

SCENARIO : " HOME SWEET HOME "

Scene 1

The real estate agent is walking towards the house. He's whistling and from time to time he's greeting some neighbours passing by. (We are listening to his thoughts).

"Today it's the big day! I'm meeting the first potential buyers of the house .To tell you the truth I 'm a bit (in fact, not only a bit) nervous .I'd like to sell the house to people who will take care of it because it's been made with a lot of toil and taste...And also because this house means a lot to me..."

(We are now at an old neighbourhood, the scene becomes vintage, we are listening to Greek music from the '50's or '60's.The real estate agent is now a young child, he's running across the street with his friends).

"This house is built where my family home used to be"

(We see a small detached house, typical '60's)

"Here I spent my whole childhood .In this yard (close up on the yard, where we can see the real estate agent as a child playing hide and seek with his friends, his mother proudly caring for her gardenias and his father eating jam and drinking coffee while playing backgammon with a friend). I used to play with my friends and then we used to gather in the house. It was time for cocoa, doughnuts and pancakes made by our mums and grandmas"(we see some kids drinking cocoa and laughing).

"Then we suddenly grew up ,we drifted apart , we stopped playing in the afternoons, we stopped drinking cocoa all together..."(Close up on the real estate agent, older now, alone, gazing at the empty yard from the house's window).

"Some years later, my parents passed away...My wife and I bought this house (we see the house which is about to be sold), where we lived for a couple of years. But now we have to sell it, as we're moving permanently to my wife's village. It's time for us to enjoy the calmness of the countryside , as our children are now "independent" as they say...And it's time to find the right words in order to sell MY HOUSE! It's so...strange!"

(The real estate agent is already at the house's entrance. He opens the door, enters the yard. He meets the potential buyers-a young couple- and greets them with a warm handshake).

Scene 2

- Good morning ! My name is George P. and I am the owner of this house.
This is a three-level house with an area of 204 sq.m. , it consists of a habitable basement with an area of 88 sq.m. , the main house which spans in two floors and the attic . The house also features a storage room and of course a wonderful garden. Shall we move on ?
(He is saying everything very quickly , he is obviously nervous , while he is noticing the looks and expressions of the lady who seems to be not satisfied with what she sees..... She's a little bitter this one , he thinks . He opens the door and they all enter the living room)
- Here is our living room , hum I mean the living room (he corrects) . It is fully furnished , with handmade very carefully picked furniture , spacious , including a fireplace , bright and.... with a beautiful view which you admire yourself.
(He pulls the curtains , opens the windows , steps aside –something jumps into his memory- the couple approaches the windows and there is pale music in the background)
- Very good , very good , says the nice gentleman who is staring at his wife , who remains unmoving .
- Yes ! so let's continue , says the broker . Shall we move to our kitchen ?
- Yes , of course ! says the gentleman .
- All right then ! This is a marvelous kitchen , with wonderful wooden lockers (real wood – no imitations , melamine or so) equipped with every detail , with auxiliary benches and of course it contains in excellent condition all the electrical devices – fitted.
- I can see there is no space for a large table , observed with a certain “style” the lady.
- Oh but the house features a large dining room for all the big family events , right across the living room . I am sorry if I didn't show it to you...Though I

don't know if you noticed , but in the terrace there is a big marble food table – did you notice the carved chairs ? During spring and summer you can easily use that space as your dining room . It is very beautiful (something seems to jump into his memory again).

- Well It sounds good , said the gentleman.
- Shall we move on to the next floor ?

Scene 3

They are all climbing up the marble stairs reaching the upper floor.

(There is soft music)

- Don't you think that these marble stairs are a little bit dangerous , says the lady talking to her husband . Our children are young and this marble looks very slippery.
- There is no need to worry....said the broker , our family have never experienced any problems during our years in the house . You can , of course , cover the stairs with a carpet which is a very elegant and pretty economical solution . So in this level you can find four bedrooms , two bathrooms and a very large office . Let's begin with that !

(All three enter the big room with the desk , the great bookcase and the big and very comfortable couch .)

It will be a great place for you to spend your time , says smiling . All the furniture are made of cherry tree wood and of course you have noticed the oaken floor – it's a proper jewel ! Our maker did an excellent job . Such floor you can see in every bedroom . The air conditioner provides the room with autonomy to both heat and cold.

(They are heading for the first bedroom)

- Well this is our big bedroom....As you can see it has a comfortable double bed with a mosquito-net (He remembers the argument he had with his wife for it) its own WC, fireplace , capacious wardrobe (He opens it) with many drawers . There is also a full-length mirror , a wooden shelf and.....
- Does it communicate with the other bedrooms ? the lady interrupts him.

- No , but they all are pretty close so you can have contact with the children (even when they sleep , he thinks)
- Everything is very well studied, says the gentleman . Well done , well done ! Can we see the rest of the bedrooms ?
(There is music coming from a xylophone)
- This bedroom (The broker leads them to the next room) has its own air conditioner , a comfortable single bed with anatomic , ecological mattress , a bookcase , a writing desk , a wardrobe with many storerooms . This is a room , as you can see , (He opens the shutters , goes out in the balcony , there are birds singing and we can see the garden – the broker smiles nostalgically , in this room he had first heard the word “daddy”) that is totally touched by the light .
- But don't you think that.....the lady interrupted him.
- Yes of course the balcony rail can be covered with a screen so the kids can play safely , added the broker .
- Thank you , you have covered me , said the lady obviously surprised now
- But of course..! You see I am a parent , too , and I know that the safety of children is above everything else , and their fun of course , he thinks (He smiles to the couple , probably forced as he has grown tired of the lady's “style”). Oh and since we are talking about safety , I'd like to add that the house has a very modern alarm system that will guard you against every danger . (He gives the lady a meaningful look)
- What about the third bedroom ? the jolly gentleman asks
- Follow me , please . (The music now changes , it becomes a bit more classic – they walk in the hall and the broker opens a door)
- This room is about an older child Everything is bigger more “adult” , the colors , the furniture , the style (The broker remembered his son , who when he got that room he called it “classic”) and of course you can see the balcony . The rail can be covered of course , because even the bigger children need to be safe...said the broker with irony. Shall we go to the bathroom ?

- Oh but of course...(They all three enter the bathroom)
- The bathroom consists of a bath tub with whirlpools , modern fixtures , a wardrobe....
- It's beautiful , said the lady and before she even looked she added : I suppose there is another one in this floor ?
- Of course , but it's a bit smaller . Shall we move to the next floor or do you want to see more of this floor ?
(The music now changes)
- Well , here is a pretty large and bright space that you can use as you like . We used to call it "Playground" .
- You mean playroom..., said the lady
- Yes exactly (Voices of cartoons can be heard with increasing volume) The room here is also soundproof....(He remembered the endless children parties that had made the wisely studied soundproof useless) You can also see the WC that is Right across the room.
- Brilliant ! Perfect ! shouted the gentleman but received a gentle poke from his wife , so gentle that even the broker had seen it right away.
- That's all... I think we have finished....said the lady
- The price is absolutely logical ! 270.000 € including everything you saw. Under different circumstances it's price would have been much different.
- Thank you very much, said the gentleman .I am totally impressed and I think...
- We think that first we have to compare it with other houses that we'll see , said the lady with a lying smile while her husband was deeply disappointed.
- Farewell then , said the broker ,farewell !
(He bid them goodbye with a handshake. They are leaving and the broker is left alone , probably sad . All we can hear are his thoughts:
Never mind . More buyers will come .Anyway I didn't like that woman at all.....)

Scene 4

(He goes downstairs in the living room and turns on the television. He changes the channels bored. His interest stops in a local channel with news about the city and turns up the volume. Music becomes faster and almost stressful)

The voice of the announcer says:

« This morning the decision was taken concerning the final closing of four houses of the child community « Helios », since the state can't afford their expenses any longer. With this action, the kids which were hosted there will go in institutions, losing forever the joy and serenity of home ambience. The possibility for their adoption is still discussed...it is imperative to help our fellow citizens. » .

His eyes were nailed in the subtitle of the news:

«Homeless the children of Helios»

Close to the broker's face:

He is calm but worried. Scattered words are heard with the voice of the announcer echoes: «haircuts, houses, children, state, **on the street, on the street ...**» words with the voice of the Lady: «, playroom, sieve, railing, **safety, security ...**» words with the voice of his mother «gardenia, cocoa, donuts, **love, love ...**» (He gets up slowly, closes the TV and goes. He closes the windows, closes the door and tightly holds the keys hanging on the keychain that says «Home sweet home». He goes out and takes down calmly and slowly the sign "For Sale". He folds it carefully and puts it in his pocket).

His thoughts are heard, music from a music box.....

There are children who are in need of home and family.

A conversation with my **Hope** and **our** home can be home for a few - at least - of these **children**. And what on earth a **broker am I?**

I may accomplish more. ... There are so many houses....

(Music from music boxClose to the person, the screen becomes smaller, the music from music box is lowered and eventually disappears)

THE END

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