

## FOR SALE

By Greg Gleason

Burdened with family and financial problems, four individuals from different social classes think buying a house will solve all their problems. Instead, their lives get turned upside down with the housing market crash of 2008.

TREVOR has lived in the same trailer with his wife (ROSE) for over twenty years. He thinks he's a failure who is unable to give his wife the house of her dreams. He buys a lottery ticket everyday hoping to strike it rich. One night while going through the mail he finds a brochure for a company financing "All Home Buyers No Matter What Their Income". Trevor quickly checks if Rose is around and hides the brochure in his pocket.

MICHAEL, a recent college graduate, believes after remodeling and selling his first house, he is on the path to easy street. Celebrating his sale that night at dinner, he immediately hits it off with his attractive waitress (NICOLE). Feeling on top of the world he asks her out on a date.

JOCELYN chats with her next-door neighbor, a housing developer, and gets convinced buying a house would be the perfect investment for her two young children's college fund. That night when she mentions the idea to her condescending husband (FRED), he says how he'll handle the finances; her job is to worry about the kids.

ROBERT buys his spoiled wife (TIFFANY) and daughter (DANIELLE) everything they could ever wish for, but still feels unappreciated and worlds apart. He wakes up early one morning to make his family breakfast from scratch. Only to have both of them come down late

refusing his meal, preferring granola bars instead. Later at dinner with a friend, Robert is convinced the only way left to connect with his family would be to get them out of town. If Robert bought a cozy cabin in the mountains they could get away on weekends and bond as a family.

Each believes buying a house will solve all their problems. Robert buys a secluded cabin deep in the mountains hoping it will bring his family closer together, but they hate it so much it actually pushes them further apart. Back home Robert showers his family with lavish gifts to forget about the botched weekend. Trevor, housing brochure in hand, goes down to the real estate office and is swindled into buying a massive four bedroom house far beyond anything he can actually afford. He goes home urging Rose to go with him for a car ride, surprising her with keys to the brand new house. Rose is ecstatic to finally have her dream come true. Michael's real estate agent persuades him into buying a shabby house that last saw any maintenance when Carter was in office. As Michael begins with renovations, he discovers the house is much worse off than he originally believed. At a large home improvement store looking for replacement kitchen cabinets, it's so busy Michael can't even find an employee to help him. To prove she is just as financially savvy as her husband, Jocelyn secretly buys a house from her contractor neighbor. He walks Jocelyn, who's never picked up a hammer before, through the house telling her exactly what she needs to do to make a quick, profitable return. While Michael and Nicole are out on a date she learns he's quit his former cubical job, instead he spends all day fixing up his house. This impresses Nicole so much she asks Michael to show her the house immediately. Once there it's an obvious disaster; walls, floors, almost everything in sight is ripped up. Nicole is afraid the whole place could collapse on them any second. As the tour goes on, Michael is somehow able to convince Nicole he

knows what he is doing and the house isn't as bad as it appears.

With the collapse of the stock market, their lives start to spiral out of control. Robert's business dries up almost overnight, but he still can't stop himself from buying his wife and daughter whatever they desire. In need of work he calls up his best clients; only to have them beg Robert to loan them some money. Jocelyn begins remodeling her house starting with the bathroom vanity, but disaster strikes. Pipes burst soaking the room, frantic she calls up a plumber. Once there he informs Jocelyn the whole room will have to be ripped out and replaced to stop any water damage. When all the repairs are done Jocelyn lists the house with a real estate agency, only to return a month later to discover the entire agency has closed its door for lack of sales. Jocelyn tries to sell the house on her own, but with no luck. Since their first date Nicole has moved in with Michael to help fix up the house, but she has grown increasingly frustrated. She can't take the constant mess and delays anymore; the house is always a month behind schedule. In a fit of rage Nicole leaves telling Michael she's ready to start a family and grow up, not fix houses for the rest of her life.

Even with a raise at work, his wife's paycheck and borrowing money from his brother; Trevor still can't make the mortgage. Distraught he breaks the news to Rose, as they gut everything of value out of the house and move back to the trailer park. Jocelyn's husband discovers she has been taking money out of their savings account for her investment house, and throws her out of their home and marriage. Suddenly alone in her investment house, crying and watching a "Little House on the Prairie" rerun, Jocelyn decides getting out of the busy city and back to basics in the country would be the best way to raise her kids. Robert closes down his business and moves what little remains into his home office. He finally confronts his wife telling

her they will have to start spending less, and may even have to sell their home. She explodes demanding a divorce and leaves him for her tennis instructor. His daughter also abandons him to go live with her mother, Robert's first wife.

Heartbroken Rose begs Trevor to stop wasting money especially on lottery tickets and save as much as they can so one day they can move back into a house. The next day Trevor goes out to buy his last lottery ticket. On the way home he discovers it's a winning ticket! Not telling his wife about the ticket, he goes out to find a house. Appearing at Michael's doorstep, Trevor falls in love with the now finished house and buys it. Trevor takes Rose again for a car ride, and surprises her with the new house. After punishing him for buying another lottery ticket, Rose is overjoyed to learn there is no mortgage. Jocelyn with bills piling up is afraid any minute cops will be barging in her house. She hears loud banging coming from her door, frightened she peeks out only to discover Michael, paper in hand who wants a tour of the house. Once Michael finds out the house is only a few blocks away from a elementary school, he is sold. Robert meets up with his daughter Danielle after the divorce and has a real connection with her for the first time in years. Realizing time together is what they need to rekindle their father-daughter relationship. Michael surprises Nicole at her doorstep with flowers. Ready to take their relationship to the next level, to grow up and begin a family. Jocelyn, after buying Robert's cabin takes her kids away from the TV back into nature. Fishing with her children in the mountains Jocelyn feels like she has recaptured the nurturing skills she thought long lost.

Ultimately, each one discovers that family is what truly makes them happy and complete.