

HOME SWEET HOME



2nd JANUARY 2015

LOCATION: FOURTH FLOOR APARTMENT AT THE CENTRE OF VOLOS

CAST: PHILIP (OWNER OF THE APARTMENT)

GEORGE (REAL ESTATE AGENT)

PAUL (BUYER OF THE APARTMENT)

CATHERINE (BUYER / PAUL'S WIFE)

SCENE 1

INT / PHILLIP'S APARTMENT / AFTERNOON

Philip is standing beside the glass front of the living room and gazes at the view of Mt Pelion .It is a cold January afternoon and the sun is stretched out lazily on the slope. The remnants of snow on rooftops sparkle beneath the touch of sunbeam He turns around and his gaze is wandering the empty lounge. The apartment is suddenly very quiet, and Philip looks lost in it.

PHILIP

Who would believe that this house that once had no
quiet, now stands empty and desert !!! (Sighs)

I wonder if the new owners will cherish it as much as we did

If I had a choice I probably wouldn't be here now but I would go
through with my decision.

Phillip is troubled while wandering through the empty apartment. (sound of footsteps on the floor)

Philip looks out of the window facing the street ,waiting for the buyers and the agent to appear.

He makes one last check in the closets of the house for any forgotten items.

He enters the empty nursery and opens the closet. He comes across an old drawing of his son.

(The camera focuses on the picture) The painting depicts the family of Philip in the house . Philip is weeping, tears flow onto the paper.

Background music (melancholic style)

2nd SCENE

INT. / PHILIP'S APARTMENT / AFTERNOON

Sound of the apartment's doorbell.

Philip opens the door of the apartment and the estate agent as well as the buyers enter it.

PHILIP

Good evening, welcome, I hope you didn't have a hard time finding the apartment, right?

GEORGE

Of course, no problem .We were a bit late because we were looking for a parking space.

PHILIP

Fortunately there is one in the porch, so you will have no problem whatsoever. In general it is extremely difficult to find a parking space in the centre of Volos.

GEORGE

Sorry but I forgot to introduce you. Mr. and Mrs. Nicolaou are interested in your apartment (George indicates the buyers with a nod of his hand).

PHILIP

Nice to meet you I'm Philip Apostolou (He gives his hand for a handshake to Paul and Catherine)

PAUL

Paul, nice to meet you, let's just use our first names since we're almost the same age.

PHILIP

I'm so glad you said that, someone had to break the ice!

They all laugh and their faces relax.

GEORGE

Do you mind if we start the tour of the apartment while we're talking? I'm sure we're all on a tight schedule.

PHILIP

You're right, since we're already in the living room (camera rotates in the room, 360 degrees panoramic view) I have to emphasize that it's one of the apartment's greatest assets. As you can see the view is magnificent. (camera focuses on the view outside the living room's balcony doors). It's literally at the foot of Mount Pelion. The corner fireplace offers endless moments of relaxation and entertainment with friends or family. Do you have children, by the way?

CATHERINE

We're newly married but we don't intend to delay it, do we honey? (leans tenderly towards Paul who clears his throat, they all laugh)

PHILIP

I wish you all the best, kids are happiness. I'll go on with the tour and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to cut in. The hardwood floor is of exceptional quality and the window frames are in very good condition. The apartment was renovated four years ago and we replaced almost everything.

GEORGE

I've informed Paul and Catherine of the excellent condition of the apartment. I hope it lives up to their expectations. So let's move on. At the far left corner lies the kitchen, one with the living room but also as isolated as it needs to be so as not to intrude in the living room.

CATHERINE (Excited)

Oh, that's great! It has plenty of cupboards and its own little balcony. We both love cooking and spend quite a lot of time in the kitchen, so it is important that it meets our needs. Paul, what do you think?

PAUL

I agree, though it will take some changes in the layout of the cabinets to fit our electrical appliances.

Paul snaps cupboards open and closed and measures the reception areas of the electrical appliances.

PHILIP

Before we finish with the bedrooms and bathrooms, I would like to remind you that there is a storeroom in the basement of about 10 square meters and as we said a covered parking spot. The neighborhood, despite being central, is relatively quiet. There are school complexes at a distance of 500 meters and of course the market and the centre of Volos are just a 10-minute walk. I believe the location is the main criterion for selecting a home.

PAUL

It is very important to walk when you live in the country and we love cycling so I think we'll be fine.

George:

I don't know if you remember but as soon as we arrived I showed you that there is a special place for parking bicycles at the porch.

Catherine:

Until now, everything sounds too good to be true (a bit hesitant and shy)

Should I dare ask if there is some kind of a secret drawback?

Philip:

You are right, I would have the same doubts and worries if I were in your shoes. There are no secrets, whatsoever; it's simple, even though it's so hard for me and my family. (the camera focuses on Philip's face; he's having hard time talking as he feels that he's choking and he looks gloomy). The company I used to work for closed down and there are 40 of us left unemployed. As hard as I tried, I was unable to find anything in Volos. Through some acquaintances of ours, a job was found in Athens and we were forced to move . Unfortunately our financial situation does not allow us to have two houses, as we owe money to the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) and we have a housing loan both of which we hope to pay off with the money we'll get after selling the apartment. We want to see this whole thing as a new beginning. We are not the first ones or the last ones....it's written on the wall.

(feeling of discomfort and complete silence)

Paul:

I'm sure that everything will be alright. Besides, we, too, set off to a new beginning, we dive into the unknown and hope for the best!

George:

I suggest showing you the bedrooms and the bathrooms so as to have a complete idea of the flat and then we could go on with the selling procedures

George

Let's move on then

They were walking one behind another in the narrow corridor that starts from the living room and leads to the three bedrooms and two bathrooms. At the right and left of the aisle there are the doors of the rooms. At the end of the hallway the main bathroom is situated and the other one is located in a bedroom.

Catherina

The rooms are quite spacious and wardrobes quite sufficient.

George

As you can see, the rooms have parquet and the closets are ergonomic and of good quality. The sanitary equipment and tiles are of a well-known company and they are of modern design.

George opens the bathroom door and Catherina and Paul enter the room.

Paul:

It is bright and its ventilation is good thanks to the window.

Phillip enters in the largest of the three bedrooms and invites them to accompany him. The other three followed in turn, first Catherina, then Paul and George at the end.

Phillip

The second bathroom is situated here, we had allocated the large room to the children so that they could have their own bathroom. For the time being, you have all the rooms at your disposal (laughs and everyone looks happy). The apartment is 130 sq .m. I think it can easily cover the needs of a family.

Paul:

It is spacious and very sunny, I did not notice its orientation.

Paul approaches the balcony door and looks outside.

George:

That is a good question, the living room and the kitchen are orientated to the Northwest and the bedrooms to the Southeast , I think it is a good combination.

Paul:

Of course it is and as I can see the bedrooms face the uncovered part of the block but because the apartment is on the fourth floor the other block of flats do not limit its view.

Catherine:

How does the heating system work in the winter time?

Philipp:

The apartment has an individual gas burner, which is located in the balcony of the next room .In general , it has no heating losses, it is covered from every side and it has thermal insulation because of its new window and door frames .Also it is quiet cool in the summer, especially the living room and the kitchen which are orientated to the Northwest.

George:

Let's go to the living room , we have finished the tour, try to think of something that we have not cleared out yet.

They all head back to the living room sceptical , there is a certain awkwardness ,all of them seem concerned , everyone because of his own reasons.

PHILIP

I need to update you on the neighbours, they are mostly young couples with young children, but there are two relatively old owners with a few quirks, for example : noise etc , they pose a particular problem. Moreover, buildings always have a variety. I am sure they will welcome you and will be willing to help with anything you need.

CATHERINE

That's great, I feel that we set off on the best conditions, what do you think Paul?

PAUL

That's what I believe too, George, we are determined to go on, (looks happily at Catherine and she nods condescendingly with her face shining with joy)

GEORGE

Wonderful, I have legal and technical control in my hands, whenever you wish we can sign the contracts. The price we discussed has not altered, it is 140,000 euros.

PHILIP

Nothing has changed, we have come to an agreement (shakes hands with Paul and then Catherine).I wish you the best of luck, may you always be happy and live the most beautiful and strongest emotions here in this apartment .We will be accompanied by wonderful memories which give us strength to create other more powerful (Philip is emotional, but optimistic that the future will be bright for him and his family).

Paul and Catherine thank him, wish him the best and before they get ready to leave, George congratulates them on acquiring their new home.

PHILIP

Wait a minute, I almost forgot this.

He pulls a key fob from his pocket consisting of a house-shaped piece of wood with the HOME SWEET HOME logo engraved on it. He gives it to Katerina.

PHILIP

The keys are now yours don't forget that home is where you heart is...

Camera focuses on the key fob and the song "Home Sweet Home" starts playing in the background.

THE END

Script Writer: Stathis