

# I REMEMBER IT WELL

by Ken Bradbury



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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 total)

Richard, Mary, Younger Richard, Younger Mary

*(Mary, an elderly lady, sits on her front porch, watching the world. Richard, her husband of approximately the same age, slowly enters.)*

**MARY:** Hurry up! The sun's going to be down any minute.

**RICHARD:** *(moving toward his chair beside her)* I am hurrying.

**MARY:** That's your top speed?

**RICHARD:** Top speed, Mary. Look out or I may not be able stop and I'll run right over you.

**MARY:** In your dreams, old man.

**RICHARD:** That's about right. *(sits slowly ... the pains of old age cause him to grimace a bit)* Oh ... feels good to sit.

**MARY:** Look at that sunset, Richard. Ever see one so beautiful?

**RICHARD:** *(squints)* Where is it?

**MARY:** Right there ... over the hardware store.

**RICHARD:** *(still squinting)* I've never seen a white sunset.

**MARY:** That's the Methodist church. *(points)* There's the sunset over there ... pink and orange and red ...

**RICHARD:** Oh ... yes. Yes, Now I think I see it. Beautiful isn't it?

**MARY:** That's what I just said.

**RICHARD:** I thought that was you. Did you bring the coffee?

**MARY:** Coffee keeps you up. Let's just sit tonight. Wanna hold hands?

**RICHARD:** *(looks at her hands, then his)* Would you mind if we didn't tonight? My balance isn't good today.

**MARY:** That's fine. Remember our first sunset, Richard?

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**RICHARD:** (*thinks a long moment, then*) No. I don't think I do. Remind me.

**MARY:** First grade ... Sunday evening services and they'd let the kids play. We were out back of the church, sitting on the door of the root cellar. That sunset was the first one I ever noticed ... and you reached over and ...

**RICHARD:** You sure it was me?

**MARY:** Of course it was you. You leaned over and said ...

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** (*turns and speaks ... Younger Richard and Younger Mary appear in the memory of their older counterparts*) Wanna slide?

**YOUNGER MARY:** Mama said not to. She said to sit out here and not make noise if we couldn't be quiet in church.

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** I could be quiet. Just didn't want to. Come on, let's slide down the old door. It's fun! I done it lots!

**YOUNGER MARY:** Mama says I shouldn't hang around you so much, Richard. She says you're a bad example for me.

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** Am I?

**YOUNGER MARY:** (*looks at him, then giggles with delight*) Yes! Let's slide! (*they "slide" out of the scene*)

**MARY:** You nearly got me spanked that night.

**RICHARD:** You sure it was me?

**MARY:** Who else got me in trouble all the time? You'd make me laugh so hard that my face hurt.

**RICHARD:** Like the high school dance when ...

**MARY:** Oh my ... it's a wonder my father ever let me date you again.

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** (*again appearing and speaking as the older Mary and Richard reminisce*) Hey, lady! You ready?

**YOUNGER MARY:** Richard! It's your Dad's Model T! How'd you get it?

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** He doesn't know. Come on, Mary! Hop in! Hop in!

**YOUNGER MARY:** Richard, we shouldn't ...

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** I know. Let's go! (*they both hop into the "car"*) Razzamatazz and Twenty-three Skiddo!

**YOUNGER MARY:** Shhh! Don't use that language! Daddy's in the back yard! (*the car jerks forward*) Richard! You're going too fast! Richard!

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** (*looking at the speedometer*) Thirty-five miles an hour! Look at that, Mary! We're flyin'! We're flyin'! (*and they "fly" out of the scene*)

**MARY:** You could have killed me.

**RICHARD:** You sure that was me?

**MARY:** Of course it was you! Zipping around town in that thing. Thirty-five miles an hour! We scared every horse in town!

**RICHARD:** (*squinting*) Where's the sun now?

**MARY:** (*pointing*) There ... just over the convenience store.

**RICHARD:** Ah, yes. Blue now isn't it?

**MARY:** Red. It's all red.

**RICHARD:** Oh. Like our wedding day? Remember the sunset over the church?

**MARY:** We got married in the morning, Richard.

**RICHARD:** Oh. Yes, I remember it well.

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** (*rushing in, pulling on his "suit"*) Hurry up, Mary!

**YOUNGER MARY:** Richard! The groom isn't supposed to see the bride before the wedding!

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** I've seen you all my life, Mary. What's the big deal? Hurry up. Your Dad's waiting for you in front of the church.

**YOUNGER MARY:** Oh, Richard, I don't know if I can do this.

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** Get married?

**YOUNGER MARY:** Nothing personal.

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** Nothing personal? Mary, there are a hundred sweaty people sitting in the church right now, we've dated for 12 years, and your Dad had to take out a loan to pay for that dress! Whatta you mean "Nothing personal?"

**YOUNGER MARY:** It's not you ... it's ... I'm just nervous, Richard! Can't we just ...?

**YOUNGER RICHARD:** The music's starting, Mary. Razzamataz and 23 Skidoo, Baby! (*grabs her arm*)



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