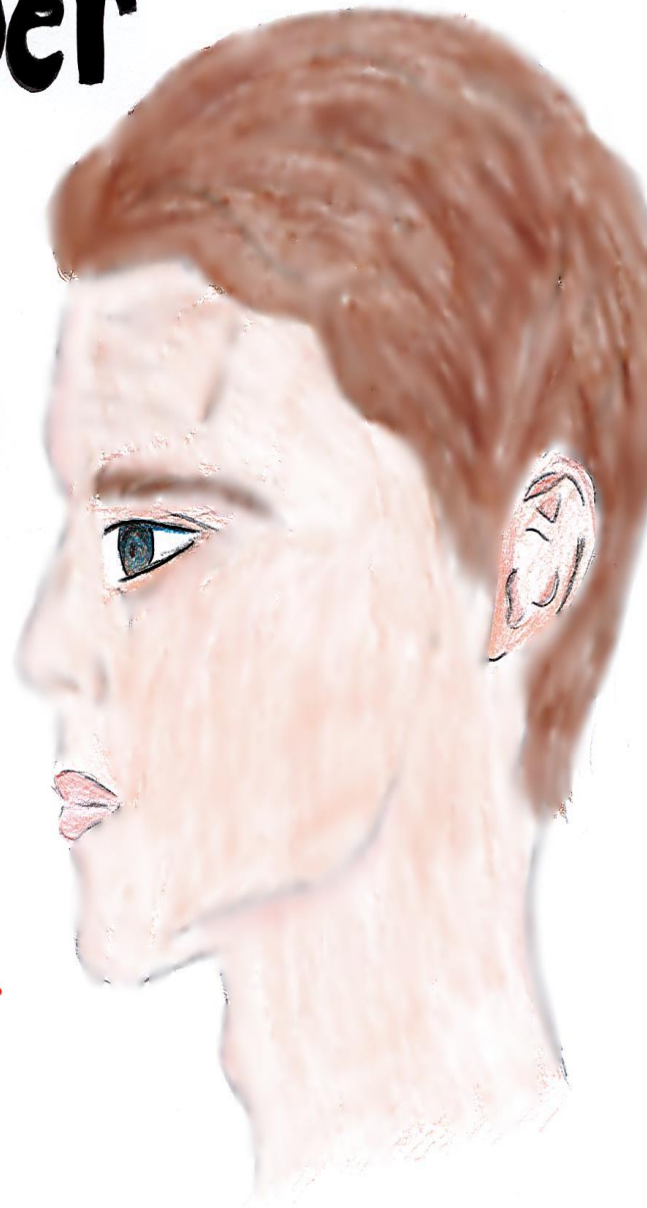


The Plumber and the Lost Father



Author and illistrater: Babath

CONTENTS:

PROLOGUE

CHAPTER 1 – The First Day

CHAPTER 2 – The Case Is Closed

CHAPTER 3 – The Phone Call-

CHAPTER 4 – Excitement

CHAPTER 5 – The Surprise Party

CHAPTER 6 – The Work Call

CHAPTER 7 – Trouble

CHAPTER 8 – Fired

CHAPTER 9 – The Book

CHAPTER 10 – Forgiveness

EPILOGUE

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Prologue

“I HAVE TO GO CALVIN” Patty yelled.

“NO YOU DON’T, YOU CAN STAY WITH ME AND RUBY I NEED YOUR HELP”

Calvin screamed back, terror and horror seeping in to his voice.

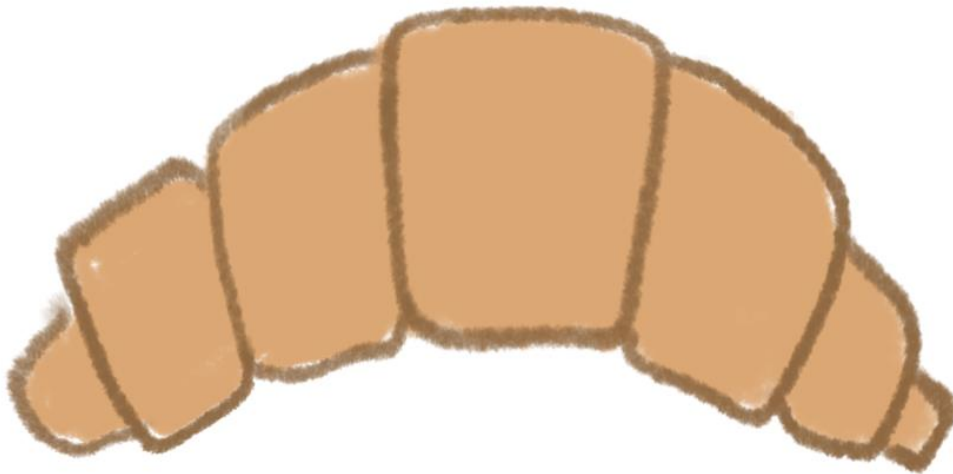
“Calvin, you don’t need me, I’m already packed and my plane is booked, take care of her okay”

“But what about my lawyer job we agreed that I would go to New Zealand for a few months and then come back home I can’t do that if I’m a single dad”

“WELL FIGURE IT OUT CALVIN, I DON’T CARE I’M LEAVING NOW” She strode to the front door and slammed it closed.

“YOU’RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE RUBY AND I?” Patty left without saying goodbye

Calvin had no idea what to do he loved Ruby to the core but there was no way he could look after her himself, so he called up a family friend called the Ryans, he watched the white ford drive away down the street, he turned his back on the life he had known and he left for New Zealand to start his lawyer job he knew one day he would come back but he didn’t know when.



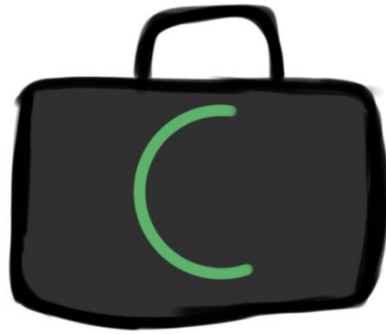


The First Day

DING! DING! I pull myself out of bed thinking of what the day ahead of me holds, “starting a new job at a brand-new high school, what could go wrong” I muttered under her breath. I jump into my car and start driving to Shiver Burn High. A new high school for my first plumbing job. The school is a large fancy private school. As I get there, I get greeted by the principle. The walls are covered in beautiful indigenous art, drawn by John Mawurndjul. “Hello, Ruby its Ruby, right? I'm principal Roberts welcome to Shiver Born High thank you for accepting this long-term position with us, are you all ready to start?” “Yes, I’m ready what do you want me to do?” I say. “Ok so our sink in the girl's bathroom has blocked up... can you fix it?” she replies “Sure...” I make my way to the bathroom when I step into the room the floor is covered in sticky and gooey consistency, I have no clue what it is “Ewww what is that!?” I thought this was a private school... It’s filthy. The taps are running and are completely stuck. This is going to be extra tricky to fix... I get into 1 foot deep of water at this point, holding my breath as I get deeper in water. Gagging, I walk over to the sink and inspect the drains. Its full of toilet paper and other stuff that looks like makeup. I use my **sponge** to clean away some of the grime so I can see the sink clearly. Paint is beginning to rub off from the amount ammonia and water. I keep getting distracted about my birthday party. I keep thinking about how to plan it and what food I should have. I am turning 21 after all. My brain is slowly moving off track, NO! I NEED TO WORK! I tell myself; I work slowly until I unclog the drains. All the water falls down the pipes, but the room will still need some SERIOUS cleaning and renovations. I clean up all my gear as I make my way out of the bathroom, I see a tall woman walk past. “Hi sorry... are you the deputy principle?” I say to her as she turns around quickly.

“Yes, how can I help you?” she says.

“I’m the new plumber I just finished a job the principal gave me, but the girls bathrooms still have a large amount of gunk and dirt in it you'll need to get a good cleaner for it”. “Okay, I’ll be sure to let her know”. She takes me over to the office to give me my check. “A little tip as well because it was such a mess... sorry about that.” she says with a chuckle. I look at the money and count it up. \$200 I could get so much with that... My birthday party!! I can go full out. “Thank you for the tip!” I thank her as I smile and walk back to my car. I quickly drive to the nearest Spotlight. This is going to be the best birthday ever!!



The Case Is Closed

“You have been proven...innocent!” I replay that line in my head as I smile with excitement, remembering the excitement of hearing that my client won his case. My car bumps along the rough roads of Auckland, I see a notification pop up on my phone, reminding me that my daughter’s birthday is in 2 days. I need to surprise her! I think to myself. I booked a flight back to Australia as soon as I got home. I started packing my bag filling it with all my necessities. As I made my way to the airport, I realised I had a problem, I had no clue where my daughter was or what she looked like. I was dumbfounded. I am going to search everywhere for her, but I still had no idea of where she might be. I took several deep breaths, and eventually tried to calm down. I got on to the plane and only half listened to the safety speech, my mind was too full of thoughts. The plane took off and flew over to Australia. My worrying thoughts kept pressing at the edges of my brain, "She migrated to another country. Is she living with someone? Has she gotten MARRIED!?!?" Thoughts filled my head once again. I squirm uncomfortably in my seat, impatient to get to land. After four long hours of flying, I felt the gentle bump as the plane touched down on the runway. I got off the plane and went inside the airport walking over to the carousel with my flight number on it. I waited impatiently for my luggage to come around on the carousel. As I saw the black leather suitcase, I quickly grabbed it, and walked briskly to the front of the airport and promptly hailed a taxi, “Can you take me to Shiver Burn please?,” I asked the taxi driver. The car started moving, and I look out and watched the Melbourne scenery flash by. I feel the car slowing and I get out at the Shiver burn hotel. I settle in room 218. I called her foster parents and they gave me her number. I grab my phone and call her immediately, not realising it was 1 am.



The phone call

I groan. I'm so tired. It's about 1am and I have finally finished planning for my party. I am just getting ready to go to bed as I hear my phone ring hmm unknown number that's weird, I answer anyway. "Hello...? Who is this...?"

"Is this Ruby...?" I hear an old raspy voice say.

"Y-yes..." I stutter.

"Ok first off please don't hang up just let me explain first, I'm your dad" did I hear that right, I think I did, or maybe i should get my ears checked, or maybe im just tired, or or o-. The rational part of my brain breaks through my stuttering thoughts. "My-my-... da-dad?? Bu-but my dad left..."

"Ruby my name is Calvin, you have your birth details from your foster parents." He continues explaining as I threw open my draws and cupboards. I finally found the paper.it reads:

"Ruby McDonald, Father: Calvin McDonald, Mother: Mary Johnson, DOB: 29/5/2002"

My jaw drops.

"You are my dad..."

"Yes, Ruby it is me". His voice starts to calm.

"I'm sorry I couldn't be there for you when you were young. But I'm here now."

"Hold on how did you get my number...?"

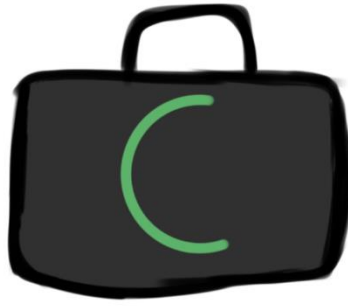
From your foster parents... The Ryans" I sit for a minute still processing everything.

"If it really, is you, get my address from them and meet at my house for my 21st.
birthday

"I'll be there" he muttered.

"I'm pretty tired so I'll see you then if it's you...bye."

"Bye!" He says as I lay on my floor in disbelief. I will finally see my dad.



The Meeting

“Bye!”

I end the phone call with a smile on my face trying to contain my excitement. I can feel the tiredness in my drooping eyelids. “I’m going to meet my daughter” I say aloud in my hotel room. My face goes red as all these thoughts go into my head, what if she hates me? what if I am a bad dad? I sit in silence waiting for a response or anything to quieten the worries, but nothing comes, but nothing happens I want to cry and laugh at the same time. I lay in bed looking at the ceiling, scared for tomorrow I don’t even know what she looks likes what if she is mad at me for leaving her for years. I wake up on my side and look at my phone, it says 6:00am I went to sleep at 4, “I only got 2 hours of sleep” I say slowly. Still feeling scared I get up and stretch my tired limbs, i stumble down the stairs to look for some breakfast. As I get into the taxi, I realise I have a weird feeling in my stomach, I get to the party I see balloons, streamers and a girl standing there with a birthday hat on, looking down at the ground. “Ruby?”

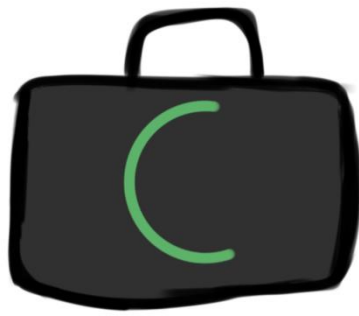




The Surprise Party

I hear someone say my name as I look up from the ground. “Dad?” I say. “I’m sorry for leaving you,” said Calvin. I looked at Calvin confused. Not knowing what to do or say next. “Dad where were you” I stammer. “Why did you leave?” “That is a long story for another time.” He murmurs. I wonder why he won't tell me “Let’s enjoy your party for now!” he pulls a small, gift-wrapped box from the pocket of his jacket. “Here is your gift” he says he hands me a beautiful **ruby** necklace. I smile at the gift and thank him as I open the doors to the party. I sigh in disappointment. “It's only me and Sara” I say. Calvin looks at her feeling bad, so he presses play on his phone and Gangnam style blasts as he takes the floor to cheer me up. I look at him thinking he so sweet for doing this I grab sara’s hand and we join him, and I have the best time “Best birthday ever!” I yell. I keep dancing for hours, having more fun than I ever have I then looked around trying to find dad to thank him. “Where is he?” I said loudly I say over the loud music. “Where did he go, I have looked everywhere!”





The Work Call

I was so tired of dancing (haven't done it for ages) but I am having a blast with Ruby then. 'Ring ring' my phones started ringing I know it's probably from work but I'm having such a good time. I sneak away to the corner and answer. "Hello?"

"Calvin, we need you to come back immediately the case you did earlier this month is being reconsidered if you don't come back, Robby goes to jail!" my assistant said. I could tell he was worried, and I didn't want him to have to handle it on his own. "Are you sure someone else can't take the case?" I ask, I really don't want to go, I think.

"No, we need you hurry back; you need to leave now!" my assistant says sounding stressed. "Ok on my way" I say. I didn't want to go but I knew I had to though I took one last look at Ruby then ran out to my car. I get home pack up all my stuff and find a flight. I had no time to say goodbye, but I wish I did I'm going to miss Ruby. As I am about to board the plane, I stop and think about what makes me happy, not my job, not New Zealand. Being with my daughter makes me happy. I call the airline and cancel my flight; they say that they will get my luggage to my hotel. I call my assistant as a taxi takes me back to the hotel. "You need to take the case" I say "This case and any other case that comes up in the future." My assistant gasped, but I hung up before he could refuse. I sunk back into the passenger seat and sighed, my decision was made. I am staying in Australia.

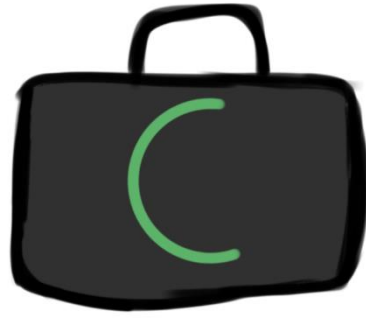




Madness

Ruby was standing there in disbelief, where did my dad go and why didn't he say goodbye. I try so hard to call him even leaving a voicemail, but still no answer. As I stare blankly at the calls my dad has not answered I still wonder why he left me here and why he didn't he say why. I started to get ready for bed when I realised, I had work tomorrow. "How will I survive" I said to myself. Fixing toilets for a living is not the best job, no it is the worst job, but it is all I can get I then closed my eyes and went to sleep. I woke up with my head pounding like I just got hit by a rock, I pulled my stuff together for work and started to get ready. I arrived at Shiver Burn High and went to the front office, "what have you got for me today," I ask, "We have a toilet in the fourth block and a couple of sinks in the west wing." I set of to the broken toilet, as that is the most pressing problem. As I was working, I heard a noise and just when I thought this day couldn't get any worse it did...





Fired

I walk into Shiver Burn High I feel nervous but all I want to do is see my daughter and say sorry for the things I have done. I open the doors as hard as I can putting on a smile when I see the students I scream out. "RUBY!" Everyone looks at me I start to go red in the face I was scared but it is what I must do "RUBY IT'S YOUR DAD"

"Dad what are you doing get out of here" she yells

"I am sorry about everything" The principle walks out and takes Ruby by the arm

"Ruby Is that your dad?"

"Yes, I am sorry it will not happen again I will tell him to go"

"It will not happen again because your fired, you and your dad can leave now"

"No please"

"I am sorry, but your dad distracted all the students, we cannot have that happening again" The principal let go of her arm Ruby walks back storming her feet with her head down tears forming in her eyes "Ruby are you ok" I ask in a concerned way

"No Dad I am not okay why would you come into my work screaming like an idiot"

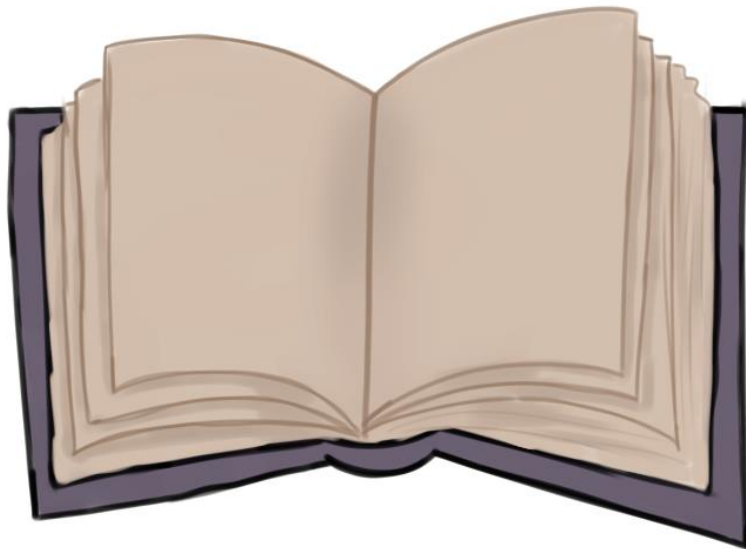
"I'm sorry I did not thi-"

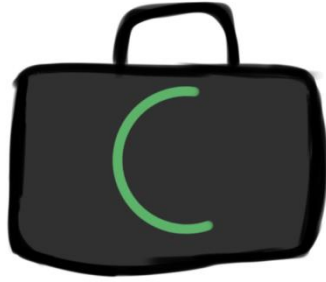
"I don't care what you have to say you got me fired from my new job where am I supposed to work now, I get you were trying to be in my life, but I was happier without you in it" Ruby shouted what she said hit me like a brick wall. I sat in that building for hours replaying everything she just said. I sunk back into the wall my head in my hands



The Book

I walked in my house slamming the door behind me. “UGH THIS DAY IS HORRIBLE” I shout at the top of my lungs. I was trashing my apartment when I found an old dusty book that said a ‘story for my sweet little Ruby’, it was written by mum...for me. A **shiver** ran down my spine, Mum? My Mum was a baker who got an amazing opportunity to move to France where she made **tasty** cakes and a macaroon that **melts** in your mouth, I never really saw her, but everyone tells me i look just like her, she left when I was young. I picked up the book and started reading it I went pale and I started to shiver, the booked talked about my childhood and my dad tried so hard to look after me and how all he wanted was for me to have the best life, I felt tears forming in my eyes and a few moments later I felt them pouring down my cheeks. He knew that he wouldn’t have been able to give that to me all on his own so he left me with a foster family that would take amazing care of me. I started to cry I had no idea. I then realised all that dad did was for me. Why did I say that he didn’t deserve that. I needed to apologies, but the thing is, I don’t know where he is, he could be anywhere right now, but I think we have an idea.





Forgiveness

I am in the car driving to get to the airport, I really didn't want to leave, I like it here in Melbourne, but I know that this is what Ruby wants, and I just want her to be happy. I get to the airport with just 10 mins before my plane is ready to board. As I go through security, I hear shouting in the distance. "DAD WAIT" I hear the yell behind me, "DAD I'M SORRY WHATEVER I SAID I DIDN'T MEAN IT" I turn around to see Ruby running at me. "Ruby? What are you doing here I thought you didn't want me here" I am baffled. "I'm sorry dad I did not realise that you were just trying to give me the best life"

"Of Course that's all I ever wanted for you I love you honey and so does your mum there wasn't a moment where we didn't think of you"

"Thank you, dad I love you too and I am sorry for everything I said"

"Honey I am sorry for leaving you now do you want to go and actually celebrate your 21st birthday" I say

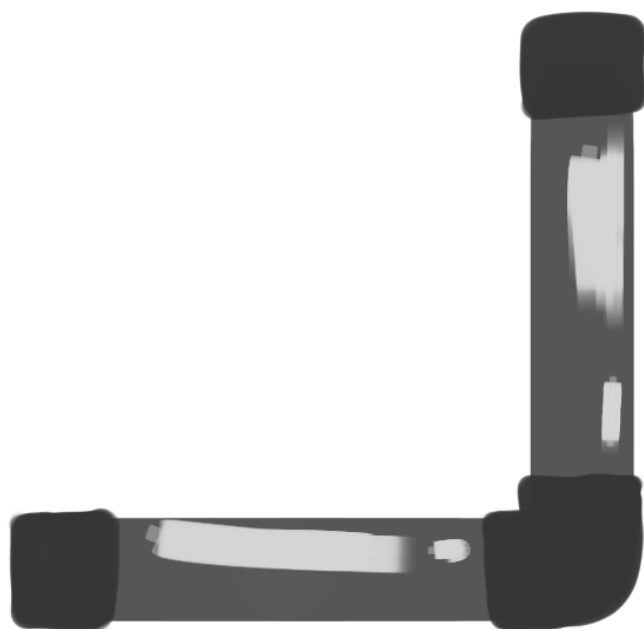
"Yes, I would love that, dad" she says smiling. As we embrace each other in a warm hug. We walk out of the airport together as one happy family!



Epilogue

Later Calvin and Ruby become close and even start their own plumbing business together called Calvin and Rubys plumbing, then Calvin even becomes Ruby's lawyer and manager, and they work together as a team in Paris. Though Rubys mum is whipping up a storm, she is having a lot of trouble with this new recipe she is cooking. Ruby eventually finds a man and gets married she has a son and always visits Calvin; Calvin becomes a loving and caring grandfather by always taking care of Rubys son and of Ruby.

“Argh!” Rubys mum screams Patty is trying to get this chocolate to stay in the new pastry she made but it isn't going to plan. She also has her own business Patty’s pastries and goods but it's going slower than she expected and she misses her family but knows she can't go back now. She still wonders what Calvin did with Ruby. He knows he sent her to the Ryans, but she never knew if he took her back or not.





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Parameters

Primary character 1
Primary character 2
Non-human character
Setting
Issue

Lawyer
Plumber
Book
Birthday party
A new school

Random words

ruby
melts
shiver
tasty
sponge



Ruby is a plumber settling into her new job at a high school. She is also planning her 21st birthday party she then gets a mysterious call from someone claiming to be her father is it really him?

Recommended Age: 10-14

