

The Kids Are Alright, Season 1 Episode 10, Showboat...Peggy

Frank: I brought Dad's projector back.

Peggy: Didn't go to the cast party with your new theater friends? Meeting up in some coffee house, wear berets, and play bongos?

Frank: They're mostly just a soccer team. We had orange slices at intermission. I brought you this.

Peggy: A program from the show.

Frank: They put my name in there.

Frank: Some of what you said last night might be true. About me sometimes holding you back. Then again, it's only natural. Every parent wants their children to end up just a little less happy than they are.

Frank: I'm not sure that's universal, Mom.

Peggy: What do I know? I grew up in a different time. Expectations for girls weren't set that high. And I met your father, and then along came all you kids. Eight needy nails in my hopes and dreams coffin. But I guess I could try to be a little bit more encouraging. Let you boys march out into the world with sky-high expectations. And if they don't work out, I'll be here for you. To come crawling back to. To tell me I was right.

Frank: Or if they do work out, we can come back to say thank you. I love you, Mom.

Peggy:[Scoffing] That word. You're probably starving. I'm gonna heat you up a Hungry-Man dinner. It's a new one Mexican enchiladas.

Analysis:

Peggy is waiting for Frank. She knows she should apologize to him, but hates to admit she is wrong since she is the boss and doesn't want to weaken her parental power. She gives a back-handed apology.

Peggy's emotional chord: single-minded sergeant mom with no time for emotion that could disrupt her functioning household