

## THE RETURN

### SCENE 1:

A bare stage with only a few pieces of scenery.  
A piece of a wall at stage rear, a table at stage right, a chair. The table holds pattern paper and some fur and cloth and a furrier's knife.

### LIGHTS COME UP ON STAGE LEFT

*(NICK enters from stage left darkness.)*

DAVE

Is he here?

ESTHER

*(Enters from rear stage darkness folding a few towels, which she places on the seat of the chair.)*

Not yet.

DAVE

You think he'll come?

ESTHER

He said he's be here by five.

DAVE

Where's Pop?

ESTHER

He's on his way.

DAVE

How's he doing? Is he glad?

ESTHER

Of course. What do you expect?

DAVE

Well, you know ... I mean his being gone so long and ...

ESTHER

He's coming back. That's all that matters.

DAVE  
Fourteen years. He's not a kid any more.

ESTHER  
You're both still my babies.

DAVE  
You have to get over thinking that way, Mom.

ESTHER  
You're right but it'll never happen.

DAVE  
You think Pop will be able to handle it.

ESTHER  
Of course. Why shouldn't he. He's his son too.

DAVE  
No. You know what I mean.

ESTHER  
No. Why shouldn't he?

DAVE  
You know. The knife.

ESTHER  
I don't ever want to hear that word from you again.

DAVE  
I was there.

ESTHER  
You were a child then. You saw things the way a child does.

DAVE  
Come on, Mom. I was ten. I know what I saw.

ESTHER  
You saw nothing. Nothing, you hear?.

DAVE  
Come on. Pop remembers. I can tell.

ESTHER

Forget it. You don't know what you're talking about.

DAVE

Ever since then he seemed different. He used to always be fun. After that ... well, you know ... angry ... underneath he's always angry.

ESTHER

Please. You're being foolish. Your father was always fun when he wanted.

DAVE

Okay. But don't be surprised ...

*(HARRY enters from stage left darkness carrying a grocery bag)*

Hi, Pop.

HARRY

Hi, Davie ... surprised about what.

DAVE

This is the day.

HARRY

*(Hands bag to ESTHER)*

Here's what you wanted. He didn't have any fresh asparagus.

ESTHER

You didn't get any?

HARRY

No. He didn't have any.

ESTHER

You get the canned?

HARRY

No.

ESTHER

Why didn't you get the canned? I told you he likes asparagus.

HARRY

You asked me to get fresh for you.