

BARBARA (SINGS) (CONT'D)

(4) There's a place where time
never flies/ It's a place where
love never dies/ Where the young,
I'm told/ Never do grow old
Let the peace somehow/ Be
transformed here now

Bridge: We destroy and we hurt so
But if love can stop the pain
Let it start here today
Let it start right away

Every road has a beginning/ And
with each path that love may take
Let it start here today/ Let it
start right away/ Let it start here
today/ Let it start here today with
me/ Let it start

EXT. "LITTLE TOKYO" - SHIGETOMI'S CLEANERS - DAY

Andre's parents, SAM and ALEXIS SHIGETOMI, both late-forties,
are the proprietors. Walter parks his car and goes inside.

INT. SHIGETOMI CLEANERS - CONTINUOUS

ALEXIS waits on a customer at the counter.

ALEXIS

We'll have these ready by Friday.
Have a nice day.

The Customer exits. Alexis turns to Walter...

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Yes, may I help you?

WALTER

Tell him, Dodie's father, Walter
Richard is here. I'd like to see Mr.
Shigetomi.

ALEXIS

(pleasantly surprised)
Oh! Dodie's father! Yes, just
a minute please.

She pulls back the curtain that leads to the rear....

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

(calls out)
Sam! We've got company!

Alexis START

WALTER

Sam?

ALEXIS

Yes. We, too, have American names, Mr. Richard. My husband and I were also born here. I'm Andre's mother, Alexis Shigetomi.

SAM appears from behind the curtain:

SAM

And, I'm Sam Shigetomi, Andre's father. Is there something wrong?

ALEXIS

(elated)

This is Dodie's father, honey.

To Walter's chagrin, Sam steps up and vigorously pumps his hand up and down in delight.

SAM

It's a pleasure to meet you. We've been looking forward to this day.

WALTER

You have?!

ALEXIS

Yes. Dodie's told us so much about you and your lovely wife.

SAM

Won't you have a seat?

He gestures to a couple of chairs by the window...

WALTER

Uh, that's okay. You see, -- uh,
(clears his throat)
I didn't come for a social visit.

SAM

Oh?

WALTER

It's about Dodie and Andre.

SAM

I assume that you don't approve.

WALTER

Well, to be truthful, -- no.

Sam START

SAM

What is it that you don't approve of, Mr. Richard?

ALEXIS

Is it because we're Japanese?

WALTER

It would be better for Dodie to marry someone from her own race.

SAM

We could've said the same thing. But it's Andre's life; not ours.

ALEXIS

Even more important, Dodie loves our son and he loves her. Whatever problems that may arise, they'll work it out. If they're willing to sacrifice, who are we to say no?

WALTER

As their parents, we've got to show them the dangers and pitfalls of a mixed-marriage.

BRIDGET, their eight-year-old daughter, comes from behind the curtain. Alexis puts her arm around her.

SAM

As their parents, we need to help them overcome the dangers and pitfalls of marriage, period. Every road is rocky when you first travel on it. But if you're in love, you don't feel as tired.

ALEXIS

I was hoping you had come here to see how you could encourage them, not hurt them.

WALTER

(irritated)

Hurt them? I'm just tryin' to work this thing out.

ALEXIS

And that's what Andre and Dodie are doing; working it out, together. It may be rough at first, but they're young and in love. So, what can you do?

WALTER
 (discouraged)
 Pray! Pray for what's right.

He crosses to the door...

WALTER (CONT'D)
 I guess we'll be seeing each other
 again, sooner than expected.

SAM
 I hope before the wedding. We'd
 love to meet your wife, Barbara.

WALTER
 I'm sure she's just dyin' to meet
 you too.

SAM
 Goodbye, Mr. Richard.

Walter exits. Sam returns to the rear.

BRIDGET
 Why doesn't he like Andre?

ALEXIS
 As you grow older, Bridget, you'll
 meet people who won't like you just
 because you look different.

BRIDGET
 Mom, that's dumb!

ALEXIS
 I know, -- but it's also life.

BRIDGET & ALEXIS

watch Walter through the large plate-glass window as he
 unlocks his car and gets in.

BRIDGET (V.O.)
 If he lived in a children's world,
 he wouldn't be afraid.

EXT. "LITTLE TOKYO" - MINUTES LATER - DAY

Walter stops his car at a red traffic light...

INT./EXT. WALTER'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The light changes to green. He starts to proceed. Suddenly,
 several of THE JADES dance past his car.

Sam END

Alexis END