

Dad I got

he works

five six seven days a week

one two three jobs a week

rotating shifts

8 to 4

4 to 12

12 to 8

he works in a factory hates his job takes it out on us.

He chokes me when I want to see my friends

he leaves me behind

I try to catch him I break my leg

he yells at me for hands in pockets

humiliates me constantly in front of

friends family neighbors strangers

he's angry + distant he scares me

he grabs my arm at the store + pulls me

away from the girl like

he tries to beat me down he

tells me I'm flawed + worthless

every chance he gets.

he yells at me when we go fishing

he yells at me when we go to church

he yells at me when we play ball

he yells at me when we're on vacation

he yells at me when I try to help him

build the houses + fix the cars.

he tells me I throw like a girl

he tells me I'm not good enough

he tells me I'm no good

he tells me I'll never do it

he tells me I'll never amount to anything

he tells me I missed

a spot here + a spot here + a spot here.

he works hard to pay the bills
he fights with his mother father brother sister
he treats my mom like property
 her family her friends like enemies
he builds a house for us to live in
he fights with the neighbors till we have to move
he builds another house
he gets mad at all the red lights
he thinks the world's against him.

he tells me not to laugh
he tells me not to cry
he has a flyswatter behind the sun visor to
 keep us in line while he's driving
he has no idea who I am
 shows no interest in finding out.

he scrapes my cheeks with sandpaper whiskers
 won't show me how to shave
 won't help me to pick out my first car
 won't help me with college he buys
 another snowmobile instead
he tells me he doesn't care what happens to me
 if I go to Texas.

he complains a lot when I ask for help then
 does it all himself
he burps a lot
he yells at me at the dinner table
 in restaurants
 until I get sick
he takes us to church because mom makes him do it
he loans me money for car insurance once
he uses anything he does for me
 against me later on.

he works at night sleeps during the day
 tells us to shut up when
 we're playing in the back yard

he can build anything
he can fix anything
he does the best he can
he hurts me.

he doesn't trust me
he spies on me
he kicks my ass across the yard in front of my friends
 because I'm late
he threatens to cut off my hair + mustache
 while I sleep
he slaps the soles of my feet to
 wake me up in the morning.

he goes to night school to learn a trade
he says everybody else is wrong
he acts like he doesn't want me
he acts like I'm in the way
he acts like I don't matter
he acts like he doesn't like me.

I love him
I need him
I hate him
I miss him

this is the dad I got.

from *Iron Man Family Outing*

by Rick Belden

See our Everyman book list or email Rick at
sabazuma@yahoo.com

He may have a few complimentary copies left.