



“Help Me Remember” by Jo Shaw  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Short Play 13-15

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1

Help Me Remember

**Plot:** Amber got into a car crash, and has been in a coma for two weeks. She doesn't remember anything before the crash, and while she is in the coma, she is in this dream-like world, where she meets Jake, a boy who is in the same hospital as her, and is also in a coma. Jake helps Amber to remember what her life was before the car crash.

**Set Pieces:** Everything should be on wheels.

A small, curved bridge with a railing.

A hospital bed, three chairs, and a table all on one platform with wheels.

Pieces of grass and other field like things that can all be wheeled in separately.

Another bed. (This one will have girls bedroom bedding and hospital bedding in different scenes)

A big rotating piece that takes up almost the entire floor, strong enough for the actors to stand on and move around on. Will not have a center so that actors can stand stagnant in the middle.

**Estimated Performance Time:** 10 minutes.

**Characters:**

Amber - 17 year old girl who got in a car crash and is now in a coma with no memory.

Jake - the person who is helping Amber to remember everything in her "coma state"

Genny - Amber's mom.

Mikey - Amber's little brother. There are different versions of him: Young, Tween, and Current (14)

Kelly - Amber's best friend.

Nurse - Just a nurse that works at the hospital.

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**Props:**

Bag of food.

Hat

Walkie Talkie

Clipboard

Water bottle

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**LIGHTS FADE IN:**

*Amber and Jake are both wearing hospital gowns, and have hospital bands on their wrists.*

*Jake is holding Amber's hand, both of them looking beyond the small, curved bridge that leads into "The Land of Remembering."*

**Jake:** Once we cross the bridge, nothing is going to be the same. You're still cool with that right?

**Amber:** Of course.

**Jake:** *(smiles)* Well then, are you ready to remember?

*Amber follows Jake across the bridge, while it spins around, and other set pieces move, creating a field/prairie like setting.*

**Amber:** *(looking around)* It's beautiful.

*Young Mikey runs by, giggling, followed by Young Amber.*

**Young Mikey:** Girls are slow! You can't catch me!

**Young Amber:** Oh you just wait!

*They continue running around the stage, playing a game of tag.*

*Amber and Jake move just enough off of the bridge for it to be pulled away, as they watch the children chase each other.*

**Jake:** *(looking at Amber)* They look like they're having a lot of fun.

**Amber:** Yeah... They do.

*Young Mikey falls, and starts crying, clutching his ankle.*

**Young Mikey:** *(while wailing)* MOM! *(No response)* Mom!

**Genny:** *(runs in)* Mikey??? *(sees he's not dying and calms down)* Hey what's wrong baby?

**Young Mikey:** *(In between sobs)* A-Amber and I were playing tag a-and I fell and now m-my ankle hurts.

*Amber looks at Jake, who have both been watching the situation intently.*

**Amber:** Is that me?

**Jake:** Yeah.

**Amber:** *(motioning to Young Mikey)* And who's that?

**Jake:** That's your brother.

**Amber:** *(smiling)* I have a brother?

*Jake nods, and Amber smiles even wider.*

*The set spins around again, the bridge, Amber, and Jake remaining stagnant, while Young Mikey, Young Amber, and Genny all exit.*

**Amber:** Where did they go?

**Jake:** Just wait.

**Amber:** Well was he okay?

**Jake:** His ankle ended up being broken, but he was fine.

*The set finishes spinning around again, this time Tween Mikey and Young Teenage Amber coming onto the stage, a bed looking like one from a girl's bedroom rolling on too.*

**Y.T. Amber:** *(angry)* Give me back my phone!

**Mikey:** *(running away from her around the bed)* I already told you I don't have it!

**Y.T Amber:** Then why are you running?

**Mikey:** Well *maybe* it's because you're chasing me!!!

*Amber is looking at the two, confused. She turns to Jake.*

**Amber:** Why do I need to remember this?

**Jake:** You and your brother didn't always get along. Part of growing up I guess.

*The bed and the teenage versions of **Mikey** and **Amber** spin off the stage.*

*A hospital bed, and two chairs spin into view on the stage.*

***Mikey** and **Genny** are both sitting in the chairs, the hospital bed with **Amber** laying down on it, tubes and medical equipment covering her face so that **Amber's** actual actor can remain standing by **Jack**.*

***Mikey** and **Genny** are both looking very dreary, while **Amber** remains unconscious.*

**Mikey:** *(not looking up)* They said she would wake up in a week mom.

**Genny:** I know.

**Mikey:** *(slightly angry)* It's been more than a week.

**Genny:** *(pauses)* I know.

**Mikey:** *(standing up)* When are you going to stop pretending like everything is fine mom??? You keep acting like everything is fine and it's not! None of this is fine! Amber's in a coma and the doctors don't know if she'll ever wake up now!

*Jake and Amber are both watching intently, and Amber takes a few steps forward calmly to intervene, but Jake puts his hand out in front of her, stopping her.*

**Amber:** *(calm)* Is that happening now?

*Jake doesn't respond, but obviously means yes, as they both turn to keep watching.*

**Genny:** *(trying to convince herself)* Amber wouldn't want us to worry.

*Mikey is about to argue, when Kelly runs in, looking like she just ran a marathon.*

*Kelly hands a big bag of food to Genny, and places her hat on the bed.*

**Kelly:** I'm so sorry Mrs. White. I meant to come visit earlier but my mom's been so busy with my sister's sports and I don't have my license yet and my dad is out of town on a business trip but I finally got a ride here and I brought you dinner and there should be enough for dessert in there too if you want it.

*Amber turns to Jake, confused, yet again.*

**Amber:** Who is she?

**Jake:** That's your best friend

*Amber falls over suddenly, but gets back up.*



**Amber:** What just happened?

**Jake:** You're waking up.

*Amber looks shocked, and runs up to **Jake**, bear-hugging him. **Jake** hesitantly hugs back, but is confused.*

**Amber:** I'll see you when I wake up right?

**Jack:** *(long pause, and smiles sadly)* ...Have fun out there.

*Amber spins around, and when she comes around on the other side of the stage, she has replaced the other girl as **Amber** and is in the same position as she was, with **Mikey**, **Genny**, and **Kelly** surrounding her.*

*Jack falls backwards onto a hospital bed that was rolled behind him.*

*Amber sits up on the hospital bed, and everyone around her is in shock and kind of cheering and crying.*

**Genny:** *(about to cry happy tears)* Oh my gosh Amber! Oh you're awake!  
My baby's awake.

*Genny leaps out of her chair and goes to sit on the bed, hugging **Amber** tightly.*

**Amber:** Um... Mom... I can't breathe.

**Genny:** *(letting go)* Oh my gosh I'm so sorry! Do you want water? I should go get you a water. Hold on, let me go get water.

**Mikey:** They left water on the table mom.

**Genny:** Oh they did! *(hands Amber water)* Here you go baby.

**Amber:** Thanks mom. *(drinks water)*

*A bunch of nurses are pushing Jake forward on the hospital bed, back into view of the stage, in a flurry of chaos with things like "clear" or "get his heart started again".*

*The speed right past where Amber's family is now sitting, and the Nurse stops in front of the "door". She is holding a clipboard and speaking into a walkie talkie.*

**Nurse:** *(stepping away from the bed)* We have a seventeen year old boy, Jake Micheals, going into Cardiac Arrest. His heart is failing, I repeat, his heart is failing. *(walks away)*

**Amber:** *Jake?*

**Genny:** Amber what's wrong? Do you want me to go get a doctor? Stay here I'm gonna go get a doctor.

**Amber:** *(turning to her mom, her voice breaking while she speaks)* No mom wait. Was there a kid named Jake here?

**Genny:** *(confused)* I think so. *(sees Amber's distress)* What's wrong?

*Amber is trying not to cry and she sits up even further.*

*Amber hugs her mom tightly.*

**Amber:** I love you.

**BLACKOUT**