

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

Title List

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Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"TOGETHERNESS"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Mr. Buford.....Don Keefer
Mr. McClure.....Ted Stanhope
Emily Vale.....Lenore Kingston

SYNOPSIS

Mel Buford (Don Keefer), staff writer for an insurance magazine, is assigned to do a feature on the Andersons, pointing up the fact that the "togetherness" of an insurance man's family helps him to success. He arrives at the Anderson home at a time when each member of the family is rushing off in a different direction. In particular, Bud (Billy Gray), who has learned that a girl he would like to date is on the decorating committee for a dance, is doing his best to get on the committee. Appalled by the chaos, Buford asks to be taken off the assignment. He is told to give it another try.

Bud is appointed to the committee. Assigned to deliver artificial flowers to the hall, Bud drops them into a pool of muddy water. Buford returns as the Andersons are all working to help Bud make a new batch of flowers. Buford's published article extols the Andersons as a group of individuals, whose togetherness comes to the fore in time of crisis.

Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney
Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: Roswell Rogers

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"SECOND BEST"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Instructor.....Ralph Faulkner
Gordon.....Bill Hummer
Aunt.....Helen Brown

SYNOPSIS

Although Betty (Elinor Donahue) has always ranked high in everything she has attempted to do, she is troubled because she has never won first place in anything. Learning that her college is to have a fencing tournament, Betty decides that fencing is her forte and starts intensive practice sessions with the foils. Meanwhile, Betty has been baby-sitting with Gordon (Bill Hummer), a six year old who has been living with his aunt (Helen Brown) until his parents return from India. Betty promises to take Gordon camping before they return.

Betty's amazing progress surprises her fencing instructor, who feels she has a chance to win. Several hours before the tournament is to take place, Betty learns that Gordon is leaving to join his parents the following morning. Betty withdraws from the tournament and, aided by Kathy (Lauren Chapin) and Bud (Billy Gray), takes Gordon camping in the Anderson backyard. Gordon gives Betty a clay ash tray on which he has scratched "To Betty - my best friend."

Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney
Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: Roswell Rogers

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"Kathy's Big Deception"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Patty.....Reba Waters
George Wilson.....Stephen Firstman
Shirley Wilson.....Nancy King
Messenger.....Joel Colin

SYNOPSIS

Kathy feels rejected by the world since she is the only girl in her class who doesn't have a date for the Community Picnic. To hide her feelings, Kathy makes up a story that she broke a date for the picnic with George Wilson, young brother of Bud's friend, Shirley. Jim, believing that Kathy is unhappy because of the fictitious quarrel, decides to correct the situation by making Kathy and George guests of honor at the picnic. Kathy realizes she is trapped. After several attempts to get out of her unfortunate predicament, Kathy, in desperation, phones George, but learns he already has a date.

On the morning of the picnic, the Andersons wait for George to arrive, unaware that Kathy is in her room afraid to face her family. Bud goes to Kathy's room and tells his sister to look downstairs. There, she sees George waiting for her. Realizing that Bud has arranged the date, Kathy hugs and kisses the best brother a girl ever had.

Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: Paul West
Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"Cupid Knows Best"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Elena.....Estelita Rodriguez
Frank.....Natividad Vacio

SYNOPSIS

Frank, (Natividad Vacio) the Anderson's part-time gardener, delivers orders for Mama Berta, owner of a small flower shop. Frank loves Mama's daughter, Elena, (Estelita Rodriguez) a shy girl in her late twenties, but is too bashful to tell her. Betty (Elinor Donahue) agrees to write letters to Elena for Frank without revealing his identity, until Elena shows some definite interest. When Elena replies, she asks for a picture of her suitor. Fearing that his own face will ruin the romance, Frank encloses a photo of Jim Anderson (Robert Young).

Later, Jim goes to Mama Berta's to purchase flowers. Mama is more than interested in this prospective son-in-law until she learns that he is married, then she throws him out of the store. The Andersons feel Frank's romance is forever blighted. However, Frank comes to the Anderson home and tells them that he is engaged to marry Elena, who has turned to him for comfort after the fiasco of her 'romance through the mail.'

Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: Roswell Rogers
Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney

Storylines

Screen Gems

"The Big Test"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Mr. Glover.....Jack W. Harris

SYNOPSIS

When Kathy (Lauren Chapin) asks for a typewriter Bud (Billy Gray) recalls that his father Jim Anderson (Robert Young) promised him a boat if he raised his science mark - and immediately - Bud devoted himself to mastering science. While he is studying alone at school after class, the questions for the next day's test fell from the teacher's desk. Bud picked them up just as the science teacher, Mr. Glover, entered. Glover assumed Bud has been cheating. Withholding Bud's name but pegging him as a bad student, Glover asked the advice of the student council on the proper course to pursue.

The council and its chairman, Betty Anderson (Elinor Donahue), suggested the student be given the exam; if he gets a high mark he will convict himself. Later Betty learned Bud is the suspect and warned him not to pass. Courageously, Bud does his best, gets the highest mark, and faced serious consequences. Betty told Glover (Jack W. Harris) she warned Bud of the trap, and the teacher agrees to give Bud an oral test which he passed easily - proving his honesty and winning the boat from his father.

Hearing what happened to Bud and all his trouble Kathy still bargains for the typewriter if she makes an "A" in math. But Margaret (Jane Wyatt) interrupts with, "where can we trade an old outboard for a typewriter."

Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney
Directed by: William D. Russell
Teleplay by: Roswell Rogers

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"JIM'S BIG SURPRISE"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Miss Abrams.....Marion Ross
Maid.....Towyna Thomas

SYNOPSIS

Jim (Robert Young) announces that he has a big surprise in store for his family. Bud (Billy Gray) envisions a convertible for himself; Betty (Elinor Donahue) foresees a long dreamed of trip to Hawaii; Kathy (Lauren Chapin), a swimming pool; and even Margaret (Jane Wyatt), a maid for the Anderson home. Jim is conscious of their letdown when he tells them that the Chamber of Commerce and the P.T.A. have awarded him a gold key as the ideal father of the year. Trying to explain why the Andersons do not have the luxuries their neighbors have, Jim tells Betty, Bud and Kathy he has been saving for what he thinks is the most important - a college education for his children.

Regretting their unfortunate behavior, the Andersons give Jim a "surprise dinner" at home. Kathy presents Jim with a good report card; Betty, a certificate of her election to an honorary scholastic society; and Bud, a letter announcing his nomination as member of the student body council - all proof that the ideal father has children who are really living up to his ideals.

Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney
Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: Dorothy Cooper

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"TIME TO RETIRE"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Miss Thomas.....Sarah Selby
Mrs. Tyson.....Charity Grace
ARTHUR HIGGINS.....CHARLIE RUGGLES*

SYNOPSIS

Bud's (Billy Gray) ambition is to work in Jim's (Robert Young) office after graduating from college. Jim tells him that although he would eventually like to have Bud as partner, it would be better to start working for someone else. Later, Jim receives a memo reminding him that Arthur Higgins (Charlie Ruggles), a valued employee, has reached 64, the mandatory retirement age. Jim, unable to tell Arthur, gives him a birthday party at the Anderson home, hoping to break the news to him at that time; he is unable to do so.

The next morning, Miss Thomas (Sarah Selby) Jim's secretary, accidentally discloses the real purpose of the party to Arthur. Arthur disappears and the Andersons start a search for him. Bud finally finds Arthur, who feels his life is over. Bud tells Arthur he is only 24 hours older than he was the day before, and there are many useful things for him to do. Arthur returns home with Bud. He announces he is opening an insurance office of his own and Bud is coming in to help him.

Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney
Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: John Elliotte

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"Bud, The Speculator"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Eddie.....Jeff Silver
Delivery Boy.....Eddie Foy
2nd Drayman.....John Lawrence

SYNOPSIS

Bud (Billy Gray) gets a tip from a man, claiming to be president of a copper company, that the stock selling for \$1 a share is going sky high. Bud tries to sell Eddie (Jeff Silver) all his belongings for \$50 in order to buy 50 shares. Eddie decided to use the money to buy shares himself. However, Bud persuades Jim (Robert Young) to lend him the money. After Bud tells him the stock has reached \$3 a share, Jim convinces his son to sell. Bud is crushed on learning the phoney company has absconded. Determined to repay his loan to Jim, Bud again tries to sell Eddie his prized possessions.

Sympathetically, Betty (Elinor Donahue) tries to console her brother by offering him money with which she planned to purchase a dress. When Bud refuses, Betty gives the money to Eddie with instructions to buy Bud's possessions. Bud jubilantly repays his loan, while Eddie asks Betty what she plans to do with Bud's possessions, which she now owns.

Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: Paul West
Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney

Storylines

Screen Gems

"THE FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR-LETTER"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Mr. Kroegman.....Franz Roehn
Miss Thomas.....Sarah Selby

SYNOPSIS

The Andersons receive a letter addressed - "To one of the Anderson" - containing a check for \$500. The letter from B. Kroegman (Franz Roehn), formerly janitor at the grade school, states that the check is a token of gratitude for a kindness shown him by one of the members of the family. Each of the children starts exaggerating small kindnesses shown to the man into great generousities. Even Jim (Robert Young) and Margaret (Jane Wyatt) search their memories for some association with Kroegman.

Jim, upset by the manner in which his family is seeking payment for a kind deed, assigns each to write a paper, detailing their generous deeds. That the acts were almost completely imaginary is finally admitted by all. Jim learns that Kroegman was fired from school for stealing. Shortly after, Jim receives added information from Kroegman, stating that he was exonerated from the charge. Kroegman adds that when he was waiting for his final pay check, Kathy (Lauren Chapin) gave him a stick of gum, a symbol of friendship at life's darkest moment.

Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: Roswell Rogers
Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney

Storylines

Screen Gems

"Adopted Daughter"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Patty Davis.....Tina Thompson
Alicia May.....Linda Lowell

SYNOPSIS

Kathy (Lauren Chapin) accidentally breaks the frame on her birth certificate and asks Bud (Billy Gray) to fix it for her. As Bud starts to fix it, the two reminisce about the time five years previous when Kathy was given the framed certificate to allay fears that she had been an adopted child.

Kathy remembers when her playmate, Patty Davis (Tina Thompson) told her that their little friend, Alicia May (Linda Lowell) was an adopted child, Kathy gets the idea that she too had been adopted. Her fears grew when, searching for proof of her birth, she found a check for \$25.00 made out to the Children's Society, which she felt was the price paid for her. Believing that her days with the Andersons were numbered Kathy tried to convince her "fellow orphan," Alicia May, to run away with her but Alicia May refused, stating that adopted children were treated better than others because they just don't arrive but are hand-picked by their parents.

Meanwhile, the Andersons have discovered the cause of Kathy's worry and start a frantic search for her. Jim (Robert Young) found Kathy and after proving that the check was his annual contribution to the Children's Society, persuades her that even if she weren't his own little girl, he would pick her above all other children in the world, and presents her with a framed birth certificate.

Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney
Directed by: William D. Russell
Teleplay by: Roswell Rogers
Story by: Roswell Rogers & Carl Herzinger

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"FAMILY CONTEST"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Mrs. Henslee.....Hanna Landy
Toby.....Warren Hsieh
and
MR. HENSLEE.....STUART ERWIN

SYNOPSIS

Mr. Henslee (Stuart Erwin), the neighborhood baker, holds Betty's (Elinor Donahue) camera for a picture of the Andersons to be entered in a contest which offers a trip to Hawaii as first prize for the ideal Springfield family. In return, Betty agrees to take a picture of the Henslee family, and to develop it in her dark room. The Henslees prove to be a wonderful group, including a Korean orphan adopted by the family. When Henslee accepts Jim's (Robert Young) suggestion that the picture be entered in the contest, the Andersons feel that Jim has betrayed them.

Kathy (Lauren Chapin) destroys the Henslee picture and hides the negative. With the contest about to end, Henslee phones for the picture. A strange feeling of guilt overcomes the Andersons and Kathy finally confesses her act to Betty. Betty quickly develops the negative. Later, the Andersons receive a Hawaiian post card from the Henslees; Jim tells his family to start saving for the Island trip they will make on their own.

Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney
Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Story by: John Elliotte

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"Love And Learn"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Nelda Freemont.....Diana Millay
Wilmer.....Mike Monahan

SYNOPSIS

Margaret (Jane Wyatt) decides to hire a tutor to bolster up Bud's (Billy Gray) shaky position in his English class. Bud is against this until he sees the name of Nelda Freemont - the best looking girl in the school - on the list of suggested tutors. Nelda (Diane Millay) uses her authority to stop Bud from turning the tutoring sessions into social occasions. Although at first Bud's lessons improve, they start to deteriorate and Nelda tells Jim (Robert Young) she feels she is failing in her assignment.

Jim, realizing that Bud resents Nelda's authority since it robs him of his feeling of importance, decides to do something about it. He takes Nelda and Margaret to a bowling alley where Bud is playing with his friends. When Bud observes Nelda's ignorance of the game, he starts coaching her, adopting the same tone she used while tutoring him. Nelda apologizes for her unbearable attitude. Both Bud and Nelda look forward to tutoring and bowling together in the future.

Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: Roswell Rogers
Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney

Storylines

Screen Gems

"Blind Date"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Rudy Kissler.....Hampton Fancher
Ted Naylor.....Gregg Stewart
Doug Meyers.....Jay Strong
Judy Clauson.....Beverly Long
Bob.....Richard Gering

SYNOPSIS

Betty (Elinor Donahue) reproaches her friends for using naive Rudy Kissler (Hampton Fancher), a college student and part-time waiter as the butt of their jokes. Then Betty is nominated to compete for the title of Campus Queen. Two of Betty's friends, Doug Meyers (Jay Strong) and Ted Naylor (Gregg Stewart), arrange a blind date between Betty and Rudy. Although surprised, Betty thanks her friends for arranging such a pleasant date for her. In spite of her friend's protests that she is ruining her chance of winning, Betty keeps Rudy as her escort during the affairs which precede the contest finals.

Betty is stunned, however, when Rudy reveals he has fallen in love with her. Then she learns that Ted has told Rudy the blind date was a joke. Horrified, Betty confesses to Rudy that although at first she was a party to the prank, she now values his friendship. Later, Betty is elected Campus Queen. Her friends heartily approve when Betty selects Rudy for the first dance.

Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: Paul West
Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"BETTY'S CAREER PROBLEM"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Cliff Bowman.....Jim Hutton
Kimbrough.....Jack Davis
Dean Ramsey.....Nelson Welch
Sweet Old Lady.....Alma Murphy

SYNOPSIS

At college, Cliff Bowman has edged out Betty for the Sophomore Class Vice Presidency, and later the Senior Class Presidency. As graduation approaches, Betty is crushed when Cliff again beats her for the Scholastic Achievement Award. Cliff tells Betty that his success is due to her competition, but Betty, certain that Cliff feels sorry for her, refuses his dinner invitation. Betty goes to Gorman's Department Store to be interviewed by Mr. Kimbrough for the job of Assistant Merchandise Buyer. She finds Cliff applying for the same position.

Kimbrough suggests they both work part-time until graduation. He assigns Cliff to the stock room, and asks Betty to appear in a fashion show, where she is to model a wedding gown. When the "bridegroom" fails to show up, Cliff is substituted. As they march into the hall, Betty tells Cliff that the Assistant Buyer's job is his since she has a new and more important ambition - to become a bride.

Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney
Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Written by: John Elliotte

Storylines

Screen Gems

FATHER KNOWS BEST

"Not His Type"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Diane.....Diana Millay
George Frazer.....Carleton Carpenter

SYNOPSIS

Betty's (Elinor Donahue) friend, Diane (Diana Millay), and George Frazer (Carleton Carpenter) plan to marry after graduation. George, however, rebelling against Diane's possessiveness, becomes attracted to Betty. Diane senses George's interest in another girl, but doesn't know it is her friend. Conscious finally of how she has restricted George, Diane tells Betty she wouldn't mind if George occasionally dated another girl. Betty replies that possibly George has her in mind. Betty burns when Diane tells her that she is not George's type.

Diane tells George to date someone worthy of him - someone like Betty. Apprised of Diane's "foolproof" solution to the problem, Betty invites George to her home. Although both pretend to have a romantic affection for the other, they admit that Diane is as much with them as if she were in the room. Diane phones to check the results of the experiment; Betty forces George to take the phone. He leaves almost immediately to rejoin Diane.

Directed by: Peter Tewksbury
Teleplay by: John Elliotte & Roswell Rogers
Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney

Storylines

Screen Gems

"Betty's Graduation"

CAST

Jim Anderson.....Robert Young
Margaret Anderson.....Jane Wyatt
Betty.....Elinor Donahue
Bud.....Billy Gray
Kathy.....Lauren Chapin
Dotty Snow.....Yvonne Lime

SYNOPSIS

When Kathy (Lauren Chapin) complains to her father that she never wants to graduate high school because these are the best years of her life, he recalls Betty's (Elinor Donahue) graduation from high school.

A corsage arrived from Ralph, her date for the graduation dance that night. Suddenly Betty, seeing the corsage was a symbol of a period which was over and could never be recaptured, broke into tears, and emphatically stated that she was not going to the dance. Later, the Andersons received a call that Betty had been absent from the graduation rehearsal. The family was worried until Jim (Robert Young) received a call from Betty telling him that she was at the "thinking place," a grove where Jim used to take her when she was a small girl to try and answer the age-old questions youth asks.

Taking Margaret Anderson's (Jane Wyatt) diary which Kathy had unearthed, Jim hurried to the "thinking place" and pointed out to Betty that Margaret had asked the same questions of life when she was Betty's age. Listening to her father Betty realized that the very essence of life was the acceptance of change, and she graduated from adolescence to maturity a day before she received her high school diploma.

Directed by: William D. Russell
Written by: Roswell Rogers
Produced by: Eugene B. Rodney