

**House for Sale**

A one-act play

by

Dale Griffiths Stamos

**[EXCERPT]**

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SETTING: The unfurnished living room of a house that is for sale.

AT RISE: Lights come up on the living room. It remains, for the moment, unoccupied. A beat, then, from offstage, we hear footsteps and doors opening and closing.

KATHLEEN (OFFSTAGE)

And with a little fixing up, it will make a wonderful kitchen. Oh, and here you have an extra closet. I don't know about you, but I live and breathe closet space!

JEREMY (OFFSTAGE)

Uh huh.

(KATHLEEN enters, with JEREMY following closely behind. KATHLEEN is high energy, but subtly desperate. JEREMY is sweet, shy, and not enjoying the hard sell.)

KATHLEEN

And here's the pièce de resistance! The living room!

JEREMY

It's very nice.

KATHLEEN

Nice? It's bright, airy, roomy. And look! There's a view!  
(He goes to the window and strains to see.)

JEREMY

Where?

KATHLEEN

There! Can't you see it?  
(A beat. He doesn't)  
The ocean!

JEREMY

Oh... you mean that little sliver between two--

KATHLEEN

Do you realize what an ocean view does to a property's value? It is a major selling point!

JEREMY

Yes, ...I'm sure it is. But to tell you the truth, I'm not really that interested in resale value.

KATHLEEN

No?

JEREMY

What I mean is... I'm looking for something, well, long-term.

KATHLEEN

Well, why didn't you tell me? You're not looking for a house at all.

JEREMY

I'm not?

KATHLEEN

No. You're looking for a home.

JEREMY

Yes. Yes, I suppose I am.

KATHLEEN

But that doesn't mean you should ignore the value of your home.

JEREMY

I guess you're right.

KATHLEEN

Now. Let's talk about the financing possibilities...

JEREMY

Oh. Uh. I'm not exactly ready to...

KATHLEEN

Did I show you the vegetable garden?

JEREMY

Yes. Twice, actually.

KATHLEEN

What about the tool shed? You look like a man who likes to fix things...

JEREMY

I'm all thumbs, actually.

KATHLEEN

Oh. Well, it's great for storage then. And that skylight in the upstairs bath, is that a stroke of genius or what?

JEREMY

Yes, of course, genius. Listen... I really need to get going. I have other houses to look at before--

KATHLEEN  
 (a suddenly desperate edge in  
 her voice)

No! Wait!

JEREMY

What?

KATHLEEN  
 I haven't shown you the pantry yet!

JEREMY  
 Yes you did. And the cellar. And the place where the last  
 owners scratched their kids' heights. And the--

KATHLEEN  
 Well, I can't help it... I just love this house!

JEREMY  
 I can see that!

KATHLEEN  
 And I want you to love it too!

JEREMY  
 Well, see, I really don't have a lot to compare it with right  
 now, so maybe if I come back another--

KATHLEEN  
 Did you see the way the ivy was crawling up the back wall?  
 Ivy! Now that's a home!

JEREMY  
 (inching his way slowly toward  
 door)  
 Ivy. Yes. Nice touch. I'll seriously consider this place.  
 I promise.

KATHLEEN  
 Look. I'll let you in on a secret. The owners are very  
 motivated to sell, if you know what I mean. I think there is  
 room for major reductions in the price! That is if they can  
 get an offer soon.

JEREMY  
 Great, great. That's something to think about. And I will.  
 Think about. It. But right now I've... I've got to--  
 (He turns to go. KATHLEEN  
 races to the door and gets  
 there first, practically  
 barring his way out.)

KATHLEEN  
 And you know... Jason--

JEREMY

Jeremy.

KATHLEEN

Jeremy. They're not the only ones looking to... sweeten this deal.

JEREMY

What do you mean?

KATHLEEN

(striking a rather ludicrous  
seductive pose against the  
door)

I mean... Personally, I am very motivated to make this sale.

JEREMY

Excuse me?

(This is not the reaction she  
expected, but she proceeds,  
undaunted.)

KATHLEEN

This sale means a lot to me, Jeremy. And after all, you are man, I am--

JEREMY

--crazy! I can't believe you're doing this, just to sell a house!

KATHLEEN

(close to tears)

What's wrong? Don't you find me attractive?

JEREMY

That's not the point!

(A beat. JEREMY stares at her,  
incredulous. KATHLEEN,  
mortified, begins to lose it.)

KATHLEEN

Oh God!

(KATHLEEN, starts pacing the  
room.)

KATHLEEN (CONT.)

Who... the hell do I think I'm fooling!? I'm no better at selling myself than I am at selling this house! Oh God, I'm so embarrassed!