

Adult Teeth

By:

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INT. RAMIREZ LIVING ROOM. EARLY AFTERNOON

Establishing shot of a quaint and cozy living space. The room is filled with the sound of a television set playing an old Filipino sit-com. Old and classical furniture occupies the room as the wind breezes through an open window. Wind chimes ringing.

Close up shot of family pictures neatly located at the side of the sofa. Big smiles and happiness emanates from the frames.

Pan ends on a picture of NEIL happily smiling while holding Lolo ALEX's hand on his left hand and a small teddy bear on the right; Alex's expression contrastingly is subtle but radiates genuine joy spending time with his grandchild.

INT. SCHOOL LOBBY. EARLY AFTERNOON

Lolo Alex is sitting on a bench reading the newspaper alongside young parents. The playful screams of little kids reverberate the lobby as some clutch their parents hand as they leave the school; some leave as a group towards their school service. He notices a young foreign couple talking to one of the teachers of the school. From glaring, He takes his glasses off and gently massages his eyes

Alex looks at his watch and reads 1:57 pm. He neatly folds the newspaper and carefully lifts himself up from the bench. Alex grunts, takes a deep breath and makes his way closer to the lobby's entrance. The guard recognizes Alex.

GUARD

Hello po tay! Lapit na po ung
dismissal ni Neil. Pahintay na lang
po.

The guard says respectfully as he slightly bows his head lower.

ALEX

No problem. Dito lang ako para makita
ako kaagad ni Neil.

The school's bell ring as the time struck 2:00 pm; it was dismissal time for the gradeschoolers. The screams of kids rang louder as more children flood out either to play or go home.

Neil, with his bright yellow backpack, walks out with a taller kid with blonde hair and blue eyes. The foreign couple

walks past Alex and toward their child next to Neil.

FOREIGN MOTHER

Potrick, how was your first day? And who do we have here?

The mother lightly hugs her child as the father stands on the side smiling.

POTRICK

Mother, this is Neil. He was my very first friend here. He helped me get more friends in class.

FOREIGN MOTHER

My my, what a kind boy. Thank you so much for befriending our little Potrick.

NEIL

It was my pleasure ma'am and sir.

Neil says with a wide smile. The father of Potrick pats both boys in the back.

POTRICK

Oh, we have to go now. Bye bye Neil, I will see you tomorrow!

NEIL

Bye Potrick, take care. See you tomorrow.

The small family walks off past Alex and towards the school's office.

FOREIGN MOTHER

My boy is slowly growing up and making friends on his own.

Alex manages to hear this as they walk past him.

As Neil sees his new friend and his family off, he manages to spot Alex and skip towards him.

ALEX

How was your day kid-roll.

Neil laughs as he replies

NEIL

Silly tay! It's kiddo, k-i-d-d-o.

ALEX

Hay, alam mo naman na hindi ako
magaling mag-english.

Alex gently but playfully rubs Neils head as they exited the school's lobby.

EXT. WAITING SHED. EARLY AFTERNOON

Alex and Neil line up for a Jeepney along with other dismissed students and parents in a waiting shed close to the school.

Neil stands close to his friend BRYAN as both children look at a toy catalogue.

NEIL

I have this one at home and it really
is super fast.

BRYAN

I don't think so, my daddy said this
one is the fastest in the whole store.

Both children laugh as the Jeepney parks near the waiting shed.

INT. JEEPNEY. CONTINUOUS

The seats of the Jeepney slowly start to fill with commuters. Alex heads in first followed by Neil. Neil sits in a vacant space next to Alex.

ALEX

Kandong ka na lang sa'kin para makaupo
yung iba.

NEIL

But, I'm big na tay.

ALEX

Kahit na, kumandong ka na para mapuno
na kaagad yung jeep.

Flustered, Neil looks around the Jeepney to check if Bryan and other students were judging him. He shortly sits on his Lolo's lap and lower his gaze towards the floor.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE ICE-CREAM SHOP. AFTERNOON

Alex and Neil stand at the opposite end of the ice-cream shop, they wait for the pedestrian light to shine green. It shortly shines green and people start to cross the street.

ALEX

Neil, hawakan mo kamay ko.

NEIL

But tay, I know how to cross the street. I'll stay beside you as well.

ALEX

It's safer for you, halika na.

INT. ICE-CREAM SHOP. AFTERNOON

Neil enters the ice-cream shop first and holds the door open for Alex.

ALEX

Thank you. Umupo ka muna, ako na bahala sa ice-cream, treat ko yan sa'yo

NEIL

Tay, I can be the one to order, you look a bit tired.

ALEX

'Wag mo na ako intindihin, ok lng ako. Strong Tatay mo. Sige na, d'yan ka muna.

Neil slightly frowns after being denied to take initiative in ordering. Alex orders two cones of Vanilla ice-cream and brings it to the table.

Neil's mood slightly lifts as he takes his first lick of ice-cream.

ALEX

Sarap diba?

NEIL

Yes po Tatay Al.

Neil tries to take a large amount of ice-cream in his lick

but suddenly stops. He touches his two front teeth with his tongue and then with his index and middle finger. He shrugs it off and continues to enjoy his ice-cream.

INT. RAMIREZ DINNING ROOM. EARLY EVENING.

It is dinner time and MARIA, mother of Neil and daughter of Alex, sits at the head of the dinning table, adjacent to her sits Alex and Neil. Neil is happily chewing the drumstick part of the chicken that is heavily dipped in ketchup.

Maria props her arm on top of the table with her chin sitting on her palm. Alex is on the side drinking his herbal tea.

MARIA

...So you are saying he has blue eyes like a marble?

With food still in his mouth, Neil replies

NEIL

Yes mommy, its blue like the marbles I have upstairs.

MARIA

Ohh, but its not like the brown eyes you have like chocolate bars.

Maria giggles as she boops the nose of her son then turns herself towards Alex.

MARIA

Nag enroll ako ng service pickup para kay Neil.

Alex raises an eyebrow.

ALEX

Pwede naman ako mag sundo kay Neil.

MARIA

Tatay, nakabayad na ako. At least sa tanghali, makakapag-siesta ka na.

ALEX

Mari, okay lang naman sa'kin magsundo sa apo ko.

Maria glares dagger at her father. Alex nods his head without making eye contact but then Maria's eyes mellow down into a more concerning gaze for her father.

MARIA

Hayaan mo na mag-service si Neil.
Kitang kita ko pagod mo, tatay. Huwag
matigas ang ulo, safe naman si Neil.
Dito ka muna sa bahay okay?

Before Alex could give a reply, Neil drops his fork.

NEIL

Ouch!

INT. RAMIREZ DINNING ROOM. CONTINUOUS

Maria inspects Neil's two front teeth at the dinning table.

MARIA

Hmmm sige... ganito. Tomorrow, your
Lolo will pick you up and bring you to
the dentist okay. Para you won't have
a hard time eating your favorite food.

ALEX

Kala ko may service na si Neil?

MARIA

Oo meron, kaso bawal mag drop-off sa
town, meron designated route ung
driver. Tapos walang kasama si Neil,
may trabaho pa ako.

ALEX

Sige, ako na bahala.

INT. DENTIST WAITING ROOM. EARLY AFTERNOON

Alex and Neil sit in the bright green waiting room of the
dentist.

ALEX

Takot ka ba?

NEIL

I'm not scared Tatay Al. I have
friends who told me that it didn't
hurt and they new teeth will grow.

Alex smiles.

SECRETARY

Ramirez? Ramirez?

ALEX

Kami yun..

INT. DENTIST SURGICAL AREA. EARLY AFTERNOON

The dentist closely inspects Neil's front teeth as Alex stands by, closely looking at what is happening.

DENTIST

It's good that both your front teeth are capable of being extracted at the same time.

ALEX

Hah? Kailangan bunutin parehas?

DENTIST

Yes po, para sabay silang tutubo.

Neil bravely intervenes

NEIL

Don't worry Tatay Al, I'm not scared. I'm ready to have my teeth pulled.

DENTIST

Wow, what a brave boy. Sige start na tayo.

INT. DENTIST SURGICAL AREA. AFTERNOON

The dentist gently wipes Neil's lips and offers him a glass to gargle.

DENTIST

Ayun, tapos na po. Here is your baby teeth. You can expect your adult teeth to start growing soon.

Alex hears this and ponders about it in place.

DENTIST

The best thing after having your teeth pulled is also having ice-cream after.

Once more, Neil perks up at the word ice-cream as he looks at his Lolo. It takes a moment for Alex to notice but he eventually replies.

ALEX

Ah.. oo naman, kakkain tayo ng

maraming-maraming ice-cream.

Neil cheers along with the dentist.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE ICE-CREAM SHOP. AFTERNOON

Alex and Neil stand across the ice-cream shop waiting for the pedestrian light to turn green. It changes green and Alex tries to hold onto Neil's hand but stops to notice something.

Neil is looking both ways even with the green pedestrian light. Alex discovers how careful and patient Neil was when observing the road.

Alex smiles and gently nudges Neil's shoulder. Both cross the street side-by-side.

INT. ICE-CREAM SHOP. AFTERNOON

Neil opens the door for Alex and walk towards the counter.

ALEX

Neil, ikaw naman mag-order since big boy ka na.

Alex hands a hundred peso bill to Neil. He takes the bill and walks to the counter.

Neil returns to the table with one cone of vanilla ice-cream and chocolate ice-cream.

Alex smiles.

EXT. WAITING SHED. AFTERNOON

Both grandfather and grandchild wait patiently in the waiting shed. The jeepney rolls in and people start to take their seats.

ALEX

Gusto mo ba umupo sa tabi ng drayber?

NEIL

Ohhh that sounds cool! Lets sit there.

Alex helps Neil up to reach the bar to the driver's side, and shortly follows him.

ALEX

Bayad po, dalawa, isang senior tapos isang estudyante.

END