

MISSING PEACE

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A Ten-Minute Play

By

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FOR READING ONLY

please contact Kyla for production purposes

SETTING: A living room. It is really messy as if a tornado just tore through it.

AT RISE: They are standing around a table doing a puzzle.

MARIA

When will mom be home?

GRANDPA

Soon

MARIA

How soon?

GRANDPA

She'll be here for dinner. She just needed a break.

MARIA

That's what she always says

GRANDPA

Maria

MARIA

No, she always leaves now. It's not fair.

GRANDPA

I know but it's how life is working right now

MARIA

Yeah...

GRANDPA

So do you want to finish the puzzle before dinner?

MARIA

Sure

After some time

MARIA

I think we're missing a piece

GRANDPA

I guess we are. Do you want to help Mimi finish cooking?

MARIA

But the puzzle isn't done, Grandpa. We can't just leave it.

GRANDPA

Do you want to look for the piece? We can look for it if you promise me one thing

MARIA

I promise

GRANDPA

I haven't even told you what it is yet

MARIA

I promise

GRANDPA

Okay. So if I let you look for the piece you'll help me clean the room?

MARIA

Grandpa

GRANDPA

You promised

MARIA begins to look around the room while GRANDPA cleans up.

MARIA

I don't think it's under here

GRANDPA

We'll keep looking it's here somewhere. Do you think you could help me fold this?

They start folding the blanket

MARIA

It looks like an ocean

GRANDPA

What's in the ocean?

I don't know. Dolphins?

MARIA

What else?

GRANDPA

Sharks

MARIA

Are there pirates in this Ocean?

GRANDPA

I'm not a kid anymore. I know pirates aren't real.

MARIA

Sure they are

GRANDPA

Grandpa

MARIA

They are. Pirates used to be everywhere back in the day. Your father always loved them

GRANDPA

Really?

MARIA

Yeah.

GRANDPA

Why?

MARIA

He thought they were fierce and didn't let anything get in their way. He always wanted to be tough like a pirate but deep down he was really a softie. He would probably hug someone before fighting them.

GRANDPA

Yeah. I could see him doing that.

MARIA

GRANDPA

He used to cry whenever he saw a dead squirrel on the side of the road. He had the biggest heart I've ever seen. We were so lucky to have him.

MARIA

I wish he was still here

GRANDPA

Me too

MARIA

He always had the best smile and gave the best hugs

GRANDPA

He loved you so much

MARIA

(quietly)

Yeah.

MARIA goes back to looking around the room

MARIA

Have you found it yet?

GRANDPA

No. Have you?

MARIA

No.

GRANDPA

We still have time before dinner. We'll find it.

MARIA

Okay

(after some time)

Hey Grandpa?

GRANDPA

Mhmm?

MARIA

What's in here?

GRANDPA

Oh, that's your Dad's old toy chest.

Can you open it? It's locked.

MARIA

Of course.

GRANDPA

GRANDPA fumbles through his keys

GRANDPA

It's gotta be here somewhere. Aha! Here it is.

GRANDPA unlocks the chest

It's all yours kiddo

MARIA

Do you want to look with me?

GRANDPA

Sure

MARIA starts pulling out action figures and cards

MARIA

Woah! What are these?!

GRANDPA

Those are from Star Wars. This is Chewbacca and this is Darth Vader.

MARIA

They're so cool!

GRANDPA

Well, looks like we might have another little space kid on our hands.

MARIA

Dad used to show me the stars every night. I haven't looked at them since though.

GRANDPA

He always did love those stars. He never stopped looking up.

MARIA

I didn't want to stop. But I didn't know how to look at them without him.

GRANDPA

Do you want to look at them with me?

MARIA thinks for a second before nodding her head

Okay.

MARIA

They walk to the window and MARIA takes a big breath before speaking

That one was his favorite constellation

MARIA

Which one?

GRANDPA

Orion's belt.

MARIA

Why was it his favorite?

GRANDPA

MARIA  
You could always find it. It was so bright and it was always there. He told me that he'd be my Orion. That he would always be here. But now he's gone.

He's not gone. He's still here.

GRANDPA

What?

MARIA

He'll always be here.

GRANDPA

But he's gone

MARIA

He's still here. In your eyes and your smile. I can see him whenever I look at you.

GRANDPA

Really?

MARIA

GRANDPA  
He's like the moon. He has his cycles. Sometimes your dad feels like he's gone for good right?

MARIA

Yeah

GRANDPA

And then other times you can tell he's still there. Just like the moon watches over the night, your dad comes back to watch over you.

MARIA

How?

GRANDPA

Well, he always liked a good puzzle. Maybe us losing the piece was a sign that he's still here.

MARIA

You really think so?

GRANDPA

Maybe he's trying to show us that the puzzle isn't broken without the piece. That he's still with us even if he's away. That life still carries on. We're just missing pieces.

MARIA

When did you get so smart, Grandpa?

GRANDPA

A magician never reveals his secrets. So, do you still want to look for the piece?

MARIA

I think it's better if we just leave it. Maybe that's what Dad would have wanted. Let's go see if Mimi needs help.

MARIA begins to walk out of the room

You coming, Grandpa?

GRANDPA

You go on ahead. I'll be there in a second.

As MARIA exits the room GRANDPA begins to look around before he notices the piece on the ground.

Hey Maria!

MARIA

(offstage)

Yeah?



After some time passes

GRANDPA

Ummm...Nevermind.

He looks at the piece before walking over to the puzzle and putting it with a great deal of care. The lights begin to fade around GRANDPA as time stands still. The room is clean now and everything looks perfect.

END OF PLAY