

FORGET ME NOT

CHARACTERS

1 male:-

Harry 80 years old

2 females:-

June 75 years old - Harry's wife

Dr Amanda Wong 45 years old

SETTING

Doctor's surgery. JUNE sits at a chair by a desk. HARRY and DR WONG cannot be seen behind the curtain enclosing the examination table.

INT. FRIDAY 11.30 am

V/O DR WONG

Is it sore when I push there, Harry?

V/O HARRY

Little bit.

JUNE listens and rolls her eyes.

JUNE

Tell her the truth Harry! Not 'a little bit', it hurts a lot!

V/O DR WONG

Is that true, Harry?

V/O HARRY

Quite possibly.

JUNE

Not 'quite possibly', Harry! It bloody is! You've been complaining about it near on a year now. Tell the truth or it won't get sorted.

V/O HARRY

All bloody right, June. Yes it hurts.

V/O DR WONG

And what about when I push here?

V/O HARRY

Truthfully, that actually feels pretty good.

V/O DR WONG

Oookay.

DR WONG snaps the curtain across and steps out, pulling it closed behind her.

DR WONG

I'll let you pop your clothes back on Harry.

She walks back around the desk, sits down and writes some notes. JUNE leans over.

JUNE

(Half whisper) He's a bloody sod. He doesn't half moan at home about it!

V/O HARRY

I CAN HEAR YOU JUNE. I have a sore penis, not defective ears!

JUNE

Harry! Language!

JUNE looks embarrassed. HARRY pulls the curtain across, walks to the spare chair and sits down beside her. The doctor finishes writing and looks up.

DR WONG

Well, I'm glad you came to see me. You can't be too careful with these types of symptoms, especially at your age. However, I can happily report that everything appears normal. I'd say you just have some tenderitis caused by, well, what would you say ...

HARRY

Overuse?

JUNE

Harry!

DR WONG

That's okay. Well done, Harry. Humour is the best medicine we like to think, so keep it up!

HARRY raises his eyebrows at JUNE and she whacks him on the leg.

DR WONG hands Harry a prescription.

DR WONG

This is a script for some cream, Harry. Apply it twice a day for a week and if symptoms persist, come back and see me.

JUNE takes it from his hand.

JUNE

I'll get that. He'll never remember.

HARRY stands up to leave but JUNE remains seated.

DR WONG

Will there be anything else?

HARRY / JUNE (in unison)

No ... Yes.

DR WONG

June?

JUNE looks over at HARRY and flicks her head towards the door.

HARRY

Oh I see, I've got to leave the room?

JUNE

Women's things.

HARRY

Yes and I had 'men's things' and you stuck around.

JUNE

Harry!

HARRY

Okay!

HARRY leaves the room begrudgingly (and goes off-stage).

DR WONG

What would you like to discuss JUNE?

JUNE

I wanted to talk to you about HARRY, but not while he was in the room.

DR WONG

Okay.

JUNE

He's been getting, well, quite forgetful lately. I mean, not just your normal forgetful, like leaving the toilet seat up, teeth out, that sort of thing.

DR WONG

Right. Can you give me a specific example of something that he's been doing that's not normal?

JUNE

Well, I woke up the other day and he was already up and dressed and ready to go out.

DR WONG

Okay.

JUNE

It was 3 am!

DR WONG

Oh, I see.

JUNE

That's not all. He was wearing his clothes *on top of* his pyjamas and, for the final layer ... (she looks from left to right, leans in and whispers) ... he was wearing my bra.

DR WONG

Right, well, that's certainly not normal.

JUNE

You don't think he's *(she pauses)* ...

DR WONG waits for her to continue.

JUNE

... a transistor?

DR WONG looks confused.

DR WONG

Sorry?

JUNE

You know, like them men that dress up as women.

DR WONG

(Trying to contain her laughter) Oh, you mean a transvestite?

JUNE

Yes, that's what I said.

DR WONG

Oh, no, I shouldn't think so June.

JUNE

Because he did quite like a fancy dress party we went to once where he was dressed as a lady of the night.

DR WONG

Recently?

JUNE

1959.

DR WONG

Ok - no, I think we can rule that one out. Has there been anything else? Other than forgetfulness?

JUNE lowers her head and becomes quiet. She nods without looking up.

DR WONG

Do you want to talk about it?

JUNE waits a moment and then lifts her skirt, to reveal a very sizeable bruise.

DR WONG

Did Harry do this?

She nods.

DR WONG

Okay. Do you mind if we bring Harry back in now? I'd just like to run a small test with him.

JUNE

You won't say anything? I mean, he really is a fantastic husband. I've been so lucky all these years he's put up with me. I ...

DR WONG

It's okay. I'm not going to say anything. That will remain confidential. But it is out of character for him isn't it?

JUNE

Yes.

DR WONG

So, I'm just going to run a small test.

DR WONG walks over to the door, opens it and calls for HARRY.

DR WONG

Harry, would you like to come back in?

HARRY walks in and pulls a face to JUNE. She attempts a smile, but he can see something is wrong.

DR WONG

Take a seat, Harry. June and I have finished our girlie chat and I remembered I wanted to run a quick test with you. Is that alright?

HARRY

Sure.

DR WONG

Harry, this is going to sound like a bit of a silly question, but who is the current Queen of England?

HARRY sits for a moment and ponders the question, before answering confidently.

HARRY

Easy, Queen Victoria.

DR WONG and JUNE exchange glances.

DR WONG

Okay, and what day is it today Harry?

HARRY

Ahh, Wednesday. No, wait, it's Thursday.

DR WONG

It's actually Friday today, Harry, and Queen Elizabeth is our current Queen.

HARRY

That's retirement for you, eh?

DR WONG

Just one more question. Can you give me two things you can do with a hammer?

HARRY

A hammer?

DR WONG

Yes, what are two functions you can perform with a hammer?

HARRY thinks about this for a few moments.

HARRY

You can hammer in a nail.

DR WONG

That's right, Harry. And what's the other thing you can do with a hammer?

HARRY pauses before looking up and nodding triumphantly. He looks over at JUNE.

HARRY

You can commit murder!

DR WONG looks a little shocked.

DR WONG

You're correct, Harry. You can commit murder. But that wasn't really the answer I was looking for. I was hoping you might say 'you can remove nails'.

HARRY

Oh, that too. But that was too obvious!

HARRY smiles at the two women, but they don't smile back. There is an awkward silence.

HARRY

Was it something I said?

DR WONG

No, Harry it's nothing you said.

HARRY looks confused. Jeans shakes her head from side to side in a 'no' gesture.

DR WONG

Harry ... would you say you've been feeling really good lately, or not so good?

HARRY

Well, I would say mainly good.

DR WONG

Not out of sorts at all?

HARRY

(Looking at June)

Well, maybe a little. I've just been ... a bit forgetful. I'm driving poor June to distraction (laughing nervously).

DR WONG

I've been your doctor for a while now Harry.

HARRY

Yes.

DR WONG

And I think we have a good relationship.

HARRY

Yes.

DR WONG

So, you would tell me if there was anything you were worried about or ...

HARRY

You mean apart from a rash on my penis?

DR WONG

(Smiles)

Yes. Apart from that.

HARRY

(Pauses - clasps hands together and looks down)
Last week I went for a walk. I was going to the shops to buy some milk and a birthday card for June (looks at June and smiles). I don't know what happened but somehow I tripped over and fell onto the footpath. Some people walked past and looked, but carried on their way. I tried to get up, but just kept falling over. I think they thought I'd come out of the pub across the road. Anyway, the next thing I remember is having a cup of tea in somebody's lounge.

JUNE

Harry? You never said!

HARRY

I knew you'd worry. (Pause). Anyway, after a short time I remembered where I was and made my way home. Without the card. Sorry June (looks at June).

JUNE

Oh Harry, I wish you'd said. I thought you'd forgotten!

HARRY

Fifty seven years and I've never forgotten.

JUNE

I know love.

DR WONG

Well, I'm glad you're okay Harry. It could've been a lot worse. Is this the first time that's happened?

HARRY

That, yes. But I know I've been losing my temper a bit lately.

DR WONG

In what way?

HARRY

Oh just, getting a bit shirty. You know, annoyed. Nothing more than that.

DR WONG looks at JUNE and HARRY notices.

HARRY

June?

JUNE

It's a little more than that Harry.

She slowly pulls up her skirt to reveal her bruise.

HARRY

How did you do that?

JUNE

You did that love.

HARRY

No, I didn't. I wouldn't!

HARRY looks at DR WONG for some reassurance.

DR WONG

Harry, I'd like you to go and see a specialist for me, someone who is better skilled at figuring out what's happening.

HARRY

What for?

DR WONG

So they can run some more tests and see what we might be dealing with here.

HARRY

I'm just forgetting things. I'm old. It happens.

DR WONG

Is that really why you think you're forgetting things, Harry?

HARRY

(Pause). You think I have dementia, don't you?

DR WONG

I couldn't say, but it's one of a few possibilities.

HARRY

I see. (Long pause).

DR WONG

Are you okay Harry?

HARRY

I was a Sergeant in the army, you know. World War 2. Got sent to Holland and the Middle East. Lost a lot of good mates, well before their time. I was one of the lucky ones. I got demobbed in '47 and met June (looks at June and smiles). That was a good day. (Pause). We got married soon after - you did in those days - and had kids, a boy and a girl. You know Mark and Sally (Dr Wong nods patiently). Then we emigrated here to start a new life. That was a long time ago, but I remember it like it was yesterday. (Pause). I worked really hard for the next 30 or so years and built out a good career

with men under me, who respected me. Then came retirement. Another world altogether (pause). (Looking up at Dr Wong). I've lived 80 years of my life as an honest man with good morals. I've been a good husband, I hope (glances at June who nods back at him), and a good father, and yet (pause) none of that really matters ... in the end.

DR WONG

(Grabs Harry's hand) ALL of that matters, Harry.

HARRY

(Looks up and smiles). And you wonder why men don't like going to the doctor. Hell, you come in with a sore penis and leave with dementia.

DR WONG

We don't know that yet.

HARRY

I know, but it's looking that way isn't it.

DR WONG looks at JUNE and sees she is upset.

DR WONG

(Standing up and patting Harry's shoulder). I'm going to give you two some time.

DR WONG leaves the room. JUNE stands up and walks over to HARRY, putting her arms around him.

JUNE

I wish you hadn't kept all this to yourself, Harry.

HARRY

We haven't spent a day apart since I left the army.

JUNE

I know.

HARRY

That's going to change, isn't it?

JUNE

Let's just take one step at a time, okay?

HARRY nods.

HARRY

You're right, love. You're always right (he taps her hand lovingly with his).

They sit in silence for a few moments.

HARRY

(Looking up with a smile on his face)

Never mind eh, love. Let's face it - it could've been much worse.

JUNE

Yes Harry, it could've.

HARRY

Penis could've dropped off.

JUNE

Oh Harry (laughter).

They hug.

Lights fade out.