waits in fear fa Rosie'n Fannie's vengeful God - to kill him for changing Haftorah symbols. God don't notice.

#1

Rose'n Sam save up'n buy 4 \$100 US bonds - for a catered Bar Mitzvah party. But David's birthday - **in 1949** - is some kinda holiday - n'ya can't have no party - in a restaurant or a hall - Godforbid. David gets Congratulations Dudie cash gifts and a 14-carat DG initial ring'n a simulated ruby and 14-carat gold snake ring with diamond chip eyes. **Inna '90s** - Pauline - Maxie's widow asks if David still has it? Uncle Maxie - she says - heshouldrestinpeace - picked it fa you special. **The 4 US \$100 bonds get saved inna bank vault. David forgets all about 'em.**

He gets the 4 bonds - again in 1960 - at his wedding to Valda Setterfield. (see '60s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 1)

Rosie and Yettie both wear their matching S. Klein gray dresses - with 1 or 2 white lace shoulders - to the party in Fannie's living room.
Inna 1940s - Rose never shops alone - she shops - when she shops - with Fannie - and 1 or more of her sisters - and David too.



#2

◀ Shopping is on 14th Street at S. Klein on the Square.
 David always vomits onna Avenue A bus. Rose once reads - she says - to rub Dudie's neck onna bus so he won't vomit. Rubs from Essex'n Delancey allawayta 14th Street'n Union Square - but he always vomits onna Avenue A bus.
 Rose has Kleenex in a handbag - on her arm - to wipe David's nose or sticky face'n hands - after Good Humors or Italian ices - or - after he vomits. Anyone want gum - Rosie says. Wrigleys or Chicklets? Rose always has chewing gum in her bag. N'Life Savers.

#1

Inna store - David sits under the S.Klein dress racks. He plays with dropped safety pins and tags. He makes up stories in his head while the women shop.

#2

1961 - David's 1st full time professional display job - is at S. Klein onna Square (see '60s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 2)
 David lies'n says he knows howta do "display". howta put a shirt - or a dress - on a mannequin - but the other display guys gotta generously show him - howta remove an arm'n - howta use "invisible" wire - n'double face tape - so skirts are blowinthewind. He also feeds cards inna outdoor electric sign to spell - SALE...LADIES NOVELTY FLATTIES.

#1

Yettie likes a black crepe dress. She don't need it. More black. But it's such a bargain - she says. Rosie likes Yettie's dress.

#2

Buys 1 too. And 1 in navy fa Ruthie. Rose finds sale shoes. Buys 1 black and 1 brown high heel. Yetta likes 'em too. She buys only black. Do they come with a lower heel fa Fannie?

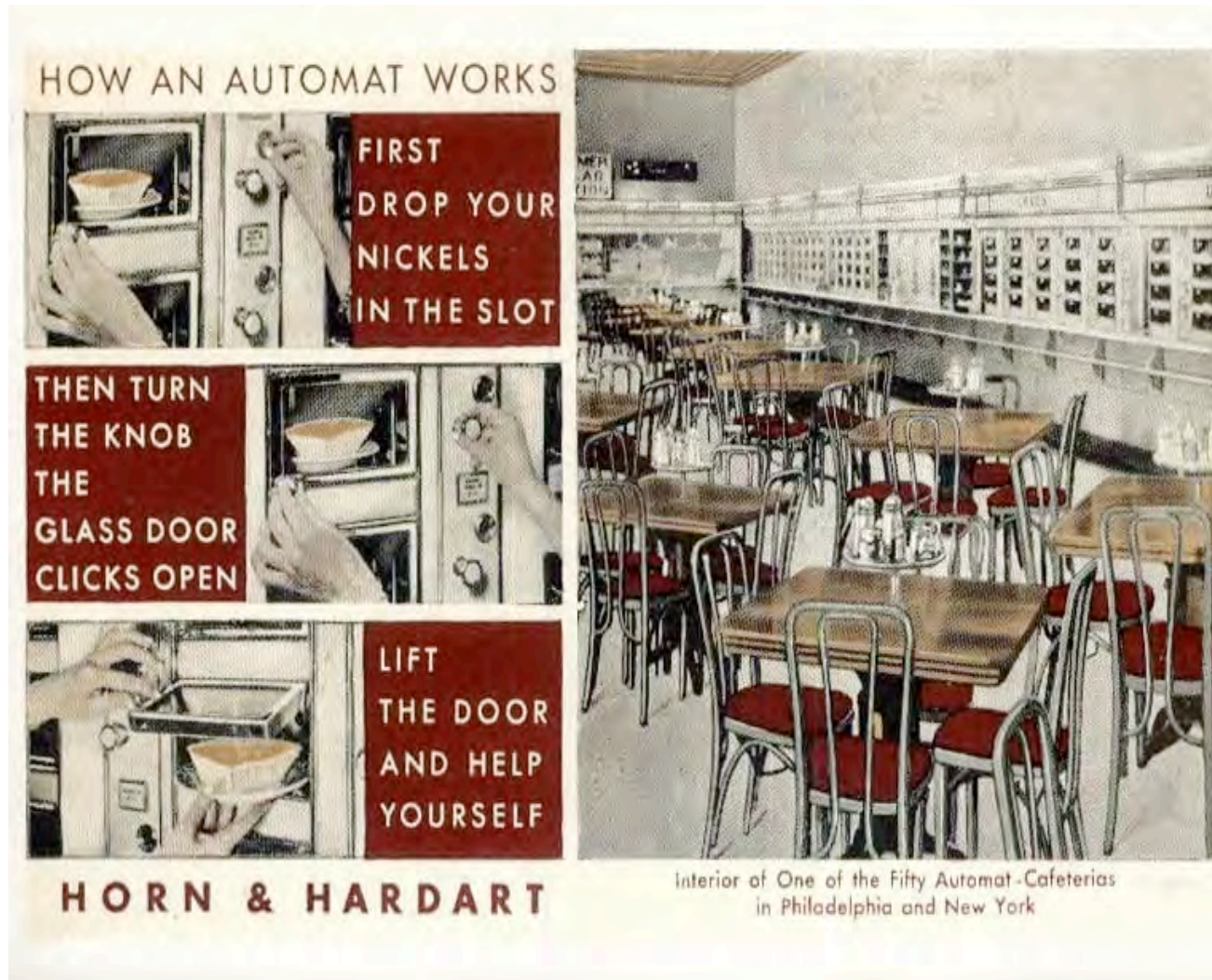
Look mama - Rose findsa right size low heel - but brown. What'll she wear brown with? Fannie at home will wish - in Yiddish - she bought the low heel brown. She forgets she has that brown wool skirt. Sam Gordon needs a coupla plaid flannels. Fa work - Rosie says. Maybe Sam Adler does too? Yettie thinks yeah. Dudie gets up from unda the rack'n rubs his eyes inna light. A woman says maybe your boy's my boys size. D'ya mind if he tries this on? Not at all - Rose says.

#1

Woman hands over a yellow and brown plaid sleeveless pullover. Dudie - put this on for the lady. The woman and Rosie and Fannie and Yettie all stand back and look at Dudie.

#2

Make faces. Pull the neck. Pull the bottom. Turn around Dudie - Rosie says. Stand straight - Yettie says. Whattaya think? I think it's good the woman says. Very nice - Rosie says. How much is it? And where is it? The woman says where. And how much it costs and what other colors it comes in. Nobody asks David if he likes it but it don't matter. Rosie won't buy it. Whats he need it for? Alfred's old sleeveless still fits. Yetta decides when they shop enough and when they're hungry. She decides it's time to go - around the corner - ↓ - to the Horn and Hardart Automat.



#1

David is 12 - he says - when Sam gets him a 1st job - at Sosinsky and Sons - on Orchard Street - a block from Ludlow Street - where we live - Sosinsky Jr. shows me - David says - howta cover up the spots - or holes - inna irregular Arrow shirt. Put ya hand ova the spot when ya show it to a customer - n'shove it inna bag fast - he says.

#2

Winter Sundays - David stands outside the store - on cardboard laid on toppa snow'n ice. Wears shoes and galoshes'n 3 pairsa socks. Once in a while old Mrs. Sosinsky tells David - to go inside - warm up by da gas stove fa coupla minutes - she says. Do I go home for lunch? It's dark when he goes home with the 3 dollars day's pay - and gives the money proudly - to Rose.

#1

Yettie grabs a table. Dudie'n Fannie hafta sit with bags. Rosie'n Yettie get nickels'n trays. Rosie gets hot food for her'n Dudie. Nobody asks David what he wants. Corn niblets - home fries'n spaghetti - or spaghetti - creamed spinach n'beets - or creamed spinach - beets'n corn niblets. Rose always gets a Kaiser roll. N'baked beans. Baked beans from the nickel windows - are sweet and salty - with a piece of bacon fat - in a crusted bowl.

#2

Hafta wait a coupla minutes for nearly invisible ladies with hairnets in backa nickel windows to refill shelves.

#1

When shelves swing back you put your nickels inna slot.

#2

Finish eating n'someone says: who gotta go to the toilet? Everybody gotta. Then they gotta shop some more. Or they gotta go home - somebody says.

#1

Yettie and Rosie hafta make supper for their Sammies.

#2

Whatta you making? Barley soup and brisket. Whatta you? Everybody tells everybody everything. Everybody has something to say - about everybody's - everything'n - everybody gets onna Avenue A bus - back to Delancey Street'n Rosie rubs Dudie's neck - alla way'n Yetta takes her new dress - outta the Klein's bag to admire it - n'Dudie vomits up the Horn and Hardart lunch.



#1

Inna summer - Sam gets David a job at U.S. Vitamins - 42nd Street and 2nd Avenue.
 David picks up mail every hour on every floor and files thin slippery sheets of yellow copy paper.
 He assists Willie - a slow middle-aged head office boy - who has vacation'n - David falls badly behind with filing.
 He's 14 years old'n furiously masturbating. Finds his 1st dirty picture book in Willie's desk drawer.
 Hides out inna men's toilet every chance he gets. Starts to throw invoices behind file cabinets.

#1

David has new brown gabardine long pants'n a yellow - green'n tan rayon short-sleeved pullover shirt for work.
 He takes lunch at the local Horn and Hardart Automat a block from the office.
 Gets a tray and nickels and orders Rosie's creamed spinach - beets and spaghetti.
 In the Automat Rose always orders. On his own he orders what she always orders.

Takes the tray of hot food to the nickel windows. Putsa tray onna counter'n reaches up to put nickels inna slot for baked beans.
 Shelves begin to revolve. He leans in to open the door before beans'n his nickels disappear. The tray'n the plate tip up.
 Plate hits his belly'n slides downa fronta his pants to his crotch. Spaghetti - beets'n creamed spinach. Covered in redorange'ngreen.
 How long before he pushes the plate back on the tray? Abandons the plate onna counter'n - finds a payphone. →
 Inna olden days - David says - calls cost a nickel - pay phones work - and a boy's mother is always home - David calls Rose.
 Rosie subways uptown with a clean shirt'n pants - and a salami sandwich on Wonder Bread.

#2

Inna '40s - David don't realize he never chooses what he eats. Not at home n'not out.

Inna Chinese restaurant - the Pageant - Sam always orders. We all eat what Sam always orders -

and In Katz's Deli - Rose always orders corn beef on rye - Sam always orders pastrami on club and Dr. Brown's Cel-ray soda -

Dudie eats'n drinks what Sam'n Rose eat'n drink. Potato pirogen or blintzes in Ratner's dairy restaurant. Potato knishes from Yonah Schimmel.



#1

David has a list - from Rosie - of what Rose wants from Russ and Daughters. The Russ daughters know the Wunderlich sisters.
 Rosie says to wait for Hattie'n say hello from me - she says. David always says hello and - my mother wants nova sliced thin'n a coupla lox wings.
 And 2 medium white fish - and a piece-a carp - and pickled herring with onions - he always buys what she says'n eats what she cooks.

Rosie is not a cook. Which is not to say she don't cook. She does. She fries - broils or boils.

Inna '40s - rare - medium or medium rare ain't categories David knows. He only knows well done'n he don't hafta ask for it.



#2

In 1953 - just turned 17 in July - and in college - David has no idea what to do in a restaurant. Other kids know what they want. David actually - has never - actually - read a menu. He figures out - what is referred to at home - and by Fannie - as "hock flaisch" - translates as chop meat. Chop meat must be a hamburger? I'll have a hamburger - please. Waiter asks how d'ya want it? Dudie has no idea what he means. With a roll - please - he says. The kids think David's a riot

#1

Inna summera 1950 Sam gets David a job uptown - on Madison Avenue - at *Photography Magazine*. →

1st kinda sophisticated job connected to some kinda art making.

Boss is a tall big-boned woman with a wide red-lipsticked mouth.

Eleanor Roosevelt face'n big brimmed summer hats'n print dresses.

White gloves'n stiff bracelets bang bang if she gestures or tears open envelopes.

A Miss something not a Mrs. Not like the women David comes from. More "uptown".

Sorta Aunt Yettieish but real original style. Bossy'n funny. She has peevess'n pet peeves.

Says Maurice is "French fried." Insists we pronounce it Morris.

Did she say "french fried"? Or did she say "frenchified"?

#2

David catalogues photos of children or pets - or children and pets -

by amateur photographers for the annual contest. Sun rises - sunsets - and storms.

Colored photosa flowers. Fieldsa flowers and bunchesa flowers. Flowers in vases, In baskets - strewn.

Photosa men or women smoking - chimneys smoking - and churches - and black'n white nun photos.

1950 - David's in high school in September. Who wantsa tell what you did inna summer - teacher says? Not David.

Inna '60s - Ain comes home after 1st daya school. David asks - did teacher wanna know what you did inna summer?

Yes. Did you say you went to Iran? No. You didn't say you went to Iran with Valda and the Cunningham Company? No. Why not?

Ain is bored and exasperated with David's foolishness. I told you - he says. They don't believe me. They went to Coney Island.

David says - did'ya tell 'em you go to Coney Island alla time? Ya great grandma'n ya grandma'n grandpa live there?

Ain heads for his room. Nobody - Ain says - without turning around - believes anybody really lives in Coney Island.

#1

1950 *Photography Magazine* summer job - precedes new Visual Arts major David Gordon's 1st photography lab - in 1955. (See '50s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY)



#2

In 1947 Rosie hasta find a new doctor.

Dr. Lew - the doctor Sam insists saves baby David's life - retires from general practice.

The new doctor says Rosie has a tumor. Gotta operate tomorrow. Today.

Ya know what I said - Sam says Betta call Dr. Lew!

Ya know what Dr. Lew said? Tell him what - Rosie! Tumor shmumor.

Rose grins'n nods. It's the truth - she says. Sam says tumor shmumor again.

Buy a maternity dress on ya way home - Sam says he says.

No - he didn't say buy a dress - Rose says. And a crib'n a carriage. And a pink bow.

Wait 6 months - Sam says Dr. Lew says. Ya got a beautiful girl.

Sam is triumphant. Rosie says - he did say girl. He knew it was a...

With that other bastard we wouldn't have a "beautiful blonde blue-eyed baby girl".

Sam always says that.

The baby girl is born October 29, 1947. They count her fingers and toes'n name her Lois →

after Sam's father Louis - who dies in March of '47. David is 11 with a new baby sister.

Thank God - they always say - for Doctor Lew.

Lois Gordon - photographed by Brooklyn College art student - David Gordon - 1950s →

#1

Inna late '60s - David's brother Richard works full time with Sam onna EssGee truck.

Is it gonna get to be Sam and Son? Richie says no.

Richie wantsa be independent - he says.

Also **inna late '60s** - David says - I incorporate my not for profit dance company - called Pick Up.

I print an advertising performance mailer - with a picture of a truck - (see '70s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 3)

David Gordon Pick Up Performance Company. I am my father's son - see?

David is married with 1 son - brother Richie marries - becomes a cop - has 2 daughters - plus a Mormon daughter in Utah.

#2

← **Richie** - at 18 or 19 - enlists inna Marines -

gets to be a sharpshooter on a rifle team that goes from camp to camp - competing - and he wins -

he wins medals - also he wins the affection of a young woman Marine -

but he gets transferred - and he don't re-enlist.

He gets discharged - he becomes a cop'n marries Lori - and has 2 daughters - Lisa and Debra -

n'gets a letter from the Marines - someone's trying to find him.

Turns out - the young woman Marine had a baby girl - and gave her up for adoption -

and this other daughter - Anita - is raised as a Mormon'n searches for - and locates her birth mother -

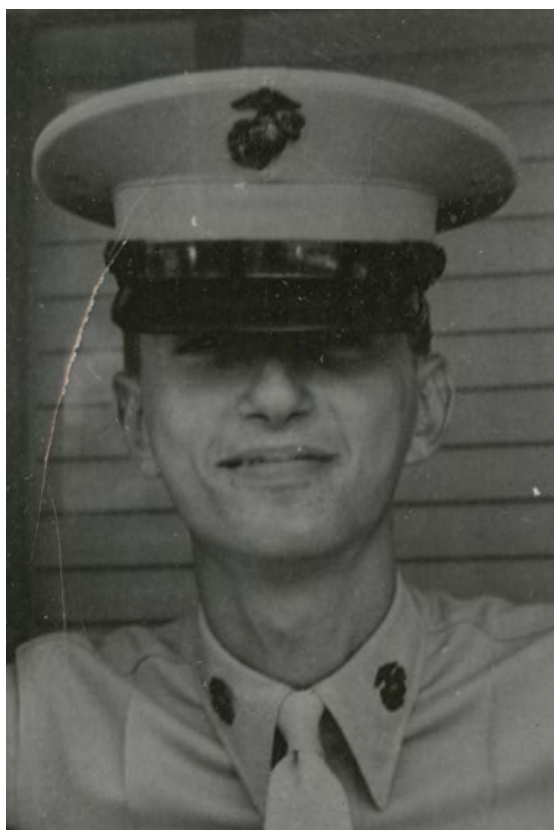
who gives her Richie's name - so she finds him - and they have positive DNA tests -

so he goes to Utah - to meet his new daughter - actually his 1st daughter - who's married with 3 kids -

all daughters - and she's pregnant - and she has a baby boy - and names the boy Sam -

for Richard Gordon's father Sam.

My dead Jewish father Sam - David says - has a Mormon grandson - named for him.





#2

Sister Lois - in her 20s - beautiful blonde blue-eyed only daughter of Rose'n Sam - falls for a 15 years older married accountant - another Richard - as old as David - who divorces his wife - and abandons 2 kids - and - they have 2 sons - and Sam Gordon pays their airfare - to the 50th - to his - and Rose's 50th wedding anniversary party -



← RUTH - ALFRED - IRENE- PAULINE - YETTA -

✦ ROSE - SAM - where they get a phone call - my sister and her husband get a phone call - from a kindly neighbor - neighbor says - you're being evicted - your furniture's inna stree - so Sam sends money from the party - and finally - after 14 years - Lois divorces her Richard - and - moves back to NY -

and 1-2-3 joins a Staten Island synagogue'n meets - and weds a kindly school teacher - who has 3 daughters - named Mindy - Mundy and Mandy - or something like that - but she divorces him - and marries again - in her late 40s - a 15 years younger 400 pound "chef" she meets on line - n'moves to Portland - to be with the outta work 400 pound "chef" - who gains 100 more pounds and dies - so she buries him - and moves back - to NY'n goes back to school - to become a psychiatric social worker.

← RICHARD - LOIS - DAVID - BARRY - at the 1st wedding of Lois.

#1

Air Force brother Barry - in "communications" in Sardinia - meets'n woos - Italian Catholic Agnese - and Sam'n Rose bravely fly to the wedding - in Italy - In a Catholic church - and fly back - a year later - with my old metal baby bathtub - when Barry's son - also a David - is born - same tub Fannie gives me my 1st bath - David says - and 1st bath to Ain - and the tub Ain's 1st daughter Beatrice - has her 1st bath.

← BARRY and DAVID - in a Tokyo hotel room - in 1960 - Barry's camera is set to photograph Barry'n Agnese move to US - with the kids - after Barry gets outta the air force - and the 1st time I see Barry - after Sam dies - is the last time I see Barry - at surprise 50th birthday party - for Lois - given by her 2 grown sons in a Staten Island restaurant.

Barry drives to NY with Agnese and the kids? He's walking with a cane? He has M.S.? Am I remembering right?

Barry - the youngest Gordon son - dies -suddenly at home - has a military funeral in Pennsylvania - and Agnese - packs up - and takes the kids back to Italy - and I never see or hear from 'em again. Very E. M. Forster.



RICHARD - LOIS - DAVID - BARRY - ↓ - AT LOIS GORDON'S 50TH BIRTHDAY PARTY - 1997

#2

APRIL - 2016 - my sister Lois - David says - has had 3 husbands - divorced from 2 of 'em - and widowed by the 3rd - 2 sons from her 1st marriage - 2 granddaughters - from 1 of the 2 sons 2nd marriage - 1 hip'n 2 knee replacements - so far. In **1997** - she is still the best looking of the 4 of us - ↑ - and the only blue-eyed blond.

#1

It's Sunday - **inna '60s** - at Rose and Sam's on Nostrand Avenue in Brooklyn. Hellos and hugs.

Move the 2 tables together. Move the chairs over to the 2 tables. Get the dishes outta the sideboard. How many soup plates? Who's having soup?

#2

Maybe it's Thanksgiving. Never useta celebrate Thanksgiving. Rosie finds more reasons - excuses? - **inna '60s n70s** - for family dinners.

#1

Rosie - Sammy shouts - where's the salt? He's angry about the salt. I'll get the salt - David says.

It's gonna be another argumentative "holiday" dinner - who talks loudest? Ending with bending beer cans?

We're arguing about cops - somehow - *The Village Voice* called cops pigs - onna cover - my brother Richie says. He's angry about the Voice.

Is he blaming me? Well - David says - people are angry - it's normal to be angry about certain police actions - no? No - it's not "normal".

Ya don't blame police for what's happening - cop brother Richie says. We wouldn't have this conversation - he says - if we were a normal family.

David asks - what'd make us a normal family? Cop brother Richie says - if you weren't in it.