

Act Two, Scene Seven

of beans embedded in her hair fall to the counter. MASI is upset. The daughters are embarrassed. Normally, this would be a funny situation for them.

MARSHA starts to pick up the beans scattered on the floor. JUDY starts to giggle—it's all too ridiculous.

JUDY (trying to suppress her laughter): I'm sorry, I'm sorry . . .

MARSHA: I'll clean it up.
(MASI begins to laugh.)

JUDY: God, what a mess.

MASI (to MARSHA): Let it go, don't bother. I'll take care of it later.

(JUDY finds a man's sock.)

JUDY (teasing): What's this? This belong to Mr. Nakasato?

MASI (grabbing it): Judy.

MARSHA: Why didn't you just leave sooner? You didn't have to stick around for us.

MASI: I didn't. I was . . . I was scared.

MARSHA: Of Dad?

MASI: I don't know. Everything.

JUDY: Was it 'cause I kept harping on you to move out on him all those years? Is that why you left?

MARSHA: What's the difference now?

JUDY: Marsha.

(Pause.)

MASI: There are things you kids don't know. I didn't want to talk about them to you but . . . Daddy and I, we didn't sleep . . . (Continues.)

JUDY (overlapping): That's okay, Mom. Really, it's okay . . .

MASI (continues): . . . together. Every time I wanted to, he would push me away. Ten, fifteen years he didn't want me.

(Pause) We were having one of our arguments, just like always. And he was going on and on about how it was my fault this and my fault that. And I was trying to explain my

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side of it, when he turned on me, "Shut up, Mama. You don't know anything. You're stupid." Stupid. After forty-two years of letting him be right he called me that. And I understood. He didn't even need me to make him be right anymore. He just needed me to be stupid. I was tired. I couldn't fight him anymore. He won. He finally made me feel like shit. (Shocking JUDY and MARSHA with her strong language) That was the night I left him and came over to your place. (Nodding towards JUDY) I like Sadao. (Turns to MARSHA) I like Sadao very much.

(MARSHA turns away, then gets up and exits. MASI sends JUDY after MARSHA to comfort her. Dim to darkness.)

[END OF SCENE]

Scene Eight

NOBU's place, the same day. "String of Pearls" can be heard playing faintly in the background. He's fixing himself in front of a small wall mirror. He adjusts the collar of his shirt and tugs at his sweater until it looks right. NOBU checks his watch. As he begins to pick up some of the scattered clothes on the floor, MASI enters. Music cue ends.

NOBU quickly gets up and moves to the sofa. MASI goes over to the kitchen area and takes clothes out of the bag, setting them neatly on the table. She picks up the dirty clothes off the floor, folds them, and puts them into the bag. As she's doing this, NOBU gets up, shuffles over to the stove, and turns on the flame to heat some water. Stands there and watches the water heat up.

