

CONTENTS

Part I

“THAT’S THE CRIB POST UP AHEAD, YOUR NEXT STOP - -THE *NEWBORN ZONE*”

Chapter 1 Introduction: All Aboard the Jocular Journey.....

Chapter 2 From the Land of *Know Nothing* We Came.....
If you actually think you have a clue, then the reality is you’re probably clueless

Part II

“I’D LIKE TO USE A LIFELINE PLEASE!”

Chapter 3 Sing Along, “These Are A Few of My *Least Favorite Things*”
I’m not truly convinced I wanted you to have the mega-volume sonic boom music box

Chapter 4 Scientific No Know.....
Do you mind telling me just what the heck is a synchrotron particle accelerator?

Chapter 5 Game of (No) Chance.....
If my daughter builds a blackjack table and starts doubling down with her piggy bank money, then I’m going to start to worry

Chapter 6 Bending for the Family.....
A family’s search for inner peace or, at least, a dad’s desire to stay in one piece

Chapter 7 Some Are Semi-Sweet and Some Are Semi-Not.....
Is it genetically possible for a black licorice and butterscotch lover to be born into a French silk pie and Hershey’s bar family?

Part III

SOMETIMES YOU GOT TO LAUGH (CRYING WILL JUST DEHYDRATE YOU)

Chapter 8 What Does Sleep Have To Do With It?.....

“There’s really no need, at 2:00 a.m., to remind me that thirteen ten-year-old boys with sleeping bags and beeping video games in our basement was my brilliant idea!”

Chapter 9 Kid Camp Paradise.....

With rock climbing and hang gliding available, this isn’t quite the nature walks and newcomb games of your youth

Chapter 10 Wondering in a Water Wonderland.....

The captivating pool world that arises once the portable raft users, aquatic aerobic participants, and belly smacking divers go home

Chapter 11 The Perilous Nature of Pickup.....

A zealous Safety Patrol, a school No Standing Zone, and an unsuspecting minivan driving parent is not a great combination

Chapter 12 It’s a Ballet New World.....

Discovering the mesmerizing land of the tutu and the split sole slipper

Chapter 13 “What Do You Mean You Never Heard of Neil Diamond?”.....

Has it truly happened that I’ve been getting older while other parents have been getting younger?

Part IV

PANICKING OVER THE PLAYTHING

Chapter 14 *Eye Wish You Hadn't Done That!*.....

It is parentally possible to throw your four- year-old into a frenzy via one misstep with a doll

Chapter 15 *Virtually Connected*.....

A battery-powered plaything can drive an uninformed parent batty in one short afternoon

Chapter 16 *Fears of A Clown*.....

When a child's sleeping buddy has gone astray, there could be a big family price to pay

Part V

VACATIONS ARE ALL RELATIVE(S)

Chapter 17 *Traveling Man, Pack What I Can*.....

Discover the Converse Clothing Corollary, which involves the size of a child and the number of overstuffed suitcases required for vacation

Chapter 18 *Feast of Variety*.....

One family's popular avocado marshmallow Thanksgiving casserole is another family's straight to the disposal side dish

Chapter 19 *Roughing it the Family Style Way*.....

Being somewhat reclusive isn't always conducive at a place that's all-inclusive

Part VI

NOBODY EVER SAID THAT THERE WERE PREREQUISITES FOR THIS JOB

Chapter 20 The Dawn Of Unenlightenment is Here
If I only knew now what I knew then it would be a heck of a lot easier

Chapter 21 Clothing Capers.....
Does anyone have the combination to the suspender buttons lock?

Chapter 22 The Sorcerer's Stone and My Cover is Blown.....
Reading between the lines has left me with a lot of open spaces

Chapter 23 The Rebel Without a Pause.....
Exactly where did that cute, cuddly, compliant, cooperative child disappear to?

Chapter 24 Discovering the Secret of Wife.....
How one husband can actually get smarter and smarter with each subsequent Mother's Day

Chapter 25 "Got any Side Seams with a Zip Fly, Hammer Loop on a Pair of Low Riders?".....
Since when did a trip to the mall require the pre-requisite of passing the Family Pants Purchasing 101 class?

Chapter 26 My Mechanical Love
The inherent joy found in having a pristine driveway in the dead of winter

Part VII

SUBURBAN WILD KINGDOM

Chapter 27 The 100 Acres Woods Offensive.....
Everywhere I turn he's right there (as a matter of fact, even when I don't turn he's still right there)

Chapter 28 Doggone Turtle Gone.....
An inattentive dad, a curious four legged reptile, a suburban adventure

Chapter 29 Fly Away (Out of My) Home
If I can't compete in high school football anymore, then I'll unearth those competitive challenges within my home

Part VIII

ALL'S A BIT MUDDLED ON THE HOMEFRONT

Chapter 30 "Anyone Have a Sledgehammer For the Piñata?".....
Successfully navigating the challenging landscape of children's birthday parties

Chapter 31 Caught in a Suds-Still!.....
Can one family unintentionally accumulate more than 18 washing machines in a week's time?

Chapter 32 Welcome to the University of Pediatric Parenthood.....
I wish I'd have paid a little better attention in those old high school biology and chemistry classes

Chapter 33 The Sound of Silence is Overrated.....
Be careful what you wish for as being the solitary home delegate may not be all it's cracked up to be

Chapter 34 In the ShriII of the Night
How can one ten-pound baby generate enough lung capacity to make the shutters shake?

Chapter 35 Trombone Standard Time Zone.....
Time marches on and apparently marches much faster in certain areas of our house

Chapter 36 Who Needs Those Vowels n h w!.....
Is it really possible that the most wearisome task of parenthood occurs before you Velcro your first diaper tab?

Chapter 37 The Economics of Lemonade
There's nothing like the seeds of capitalism to bring out the competitive juices of a pre-adolescent

Part IX

'TIS GOT TO BE THE SEASON FOR SOMETHING OR ANOTHER

Chapter 38 "If You're Not Going to Be Jealous, Well What's My Point?"...
It's really not crucial that I know your child was the kindergarten valedictorian with a perfect attendance record and speaks 112 words of Taiwanese

Chapter 39 Love Instructions From the Crayola Crowd.....
A romantic child can provide words of wisdom to a sentimentally challenged dad

Chapter 40 The Hallowed Holiday.....
If it's free then it's just got to be good

Part X

POSTULATING AT PARENTING

Chapter 41 Pop Psychology (Literally).....
My behavioral discovery will have the Nobel Prize coming my way!

Chapter 42 Over Hill, Over Dale and I'm Pale.....
The things parents will do for love, or at least to temporarily appear as very cool

Chapter 43 Apparatus Advantage.....
I don't exaggerate, I just remember big!

Chapter 44 The Chaotic Cafeteria Training Ground.....

How preparation for the real world can be obtained in the land of the Luncheables and convertible bench tables

Chapter 45 A Literally Hair Raising Experience.....
If I had only known that I should have brought electric hedge clippers to the play

Part XI

TAG TEAMING FAMILY LIFE

Chapter 46 The United Family Faxing Front.....
No one in the corporate world quite grasps the meaning of the simple four-word phrase, "I didn't order that."

Chapter 47 Warehouse, Our House.....
I've got enough pretzels and juice boxes to easily feed the entire country of Barbados for a month

Chapter 48 Lessons in Waiting.....
Patience is a virtue or strange happenings occur when there's nothing to do on a rainy Saturday afternoon

Chapter 49 The Diminutive Drop Kicker
Now may be the time to simply go ahead and wave that white diaper of surrender