Smile

Ву

Andrew Lightfoot

INT. RUBY'S HOME - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY

A small printer on a desk noisily comes to life.

A blank piece of paper carried by two small hands is rammed into the top of the printer, the machine pulls them in hungrily.

At the bottom, the paper is gradually spat out at inch at a time. Printed on it are the red tinted pictures of two smiling adults.

A little girl RUBY (5) excitedly waits by the printer, as soon as the paper is done she snatches it up and runs off out of sight.

INT. RUBY'S HOME - BABY'S ROOM - DAY

The entire room is painted a baby blue colour, stuffed animals and children's toys cover the shelves in the room.

A small baby's crib sits in the middle of the room with a lonely snow white teddy bear inside.

Ruby is seated on the floor next to a pile of cut up bits of white paper. She carefully cuts out the last of the two red tinted pictures with a pair of pink scissors.

On the wall behind her is a large rainbow made up of photos of smiling people. Each row is tinted to represent a colour of the rainbow.

A step ladder is pushed up to the wall.

The two pictures are placed in the red row and two small red pieces of tape stick them to the wall.

HAROLD (O.S) Is it completed yet sweetheart?

Ruby steps back from the wall, sticking out like a sore thumb is one the empty space for one more red picture.

Her father HAROLD, a mid 20's, slightly chubby man, walks up behind her.

RUBY I need one more.

HAROLD Mommy and the baby won't be home till tomorrow so you have all day to get it. RUBY I don't know who --

Loud and angry shouting is heard outside.

MR. MURPHY (O.S) How many times do I have to tell you!? Don't throw like a girl!

HAROLD There goes the neighbour again.

RUBY I can get mister Murphy's picture!

HAROLD No baby, I'd rather you stay away from him, he's not a very pleasant man.

Ruby glides to the window and spots MR. MURPHY, a balding elderly man, making his slow and steady way back to his house with a packet of newspaper in his hand.

> RUBY He might be nice to me.

HAROLD He isn't nice to anyone, watch.

He opens up the window and puts on a friendly face.

HAROLD Good morning mister Murphy, how are you today?

The greeting stops Murhpy in his tracks, he glares at Harold.

MR. MURPHY Piss off fruitcake!

Harold shuts the window and looks to his daughter -- his point is proven.

RUBY Who else is there?

HAROLD We will find someone, don't worry. Blast!

Ruby looks back out the window, Mr. Murphy's packet has torn leaving a mess of newspapers on his doorstep.

RUBY I can make him smile.

She grabs a small camera from a desktop before rushing out of the room.

EXT. MURHPY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A flyer advertising the release of a new doll sits abandoned on the sidewalk in front of Murphy's house.

On the flyer, above a blond princess in a puffy pink dress, it reads: "The new Princess Avora doll, out today!"

Ruby beams as she picks it up off the ground. Murphy angrily calls out to her.

MR. MURPHY Is that yours?

RUBY No, I picked it up for --

MR. MURPHY Then give it back!

With a frown Ruby walks over and hands it over to Murphy who rudely tears it from her grip.

RUBY You could have said please you know.

MR. MURPHY I could have said a lot of things.

He inspects the flyer.

MR. MURPHY God, is this the type of crap they come out with these days?

RUBY It's not crap, it's the new Avora princess doll, daddy says I'll have enough to buy one next week. If I (MORE) RUBY (cont'd) do my chores and be good for the week I'll get five dollars.

MR. MURPHY Don't waste your money.

He crumbles up the flyer and bends over with a grunt of discomfort to pick up the rest of the pages.

RUBY I can help you mister Murphy.

MR. MURPHY You want to help me? Go annoy someone else.

RUBY I'll pick those up for you if you let me take your picture.

MR. MURPHY How about this, if you pick these up for me then I will give you a *thank you.* (off of Ruby look) Yeah didn't think so, a thank you isn't enough for people these days.

Ruby peers over Murphy's back, his front door is open just enough for her to see a vase containing wilted flowers, an almost empty perfume bottle, and a large oval shaped portrait of a young woman.

> RUBY Who's the lady in the picture?

Murphy straightens up and looks at Ruby as if he's been insulted.

MR. MURPHY Do you see me sticking my nose in your home?

RUBY No, I was just asking.

MR. MURPHY Stop being so nosy you brat!

He hobbles inside and slams the door shut.

INT. RUBY'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Ruby sits at the table happily eating a sandwich with her camera around her neck. Harold is busy cleaning the kitchen.

HAROLD I told you, you'd have a better chance of flying like a bird than making that old man smile.

RUBY I won't give up.

HAROLD You know we can probably find someone else?

RUBY No, I want it to be mister Murphy's picture.

HAROLD Alright then, I'll give you till suppertime.

RUBY

Deal!

Her eyes spot a vase of brightly colored flowers, her face lights up with excitement.

RUBY I know how to get him to smile!

She hops off her chair and rushes over to the cupboards.

HAROLD Honey, your sandwich.

RUBY

I'm full.

One by one she throws open the doors to the cupboards until she opens up one containing a tall and slender popcorn cup.

She snatches it up.

HAROLD What are you planning to do with that? (Ruby runs off) Honey!? EXT. RUBY'S HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

Ruby grabs onto a patch of chrysanthemums, tears them from the dirt, and stuffs them into the popcorn cup.

She strolls through the backyard searching for more flowers, She spots a tulip in a clay pot that reads: Ruby & Mommy.

With a bit of force she manages to pull the tulip free, adding it to her collection.

Next she comes across a large batch of daffodils.

A heavy BUZZING sound stops her as hundreds of flying insects dart around the flowers.

Carefully, she reaches out for one of the flowers but a SMASH diverts her attention.

The sound came from Mr. Murphy's home, Ruby calls out.

RUBY Are you okay mister Murphy?

No answer. Ruby drops her popcorn cup and hurries over to --

MURPHY'S FRONT DOOR

She knocks on the door and waits for an answer, still nothing.

She turns the doorknob and gives the door a light push, it creaks open revealing the wilted flowers in a mess on the ground.

Ruby enters the home and heads towards the flowers until --

CRUNCH, her foot lands on the shattered remains of the perfume bottle. She steps off it, the label stuck to the bottom of her shoe.

Carefully she steps around the broken glass to get to the flowers.

Her camera is placed on the floor out of the way as she starts picking up the flowers.

Mr. Murphy enters the room with a dust pan and broom. He sees Ruby

MR. MURPHY What the hell are you doing in my house! RUBY I wanted to see if you were okay.

MR. MURPHY Get out! Leave those alone and get out!

With one hand he smacks the dead flowers out of Ruby's hand and the other grips her wrist tightly.

The camera sits abandoned on the floor, in the background Ruby us pulled towards the front door.

> MR. MURPHY No damn manners at all.

Ruby tries to resist.

RUBY Wait, I need my camera, stop.

MR. MURPHY You'll get it back when I decide to give it to you, no sooner.

RUBY Please, I'm sorry I promise I won't bother you again, I just want my camera back!

MR. MURPHY Should have thought of that before you trespassed.

Ruby walks onto the front porch and turns around to face Mr. Murphy. Once again the old man slams the door closed.

Ruby stares at it, heartbroken.

INT. RUBY'S HOME - BABY'S ROOM - LATER

A teary eyed but yet hopeful Ruby stands at the window watching in suspense as Harold and Mr. Murphy carry out an agitated conversation.

The window dampens most of the noise the pair make.

The two men get closer and point angrily towards the others home as they snarl at one another.

Harold gives in, he leaves Mr. Murphy's property frustrated and filled with rage.

Ruby rushes out of the room into --

THE KITCHEN

She stops feet away from the front door and watches it intently.

The knob CLICKS and the door swings open revealing an angry Harold, he sees Ruby.

A small smile of anticipation lies on her face, with a SIGH Harold expels all his built up rage, he shrugs to his daughter -- he tried his best.

Ruby's smile vanishes instantly.

HAROLD Let's go for a drive.

INT. MALL - DAY

Harold and Ruby walk hand in hand through the crowd in the busy mall.

They round a corner and in the distance up ahead Ruby spots two signs advertising the Avora doll outside a store's doorway. She stops in her tracks surprised.

She gazes up to Harold who is now grinning from ear to ear.

HAROLD I figured you worked hard enough already.

A big smiles forms on her face.

HAROLD Come on we better get there before they are all gone.

Simultaneously they both rush to the entrance of the store.

INT. TOY STORE - CONTINUOUS

The interior of the store is stuffed with all sorts of toys for kids.

Many bubbles of all sizes float around the store, a machine high up on a shelf spits out one bubble after another.

Over to one side of the store are two neatly piled stacks of the Avora doll.

A long line of adults and impatient little girls are lined right up to a small table right in front of the two mountains of dolls.

Ruby excitedly leads her father to the back of the line.

Suddenly the girls at the front of the line start SCREAMING as the CLERK walk into view from around a shelf.

Ruby tries to see what's happening but can't see past the people in front of her.

RUBY Daddy, what's going on?

HAROLD Nothing really, they just --

The screams reach a whole new octave as a beautiful and dolled up blond woman, dressed in a puffy pink dress, walks out from behind some shelves.

Harold quickly kneels down.

## HAROLD

Climb up.

Ruby climbs into his shoulders and his lifted up over the heads of the adults.

She sees Princess Avora giving a courtesy bow. Ruby's face lights up.

The clerk waves over the first girl in line who rushes up and gives Princess Avora a big hug.

Ruby's smile gets bigger and bigger as the lineup gets short.

HAROLD What's this on your shoe?

Harold peels off the perfume label from Ruby's shoe and inspects it. On the rosy pink colored label it reads: "Loulou" written in fancy red lettering.

Ruby inspects the label herself.

HAROLD Smells like perfume.

Realization dawns on her face.

RUBY Daddy let's go find this!

HAROLD Perfume? Why do you need perfume for?

RUBY It's not for me. It's for mister Murphy.

HAROLD For him!? I don't want you wasting your hard earned money on someone who can't appreciate a single thing in life.

RUBY It's not going to be wasted, I think he will like it.

## HAROLD You want this doll more than anything and you get to meet Princess Avora! Look at the happy girls up there, do you really want to give up this for someone who doesn't deserve your time?

Ruby ponders and watches as a little girl happily jumps up and down with the Avora doll package in her hand, she rushes over to her grandparents to show them.

The girl only gives them a moments glance before excitedly running off.

Ruby's gaze stays on the grandparents, they smile as they follow the little girl out of the store, hand in hand.

RUBY

Yes.

EXT. MURHPY'S HOUSE - EVENING

Murphy is seated in a worn out lawn chair on his front porch with his face shoved in a newspaper.

He hears a vehicle approaching and lowers the paper just enough so that he can see the vehicle drive by and park out front of Ruby's home.

Ruby pops out of the back seat and immediately looks over to Murphy with a smile. He grumbles.

Ruby heads over to him with something behind her back.

MR. MURPHY You piss off now, or you'll get the same crap I gave you father! Cursing and all!

Unfazed by the threat Ruby continues on her way over.

Murphy snaps his newspaper closed and rises angrily from the chair.

MR. MURHPY If you bother me you won't get that camera of yours back in one piece!

He enters his home, slamming the door closed behind him.

Ruby's feet step onto his porch, carefully she places a brand new bottle of Loulou by the door.

INT. MURPHY'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Murphy is hobbles down the hallway when until --

There's a knock on the door, his face contorts with rage as he storms towards the front door and flings it open.

No one is outside, he looks over to Ruby's house just in time to see the front door close.

## MR. MURHPY

You little brat! Good luck getting your camera back now! I told you not to --

He takes a step out and hits the perfume bottle.

The label hidden, Murphy kneels down and scoops up the bottle.

MR. MURHPY You think that I'm some sort of fruitcake like your father!? Fine!

He yanks the cap off the bottle and spurts himself.

MR. MURHPY I guess now I'll come over for a cup of tea and we can all hold hand after since we all smell so pretty! He takes a big dramatic waft of himself breathing deeply through his nose and freezes momentarily, stilled by nostalgia.

He smells again and again, with every whiff of the perfume a small smile continues to grow. His eyes begin to water, his mind travels to the past.

INT. RUBY'S HOME - BABY'S ROOM

Ruby is glued to the window with a large smile on her face.

Murphy goes back into his home.

INT. RUBY'S HOME - FRONT DOOR - LATER

A knock on the door, a brief moment passes before footsteps approach.

Harold opens up the door revealing Murphy just making it to the road. He hustles back over to his house.

Ruby sees her camera, runs out and picks it up. A small not on it says "Turn it on"

She clicks the on button and the screen lights up to a picture of a smiling Murphy.

Harold sees the screen.

HAROLD Well I'll be. (to murphy) Thanks mister Murphy.

MR. MURHPHY (O.S) Piss off fruitcake!

THE END