

WALTER

That's the way of the world, son.

KEVIN

I'm not looking forward to growing up.

KYLE

You can't stay a kid all your life; you'll get stepped on.

WALTER

Everybody tries to run a game on you. You've gotta outsmart them.

KEVIN

I thought you said God told us to love everybody!

KYLE

You can't!

WALTER

You can't because people won't let you.

KEVIN

(disgusted)

I wish I lived in a children's world!

WALTER

Sometimes I wish I did too, son.

Dodie enters. She crosses to Walter and plants a kiss.

DODIE

Hi, everybody!

WALTER

What are you so cheerful about?

DODIE

I got a surprise for you!

With a big smile, she stands there about to burst from excitement.

Waiting, Walter peers over his glasses at her.

WALTER

Well?... What you waitin' on?
Let's have it!

KYLE
You're pregnant!

KEVIN
(stunned)
Pregnant? I'm too young to be an
uncle!!

DODIE
Very funny!
(to Walter)
The surprise isn't an "it." It's
a "him," and he's waiting to meet
you. He's on the porch.

WALTER
Then, tell him to come on in!

DODIE
(calls out)
Mama, come here for a minute!

Barbara comes in, wiping her hands on a dish towel.

BARBARA
What's goin' on?

Dodie MUTES the TV volume, then, extends her left hand.

DODIE
I'm engaged!

Barbara audibly GASPS. Shocked, Walter removes his glasses.

WALTER
Engaged?! I didn't even know you
had a boyfriend!

BARBARA
That's right! We've never even met
him, Dodie.

DODIE
I was scared you wouldn't like him.

WALTER
He's supposed to come talk to me
first. He's gotta ask permission.

DODIE
People don't do that anymore,
Daddy. That's old-fashioned.

BARBARA
Does this boy have a job?

DODIE
He's a medical student, Mama.

Walter buries his head behind the newspaper.

WALTER
Thanks for telling us! We'll be
invited to the wedding, I suppose!

He puts the newspaper down.

WALTER (CONT'D)
Well, -- bring him on in. I guess
I should meet my future son-in-law.

Dodie exits. Barbara hurriedly tidies up the room, as:

BARBARA
Might be kind of nice to have a
doctor in the family.

KEVIN
He'll be our doctor? For free?

KYLE
Nobody does nothin' for free.

Dodie returns...

DODIE
Everybody, I want you to meet my
fiance and future husband, Andre --

Dodie stretches out her arm toward the doorway:

DODIE (CONT'D)
Andre Shigetomi!!

ANDRE SHIGETOMI, 26, and Japanese, enters. Dodie and he
affectionately lock arms. He speaks perfect English.

ANDRE
I'm honored to meet you all!

WALTER, BARBARA, KYLE AND KEVIN

are more than stunned. Their jaws drop, mouths, frozen-open.

KYLE

Looks angry.