

Interview- Where I am from

“In the future, let’s live together in this house.” After 25 years, my mom, [REDACTED], still remembers the young man making the promise to her. We interviewed Korean as she is more comfortable speaking in her first language. She says that she can vividly remember the moment when he said those words as he showed his sketchbook to her. The small house surrounded by colourful flowers, drawn onto a piece of paper was so beautiful, but it was the smile of the young man that gave her butterflies. That would have been the day when my mom fell in love with the man. She never knew that the young man she met would be the one to move to Canada with her in the future to keep his promise. She also did not expect that the man would be the one she loves as a husband today.

This love story all goes back to when my mom first went to the States. Her childhood life in Korea wasn’t as pleasuring. Although she was the top student in school, her parents didn’t have enough money to afford for her to go to post-secondary. Due to the circumstances around her, she enrolled in university a year later graduating from high school. She didn’t have a specific dream job at the time, but her thoughts narrowed down to moving out of Korea as she thought it would be better “to get more experience in the outside world” where she had never been. Fortunately, she was able to go to the States as an exchange student and start her life as a student there. And there, she met my father.

It wasn’t hard for her to fall in love with my dad. Especially, since she met him in the States where it might feel a bit lonely without her friends and family. My mom was dating somebody else when she first met my dad as a friend. She wasn’t quite interested in him at first. My dad, however, instantly fell in love with my mom. My mom still chuckles as she recalls the memory of my dad saying, “Come to me, I am better than him.” Eventually, my mom did break up with her boyfriend and started dating my

dad. They stayed together in the States for a few months, but time flew quite fast, and my mom had to return to Korea.

Life in Korea wasn't as bad. When she came, she was able to get a stable job and she just had to wait for my dad for a year to meet him back in Korea. Everything was fine until they got married and got children. "Education in Korea was harsh and living there as a student wasn't easy," my mom says. That's why my parents decided to move to Canada. They found out that Canada was a pretty nice place to live with a better education system. They didn't hesitate to come and settled down as immigrants shortly after they felt to leave Korea. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't be able to write this essay today. Life would have been much more different for me if my parents never left Korea.

This is the story of my mom falling in love with my dad and enjoying their happily-ever-after life in Canada now. Going to the States alone was somewhat frightening and exciting for her. She met a man there who is my father today and moved to Canada with her family to give her children a chance to experience a new world. Back when she was in her 20s, she never knew that one day she'll come to Canada to open a new chapter in her life. Although we don't have any flowers, our family is living in a lovely house that my dad promised my mom to live in with her 25 years ago. Life is something that you just have to wait for to see what's coming up next. As my mom always says, "You can never expect your future."