

Andy: Where were you born? What things do you remember about growing up in Korea?

Moon-Sook: I was born in Suwon, South Korea and when I was born, we were under Japanese occupation. We had limited freedom. Off the school ground, I was forced to use Japanese language. After graduating college, I was working for Scandinavian Medical Center, so I was able to use English from that time on. When I came to United State, I thought I was well prepared, but I wasn't.

Andy: You came to Missouri, but before you came over from Korea, I believe you met my father.

Moon-Sook: Yes. That's right.

Andy: Your future husband. Can you tell us how you met Dad?

Moon-Sook: Yes, your father's younger sister, her friend, the best of friend, your dad used to take her to the party in place of a girlfriend. She worked in National Medical Center and then she asked me do you have a boyfriend? And I said no, I do not. Then she said, "Oh, I have someone. Are you interested?" I jokingly said yes, I love to. That evening, she introduced your dad to me, and then he really liked me and he proposed to me. At that time, I already got the entry visa to United States.

Andy: So Dad proposed on the first night of meeting you?

Moon-Sook: Yes.

Andy: Wow! That's a little bit aggressive. That's fast moving. A man of action.

Moon-Sook: Well, I found out later I was qualified, he said, because I was coming to the United States or he didn't have to support me, not because I was attractive or beautiful-

Andy: I'm sure that was part of it still.

Moon-Sook: But he was eager to find me.

Andy: Dad was coming to the University of Michigan.

Moon-Sook: That's true.

Andy: And you were going to University of Missouri-

Moon-Sook: Yes.

Andy: ... in Columbia, Missouri.

Moon-Sook: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Andy: When you're apart, then you get married?

Moon-Sook: Right.

Andy: And then your firstborn comes, me.

Moon-Sook: Yes.

Andy: What do you remember most when you first saw me?

Moon-Sook: It was a beautiful baby.

Andy: And then three years later, my younger brother, Tony, comes. What did you think when you first saw Tony?

Moon-Sook: Very ugly boy with hairy face, exactly looked like your dad.

Andy: You have two children. During this time, you're also working, correct?

Moon-Sook: Right.

Andy: And where were your jobs?

Moon-Sook: I was working as an RN at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Andy: How did you take care of Tony and I? What was the coverage between you and Dad?

Moon-Sook: I chose to work night shift, so I took care of two sons during the day, and then your dad is taking care of the night.

Andy: Wow! That was such a sacrifice, so thank you. You get the American dream. You have your own home, a modest home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and have jobs, and sending your two boys to this school. All the different activities that you and Dad have done over the years, Mom, what stands out?

Moon-Sook: You and your children, including Tony and his children, were all born in Ann Arbor, Michigan and you are American citizen. But your heritage is still belong to Korean heritage. 1960s you didn't have any Korea language program at the university at that time, and then in the library, Dad could not see any books about the Korea, and then also museum. He found only 50 broken artifacts representing Korea, so he was very, very disappointed how poorly represented Korea was.

That was how Dad started. He was very determined from that time on. I got to do something. I have to improve the university, and Dad always mentioning four D's, dream, desire, determination, and drive. Dad kept on. That's how he made the Nam Center for Korean Studies program at the U of M. I thought it was a beautiful dream,

even though some people think that his dream was like a Don Quixote, daydreaming.  
But that daydream is beautiful flower, and I totally supported his dream.