BOO GRUMPY MAN

A

Short film

Written by

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'Boo Grumpy Man' is a short-film about a loving father and daughter with a recently deceased mother. Where the daughter is still very much clouded by her youthful ignorance. The father on the other hand has felt that a part of his soul (The Good Part) has been torn away from him. The father now seeks out to protect his daughter at any cost. Motivated by a promised that the mother made him swear too before she died. This is a touching and yet disturbing story about how loss and unconditional love can lead one to commit horrific acts.

### TITLE: BOO GRUMPY MAN

EXT. LONDON, RESIDENTIAL STREET, OUTSIDE HOME STEPS.

A Father (45) steps out of a house with his daughter (9), a hyperactive little girl with long wavy blonde hair. She wears a smart red school uniform and her right hand is covered up with a bright green bandage. He kneels to her level.

FATHER How's your hand today, does it feel any better?

DAUGHTER It still hurts a bit.

FATHER I am so sorry Sweetheart

A look of shame on his face.

DAUGHTER It wasn't your fault...

FATHER Yes it was. (Beat) May i see?

She raises her hand. He inspects the green bandage.

DAUGHTER Do you like the color today?

FATHER (JOKINGLY) Wasn't it this color yesterday.

DAUGHTER Yesterday it was yellow and today its green. Daddy, You know I change the color every day.

The Father gives in and smiles.

FATHER

Yes i do.

He strokes her cheek.

FATHER CONT And today it matches your beautiful eyes. Come on, Give us a hug.

DAUGHTER Not if your going to that thing again. FATHER Of course not!

He snatches her in his arms. He looks at her neck.

FATHER (CONT'D) Oh no, (Playfully) I think there is something on your neck.

#### DAUGHTER

No Daddy no....

He mockingly eats her neck, She starts getting ticklish and giggles.

FATHER (Theathrically) It was a Lie,

FATHER (CONT'D) Come on, lets walk you to school.

He stands back up and holds out his hand for Sarah to hold. Walking off into the distance.

DAUGHTER

Daddy.

#### FATHER

Yes

DAUGHTER How come i never take the school bus anymore?

He does not answer. They walk onto another road to find a crowd of people.

EXT. CORNER OF AUGUST CRESCENT

The crowd stand behind a cut off by police tape. A few Policemen far away stand by a fenced off piece of pavement and bench where there is a pool of blood and a brown leather briefcase lying flat on the floor. The Father almost leads his daughter to the tape and looks at the crime scene.

> CROWD MEMBER ONE Does anyone know what happened?

CROWD MEMBER TWO Someone was found dead last night,(Beat) Stabbed.

CROWD MEMBER ONE Seriously... (Beat) I walked down this street last night. So scary. The father looks to the crowd Members and then looks back the crime scene, The Father looks for CCTV on near buildings and then at the bench right by the pool of blood, he then looks down to his daughter to see her reaction. =

CROWD MEMBER ONE (CONT'D) I asked the Policemen if anyone has been arrested but he said no.

CROWD MEMBER TWO It was probably just a mugging that went wrong.

Crowd Member One sighs and shakes her head.

CROWD MEMBER ONE

Yeah.

The daughter takes it all in and is terrified. She tugs on her fathers sleeve.

DAUGHTER

Daddy, i am scared.

The Father eyes are focused on the briefcase on the floor. the daughter tugs his shirt again.

DAUGHTER CONT

Daddy

FATHER Scared! Sweetheart you don't need to be scared.

DAUGHTER What if that happens to us.

FATHER Why would that happen to us.

DAUGHTER But what if the man comes back to kill someone else?

FATHER He wont come back

DAUGHTER

How do you know?

FATHER I don't know, i just do.

DAUGHTER

Promise?

The Father kneels down to his daughter and strokes her check.

FATHER No, no, What did i tell you about promises.

She looks up, regurgitating words.

DAUGHTER Only make a promise if you can really keep it.

The Father nods to her words.

DAUGHTER (CONT'D) Mummy used to say that.

The father almost winces from the word Mummy, his voice softens.

FATHER That's right, she did. Its what she used to say to me.

FATHER (CONT'D) So i can't promise you that the man won't come back, because i don't know.

FATHER (CONT'D) But i can promise you something, Something i promised your mother.

He grabs her firmly

FATHER (CONT'D) I will never let anyone ever hurt you again.

He looks at her bandage.

FATHER (CONT'D)

0k?

SARAH

Ok

He smiles again.

FATHER CONT Now lets get you a croissant

The Daughters eyes light up

SARAH A chocolate one?

## FATHER

Of course.

## EXT: AUGUST CRESCENT

They are on the street which was Police taped previously, but now there are no signs of any crime scene. They Stop by the bench which previously was sectioned off. The daughter wears normal clothes and is sitting on her fathers shoulders, She is pointing at cameras on buildings. Focus on her red Bandage.

> DAUGHTER Do ones on buildings count?

> > FATHER

Yes.

DAUGHTER Ok, there are 2 over there

She looks the other way and points to a poll.

DAUGHTER (CONT'D) And one up there

FATHER Good eyes, I thought you would miss that one.

DAUGHTER So is there a person behind every camera?

FATHER I am not really sure

DAUGHTER Must be a sad job

DAUGHTER (CONT'D) Do you think they will be happy if we wave at them and say hello.

The Father is taken back.

FATHER You are just like your mother. Your soul is filled with nothing but kindness.

DAUGHTER Shall we both wave?

He shakes his head

FATHER Just you wave, I cant.

As Daisy turns around and starts waving at a camera. Close up on the Fathers face looking sad.

FATHER (CONT'D) Sarah, the camera has to be facing us.

She looks at all cameras

DAUGHTER But none of them are facing us here.

The Daughter skips down the street with the father trailing behind. The Daughter comes to a halt and looks up at the sky.

SARAH Daddy, do you think mum is watching us now.

FATHER (Quietly to himself) I hope not.

## EXT. AUGUST CRESCENT NIGHT

The Father and daughter walk on the street opposite the crime scene bench. Daughter has a regular bandage color and is wearing normal clothes.

FATHER Good Answer, i think a Penguin, would be better. Ok its your turn now.

The daughter is clearly in alot of pain from her hand.

DAUGHTER Do i have to go to school tomorrow, my hand really hurts.

FATHER Of course you can stay.

DAUGHTER Yes!! Can i can color in my bandage?

FATHER I think that is a great idea. What colour will it be.

DAUGHTER Purple.. Oh no, red actually. Daddy its your turn anyway.

#### FATHER

No its yours

DAUGHTER Oh yeah, (Beat) Would you rather be the tallest man in the world or the smallest.

FATHER OH, The smallest any day.

DAUGHTER

Why

FATHER Because i could ride on a doggie to work.

The Daughter giggles.

# DAUGHTER Ok, your turn now?

As the daughter speaks, The father is staring shocked at a smartly dressed businessman holding a brown briefcase who is walking on the other side of the street past the bench. The father cannot take his eyes of him and starts breathing quickly. The daughter is oblivious to this.

## SARAH

Daddy, its your turn to ask the question

Still watching the business man getting further and further away, he replies to daughter.

FATHER (Coldly) Lets say you saw (Beat) your friend daisy on the street and you wanted to jump out and surprise her.

He finally turns back to her.

FATHER (CONT'D) where would you hide?

DAUGHTER That's not the same game, there has to be a choice.

FATHER You do have a choice, you must work it out for yourself.

The Daughter Sighs. She walks over to a grit box.

#### DAUGHTER

Um, In there

He looks over.

FATHER No, no, no its far to small.

DAUGHTER

Not for me

FATHER Come on, Where else would you hide?

She points to the bench on the other side of the road.

SARAH Under there, i would lie down and when daisy walks past, i would jump out and say BOO!

The Father does not laugh.

FATHER

Boo?

DAUGHTER Yeah to scare her. What would you say?

The father smiles at the Daughters curiosity

FATHER What would i say? (He Mutters to himself) What would i say? (Beat) I would say..

The father thinks, his smile straightens and there is a brief flash of anger. He looks at the bench on the side of the street and he nods his head in assurance.

> FATHER (CONT'D) BOO is good, i WILL Say BOO to him. Lets go home.

They start walking down the road, and the Father casually turns back to look at the bench.

EXT: RESIDENTIAL STREET, OUTSIDE HOUSE.

The Daughter and her father walk out of their house. The father seems all bubbly and the daughter has no bandage around her hand and no sign of any injury.

> FATHER Ok, have u remembered your ruler?

She Nods

FATHER (CONT'D)

Felt Tips

She Nods again

FATHER(CONT'D) What about a hug

The Daughter looks confused.

FATHER (CONT'D) How can you be expected to go to school.

He grabs her and hugs her.

FATHER CONT Without a big hug. Hold on, whats this.

He looks at her neck.

DAUGHTER What is it.

FATHER Oh, I think it is a.....

He mockingly eats her neck, She starts getting ticklish and giggles.

DAUGHTER

Daddy

FATHER God i love you

DAUGHTER Could i get a chocolate croissant before school.

FATHER Not a chocolate one, there is too much sugar, but you can have a plain one. Ok. Fair?

She nods

FATHER CONT

Lets go.

### EXT. COFFEE SHOP

The Daughter turns to her father.

SARAH Can i get it myself?

FATHER

Of course

The Father reaches in his pocket for some change and hands it to her. She goes in, and the Father stays outside look through the window smiling at his daughter.

INT. COFFEE SHOP

Sarah runs straight in front of the queue, She accidently knocks into a business man with a brown briefcase, it falls from his hand and hits the floor

## DAUGHTER A croissant please

The briefcase man mutters something to himself and impatiently checks his watch. She is given the croissant she sees her father outside pointing to the napkins. She gets a napkin and runs towards the door. The Business man is now leaving aswell, she trips over him and gets her right hand stuck in the door. The Business man is now by the door and is irritated thinking the girl is just blocking his exit.

DAUGHTER (CONT'D)

Ouch, help

BUSINESS MAN I am in a hurry, move out the way please.

The business man thinks she is just being annoying, he yanks on the door to move her out of the way, and she burst into tears. The Father bangs on the glass. The door is opened, the daughter is crying with bloodied fingers. A random women in the coffee shop looks at the daughter and then to the business man.

> COFFEE WOMAN You realize you did this to her, she was asking for help.

The business man takes a step back in embarrassment, he looks from the girl, to the women and then to the father all waiting for an apology. He then blurts out.

BUSINESS MAN She was running around, its her own bloody fault.... He pushes past them and promptly leaves muttering.

BUSINESS MAN (CONT'D) Silly girl.

The coffee women kneels down to the daughter

COFFEE WOMAN Don't worry, it was not your fault, he is just a silly horrible man. (Beat) A grumpy Man.

Sarah still in tears lets out a sad whimper.

DAUGHTER Grumpy Man (whimpering)

COFFEE WOMAN Who are you here with?

DAUGHTER

My Dad

She points to where he was but he is not there. We see the Father outside the shop, he is not looking at his daughter but is stood frozen on the street with his face utterly shocked. He watches the grumpy man go out of sight.

BOO Grumpy Man