**Forget to Remember**  Alan Maley

### Before reading

1. Look at the picture on the front cover. What does it show? Where is it, and what is the structure for? What is the weather like?
2. What do you understand by the title *Forget to Remember*?
3. Read the blurb on the back cover. Who are Jan and Kate? What is the problem?
4. Read about the characters on page 4. In what ways are the two sisters’ families different?
5. What do you understand from the author’s note and the Buñuel quotation on that page?
6. If you have the CD, listen to Chapter 1.

### Check your reading

#### Chapter 1

1. In this chapter what do you find out about:
   a) Jan’s recent life?
   b) Kate’s social life?
   c) the mother’s state of mind?
   d) Jan’s marriage?
2. What do the sisters plan to do?

#### Chapter 2

1. Write T (True) or F (False) next to these statements.
   a) Kate’s house is furnished with antique furniture.
   b) Kate doesn’t like the physical changes she sees in Hugh.
   c) Hugh is sympathetic about Kate’s mother.
   d) Hugh is annoyed when Kate says she’s going to visit Jan.
   e) Kate doesn’t feel very satisfied with her life.
   f) Kate goes to bed late because she is preparing a court case.
2. What is your impression of Kate’s husband, Hugh?

#### Chapter 3

1. Whom do the following statements refer to, Jan or Kate?
   a) She bought cheap wine and uses instant coffee.
   b) She has a new red BMW.
   c) She has to be careful about her figure.
   d) She lives in a dirty, grey street.
   e) Her son goes to Cambridge University.
   f) She bought her daughter a flat.
   g) Her daughter lives with her.
   h) She goes on luxury holidays abroad.
   i) She’s having some job interviews soon.
   j) Her father had treated her unfairly.
2. What three suggestions does Jan make for dealing with their mother?
3. What does Kate have to do before she rings Jan back?

#### Chapter 4

Match the beginnings and endings.
1) The dinner party is in  
2) The dinner guests are  
3) After eating, the men  
4) After dinner the women  
5) Both the businessmen  
6) Kate thinks that Hugh  
7) Hugh agrees to Kate’s mother staying  
   a) a very expensive restaurant.  
   b) just while he’s away in the States.  
   c) a Greek and an Indian businessman and their wives.  
   d) discuss business.  
   e) want to join Hugh’s investment fund.  
   f) talk about books, films and holidays.

#### Chapter 5

1. Where is Corrie from?
2. How does Sarah behave towards Corrie at the following times?
   a) At breakfast.
   b) At around 11.00 am.
   c) When she returns a little while after.
   d) At five o’clock.
3. How does Corrie feel about her second day with Sarah?
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Chapter 6
1. Who said these things and to whom?
   a) ‘Come on, dear. It’s a lovely hymn.’
   b) ‘… she a nice lady, I think.’
   c) ‘Shall we all go for a swim?’
   d) ‘I’m so sorry to keep you waiting.’
   e) ‘Get her out of here!’
   f) ‘I think they all thought it was quite funny.’
2. What does Kate notice about Hugh’s golf shoes? What does she think it means?
3. Who does Kate phone and why?

Chapter 7
1. Which character do we meet for the first time in this chapter?
2. Describe her physically?
3. How does she feel about Sarah?
4. What good news has Jan got?
5. What two bad things happen to Sarah?
6. What does Jan want her daughter to do?
7. What plan do you think Jan is having as she goes to sleep?

Chapter 8
1. Why didn’t Jan sleep well?
2. How does she plan to kill her mother?
3. Why did she think her plan would work?
4. What prevented Jan from killing her?

Chapter 9
1. Which of the following statements are true?
   a) Kate didn’t see Hugh very often.
   b) She had met him at Cambridge University.
   c) She thought he was still a very handsome man.
   d) Hugh liked gambling on horses and cards.
   e) Hugh had the same problem with alcohol as his father.
   f) Hugh was attracted to beautiful women.
   g) Hugh had almost gone to prison once for losing people’s money.
2. What do you remember about Melpa?
3. Why do you think she was ringing Hugh?

Chapter 10
1. In this chapter Cindy
   a) laughs at her grandmother. Why?
   b) cries for her grandmother. Why?
2. What did Cindy find that helped her get closer to Sarah? How?

Chapter 11
1. What did Kate want to talk to Hugh about?
2. Why was Kate surprised by what Hugh wanted to talk about?
3. What was Hugh’s idea?
4. What is meant by a ‘win-win situation’?
5. Is Hugh’s plan a win-win situation for everybody?

Chapter 12
1. Which of the following things are said?
   a) Jan really enjoys her new job.
   b) Jan doesn’t like the manager much.
   c) Cindy finds looking after Sarah very tiring.
   d) Cindy really wants to go away for a weekend.
   e) Jan thinks Kate is very selfish.
   f) Cindy wants to look for a proper job.
2. Which of the following plans are made?
   a) Kate will go to lunch with Jan on Sunday.
   b) Jan will take Cindy to Brighton for the day.
   c) They will have an 80th birthday party for Sarah.

Chapter 13
Put the things that happened on Sunday in the correct order.
   a) Cindy pushed Sarah in her wheelchair onto the pier.
   b) Jan and Cindy put Sarah in the car.
   c) Lots of people gathered round and sang with Sarah.
   d) While she was getting ready, Sarah sang two songs.
   e) Cindy bought Sarah an ice cream.
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Chapter 14
1. Why was Kate angry when she first arrived at Jan’s house?
2. Why was Jan so angry about Kate and Hugh’s plan?
3. What did Jan do to Kate at the end of the chapter?
4. What do you think of Hugh and Kate’s plan? Was Jan’s reaction to it the right one?

Chapter 15
1. Where did most of this chapter take place?
2. How would you describe the character of the owners?
3. What did Sarah want to eat? Did she get it?
4. What reason was given for Sarah’s being tired but happy at the end of the day?
5. What surprised Cindy at the end of the meal?
6. Why was the journey back difficult?

Chapter 16
1. Which of the following does Kate say is wrong with her and Hugh’s marriage?
   a) They don’t see each other very often.
   b) They are always fighting.
   c) He is always away on business.
   d) They haven’t made love for a year.
   e) He doesn’t pay the bills.
   f) He always reads the paper or drinks whisky instead of talking.
2. What does Kate ask Hugh to admit?
3. What does she want to do when Hugh tells the truth?

Chapter 17
1. How would you describe Sarah’s death?
2. How did Jan’s boss, Dave, help her?
3. Who asked Cindy if they could attend the funeral?

Chapter 18
1. Give three ways in which Hugh is in trouble.
2. How did Kate react to Hugh’s problems?
3. Where did Kate go to live?
4. How did Jan know Kate was living there?
5. What did they do with Sarah’s ashes?

Chapter 19
1. Say what happens
   a) between Jan and Kate;
   b) between Cindy and Giovanni;
   c) between Jan and Dave.

After reading
Choose some of the following activities:
1. Write a paragraph about a character you like, describing them and saying why you like them.
2. Think of another title for Forget to Remember and give reasons for your choice.
3. If you were going to make a film of Forget to Remember, which actors would you use for the main characters, and why?
4. Write a paragraph about the problems related to Alzheimer’s disease, especially for the families of the sufferer.
5. Make a quiz about the story for other students, including some true/false questions and correct/incorrect sentences.
6. Write a paragraph from a newspaper about Hugh’s company’s financial problems.
7. Write a description of Cindy and Giovanni’s life five years from the end of the story.
8. Choose one key incident in the story and write about why it is important.
9. Write an email to Alan Maley telling him what you liked and didn’t like about the story.