

BEATING OFF

Written by

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1 SCENE 1, INT: KITCHEN

2 CLOSE UP of CARROT on a chopping board. MOTHER's hand
3 wraps around the green end, stroking the leaves away from
4 the main body.

5 Still CLOSE UP, MOTHER holds it firm and ready. MOTHER
6 then chops the end off sharply. CHOP. THUMP.

7 SCENE 2, INT: KITCHEN

8 FRONT ON, a pan SIZZLES on the hob, contents hidden. The
9 EXTRACTOR FAN blasts out air. The oven is lit and HUMS,
10 steam obscuring the contents.

11 MOTHER (O.S.)
12 (calling out clearly)
13 Michael...

14 MOTHER comes into view and resumes chopping carrots,
15 though less severe and dramatic.

16 MOTHER
17 (focusing on chopping, louder than before)
18 Michael...

19 MOTHER stops chopping, looks up, and SIGHS. She puts down
20 the knife and turns towards the open door.

21 MOTHER
22 MICHAEL!

23 MICHAEL (O.S.)
24 I'M BEATING OFF, MUM! GIMME A SEC!

25 SCENE 3, INT: STAIRS

26 MOTHER walks casually up the small set of stairs.

27 MOTHER
28 (composed)
29 You know Shroomsday Tuesday is family
30 time, Michael. I'm very liberal with
31 you beating off. I'm happy enough to
32 let you do it before dinner any other
33 day, but Shroomsday's another matter.

34 SCENE 4, INT: CORRIDOR

35 MOTHER walks coolly along the corridor to Michael's door.

36 MOTHER
37 You're very lucky you live in a
38 modern household, I'm a modern mother
39 and I want to bring you up in a
40 modern environment. Now, if your dad
41 was still-

1 SCENE 5, INT: MICHAEL'S ROOM

2 MOTHER walks into the room, initially looking down.
3 MICHAEL sits at his desk behind his laptop with his
4 t-shirt on, but his trousers and pants halfway down his
5 thighs. He is masturbating with his headphones in.

6 MOTHER
7 (cont.)
8 -about, it might be a different
9 matter.

10 MOTHER looks up, and jumps in shock.
11 Oh my god.
12 (beat)
13 Michael, what aRE YOU DOING?

14 MICHAEL
15 (still somehow beating off)
16 I'M BEATING OFF, MUM, WHAT YOU DOIN'?

17 MICHAEL takes off his headphones and turns his head to
18 face his mother, annoyed and frustrated, but not
19 embarrassed.

20 MICHAEL
21 GET OUT! JHEEEEEZZZ!

22 SCENE 6, INT: LIVING ROOM

23 MOTHER and MICHAEL sit on sofa, central to the living
24 room and facing away from an archway into the kitchen.
25 They are rigid, sitting facing straight ahead with their
26 legs directly in front of them.

27 MOTHER finally turns to face MICHAEL

28 MOTHER
29 You can't be doing that Michael.
30 You're only fourteen.

31 MICHAEL
32 I been doing it for years, Mum.
33 (beat)
34 FOR YEARS.
35 (pause)
36 You never had a problem with it
37 before, I always been honest, you
38 know.

39 MOTHER
40 I thought it was like that music
41 thing you do with your Mac, where you
42 put the funny sounds over pop songs.
43 You kept saying you were beating off
44 over Sally Tush or whatshername.

1 SCENE 6, CONT.

2 MICHAEL

3 That's a pornstar, Mum.

4 MOTHER

5 Oh god. But you said your friends
6 beat off as well?

7 MICHAEL

8 They do. But they don't tell their
9 rents. They thought I was lying and
10 that, that I was talking bull saying
11 you were cool with it.

12 MOTHER

13 God, Michael. But you're fourteen!
14 God, this is about the only time I
15 wish your father was still about.

16 The SMOKE ALARM goes off in the kitchen.

17 MOTHER (O.S.)

18 Oh god, now that's the shrooms burnt.

19 MOTHER gets up, stressed, and walks hastily into the
20 kitchen.

21 MOTHER

22 (straining over the beeping)

23 Oh gawd. I was stuffing these for a
24 half hour earlier. You've ruined
25 Shroomsday, Michael.

26 Smoke is now seeping through the archway. The beeping
27 continues.

28 MICHAEL leans over the back of the sofa to face the
29 kitchen.

30 MICHAEL

31 You said Dad left you to fuck other,
32 hotter women.

33 MOTHER

34 WHAT?

35 MICHAEL

36 You said fucking was men's motivation
37 in everything.

1 SCENE 6, CONT.

2 MOTHER
3 WAS THAT THE F-WORD I HEARD, MICHAEL?

4 MICHAEL
5 NO, MUM.

6 MOTHER
7 I can't hear you very well, honey.

8 MICHAEL
9 I felt this urge to touch it, I
10 thought that's what I was mean' to
11 do, you know. I thought this is what
12 I'm mean' to do. As a man, because
13 of what you say 'bout men. I di'n't
14 think 'bout it too much.

15 MOTHER waves the smoke around in the archway with a
16 teatowel. The SMOKE ALARM STOPS. She throws it down on a
17 work surface, walks back into the living room, and leans
18 on the back of the sofa facing MICHAEL.

19 MOTHER
20 (speaking softer now)
21 You're gonna have to repeat all that,
22 Michael. Sorry, I couldn't hear a
23 thing over that damned beeping.

24 MICHAEL
25 It's just all you said 'bout men,
26 right. I thought cause I got the
27 urge I was just the same. You know,
28 I'm a man and this is what I gotta
29 do.

30 MOTHER
31 Oh, Michael. You are so wrong. You
32 can be different. You **can** be
33 different.

34 MICHAEL
35 But I like it, mum. It makes me feel
36 good.

1 SCENE 6, CONT.

2 MOTHER
 3 But resist it, if only for me. You
 4 can masturbate, or 'beat off', when
 5 you're older, and, please, not to
 6 porn. Get some erotic fiction, or
 7 use your imagination, something that
 8 keeps you connected to the real
 9 world. You're a good kid, you know
 10 it's wrong.

11 MICHAEL
 12 Okay.
 13 (beat)
 14 Okay. I won't do it no more.

15 MOTHER
 16 That's great, Michael, thank you.
 17 (pauses, smiles, brushes MICHAEL's hair)
 18 You know I love you, right?

19 MICHAEL
 20 Yeah, yeah, you too, whatever.

21 MOTHER kisses the top of MICHAEL's head, and gets up off
 22 the sofa.

23 MOTHER
 24 Now, as you ruined Shroomsday, you
 25 can help me go to the supermarket and
 26 get some easy food, or maybe takeout.
 27 We'll see-

28 SCENE 7, INT: CORRIDOR

29 MOTHER walks along the corridor toward Michael's room
 30 holding a pile of neatly folded clothes, WHISTLING.

31 SCENE 8, INT: MICHAEL'S ROOM

32 Same shot as SCENE 5, MICHAEL masturbates behind his
 33 laptop with his headphones, but a new t-shirt.

34 MOTHER walks in abruptly, still WHISTLING the same tune.

35 MOTHER
 36 (dropping clothes)
 37 Oh my god.

38 MICHAEL

39 MICHAEL turns around suddenly and whips his headphones.

40 MICHAEL
 41 I AM SO SORRY, MUM.

42 MOTHER
 43 For FUCK'S SAKE, MICHAEL!