



REMEMBERED

By John Mabey

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- Remembered -

by
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CHARACTERS

Doris

Female

61

Peter

Male

24

LOCATION

Living room in Doris's house.

SYNOPSIS

Walls are diaries and rooms have desires. In the buying and selling of a house, two people discover what's truly at stake and the power of finding love through loss.

DORIS is alone in her living room.

DORIS

Water spots on the ceiling, scratches on the floor, the tiny crack right there in the window. They're all important. They're memories. Nothing old should ever look perfect, it's untruthful. A gift unopened, and we only get so many. Even this wallpaper, separated from its base, do you see? It's a little crack of revelation. Everything you see here is evidence, not like those identical monstrosities they churn out now, a whole neighborhood of perfect mirrors. There's a reason we describe houses like they're people: strong bones, great features, sometimes neglected. I remember laying in bed, right upstairs next to my mother, falling asleep to the whispers. It was the wind, barreling through the window gaps, but momma'd say it was the sound of the house dreaming. Said if I closed my eyes and went to sleep, the house would tell me all of its dreams. Well. What do you think?

PETER enters from within the house.

PETER

I think being truthful is the most important thing.

DORIS

So you like my house, Mr. Samuels?

PETER

Yes, very much.

DORIS

It needs work. But you won't find another quite like this.

PETER

It must be hard to leave.

DORIS

My father passed. I've been caring for him in this house, since I was a child actually.

PETER

I'm sorry.

DORIS

For which part? I apologize, that was rude.

PETER

It's okay, I like when people just say what they mean. Everything else wastes time.

DORIS

He was ready, my father. He'd been ready for many years. It was a relief to us both when he died and I'm not ashamed to say that. We loved each other very much in our way.

PETER

Is that why you're leaving now?

DORIS

When leaving one's home, the only important question is how: voluntarily or not. I intend to be the former.

PETER

Every time I've come for a viewing, I think I learn more and more.

DORIS

You're supposed to be learning about the house, not me.

PETER

I've enjoyed your stories just as much as the house.

DORIS

The older you get, the more stories you collect.

PETER

I really like things with history.

DORIS

Some women would take offence at that.

PETER

Oh, I'm sorry! I meant your home.

DORIS

I know, I'm just having fun with you.

PETER

I'm also having a good time with you.

DORIS

No, it's an expression, I meant that I'm teasing you. But yes, for two people hopefully engaged in a business transaction, I am having a good time. With you.

PETER

I feel awkward with people sometimes. I somehow miss the implicit meaning in things.

DORIS

I think it's charming.

PETER

My ex-girlfriend said I 'wasn't fluent in human.'

Doris laughs.

DORIS

Sorry.

PETER

It's okay, I see the humor.

DORIS

Is that why you two ended things?

PETER

When leaving one's relationship, the only important question is how: voluntarily or not. I unfortunately was the latter.

Doris laughs.

DORIS

It's much easier to have a conversation without your agent here.

PETER

I don't like him.

DORIS

Me neither! I'm so glad you said that. Does he always wear shorts?

PETER

He just gets in the way of things.

DORIS

I think that's his job, dear.

PETER

To get in the way?

DORIS

It's usually called 'customer service.' But yes.

PETER

It's nice that you really don't like people either.

DORIS

Aren't we a pair.

PETER

I'll tell you what he said, that I should start with a very low offer on this house.

DORIS

How low?

PETER

Very, because he thinks you're desperate to sell.

DORIS

What a little jerk.

PETER

And 'with no spouse or kids, there'll be less prying eyes and voices in your ear to negotiate.'

DORIS

I don't think you're supposed to tell me all of that. We are on opposite sides, after all.

PETER

Are we?

DORIS

We should probably just talk about the house.

PETER

I was going to mention what else he said. About your neighborhood, too.

DORIS

It's best not to, I think.

Beat

DORIS

Okay, tell me. What did he say?

PETER

That this area is next for revitalization. In maybe 5 years the appreciation on this house will go even beyond projections. Essentially you're sitting on a big payday if you wait to sell.

DORIS

What a little -

PETER

Jerk.

DORIS

I won't be selling my house for a song.

PETER

It's okay, I have plenty of money.

DORIS

Oh. Oh? You never mentioned what it is you do. Let me guess, you work in the tech industry?

PETER

I work with numbers and I'm very good at it.

DORIS

Numbers.

PETER

I make people money, which makes me money. Not that I ever see it. It's all virtual but you can buy the most amazing real things with virtual money.

DORIS

I see. I think I see.

PETER

Numbers mean what they mean and never lie. They're better companions that way.

DORIS

That will not help you find a girlfriend any faster.

PETER

That's what my father always said, too. I miss him. Neither one of us was ready.

DORIS

I'm sorry. Mine built this house, and there's a memory attached to every beam on the ceiling, every gash in the floor. Even the walls themselves read like books.

PETER

That's a lot to leave behind.

DORIS

That's also a lot to keep.

PETER

My father told me it's good to have someone for the journey, someone where it's as nice as being alone. Effortless. I don't usually find that with anyone. That's why meeting you has been such a nice surprise.

DORIS

Well. It's easy to misinterpret what you mean, Mr. Samuels.

PETER

Call me 'Pete.' May I call you 'Doris?'

DORIS

It wouldn't be appropriate.

PETER

Oh.

DORIS

This isn't usually how a seller and a buyer interact.