

EVE. We're coming, we're coming, aren't we? To watch the reading?

FATHER. Of course, Eve. But Kim has to go early, to get ready with her classmates. They all get read together, remember?

EVE. I want to get read. I want a reading, too!

KIM. You will. When you're done with school, they'll read you some day.

EVE. I want to know now! Why can't I know now?

FATHER. Because today is Kim's day. And we're proud of her.

EVE. Will I be an astronaut, too?

FATHER. Of course. If it's in your reading. Run to your mother, let her get you dressed.

*(EVE hugs KIM, runs off.)*

FATHER. I want you to know. Just that, we. We are so proud of you. Whatever happens.

KIM. Dad?

FATHER. I just mean, wherever they send you, your aptitudes, that's all. Any of the schools will be perfect. You've worked so hard. It's bound to pay off.

KIM. Are you all right?

FATHER. I'm happy. That's all. I'm just happy. I'd better get ready.

*(He starts off, comes back, hugs her too tightly, goes.)*

KIM. What did I do?

*(A dark room. MATRON sits, her ASSISTANT behind her, staring at KIM.)*

MATRON. Come here. Closer.

*(KIM steps toward her.)*

MATRON. Do you think you're special?

KIM. No.