



Crossroads

Characters: Ricky, Ted, Big Spender, Yoko, Winnie, Miss Yu

Synopsis: Ricky has spent the night at Ted's. Ricky is in trouble wherever he turns. Ted persuades Ricky to go to school and turn a new leaf. But Big Spender tries to drag Ricky down. Yoko tells Winnie she has to leave as her Dad is not paying her Mother's alimony. Winnie decides to study in the UK as Yoko is leaving the school.

Scene 1

Ted: So how did you enjoy staying with me and my family Ricky?
Ricky: Okay.
Ted: Okay? Just okay?!
Ricky: Your little sister.
Ted: Pinky?
Ricky: She's funny.
Ted: She likes you.
Ricky: Funny girl.
Ted: Yeah, I don't know why... but she really took to you Ricky boy... I was beginning to get a bit jealous there.
Ricky: ... Your Dad.
Ted: Yeah? What about him?
Ricky: He listens to the radio.
Ted: Sure, he loves the radio.
Ricky: That music... why does he sit and listen to that music?
Ted: That music? Oh, you mean classical music.... well the answer to that's simple... he loves classical music...so does Mm.
Ricky: They just sit and listen.
Ted: Sure, if there's a concert on they like to sit and listen to it together.
Ricky: You like that sort of music?
Ted: Classical music? Some of it... not all of it.

Ricky: Hm.

Ted: Yeah, I like the lively stuff... you know, like the 1812 overture, that's got guns going off in it.

Ricky: Guns?

Ted: Yeah, the music is about this big battle and when Tchykovsky wrote it he wrote it for an orchestra and for guns...you know near the end the cannons go off... boom... boom....

Ricky: Really?!

Ted: Sure...I'll play it to you tonight if you want.

Ricky: Tonight?

Ted: If you want to stay that is.

Ricky: Can I stay another night?

Ted: Sure, if you want to.

Ricky: Your mum and dad say okay?

Ted: Yes. Well... they kind of think you should phone your parents...tell them where you are and all that

Ricky: I don't want to tell my dad anything... he's not my dad anyway.

Ted: You're real mad at him aren't you Ricky?

Ricky: Yes... I am.

Ted: Why? I mean I get mad at my dad sometimes but...well, however mad I get he's still my dad...I'd never say he wasn't my dad.

Ricky: Does your dad... hit you?

Ted: No of course not...he loves me... why should he hit me?... you only hit people you don't like.

Ricky: Hm... my dad he always hits me... pam! pam! in the face with his fist... pam pam! across the face... poof! in the stomach...crack!! he kicks me... I HATE him.

Ted: Yes, you looked pretty messed up last night I have to say. But listen Ricky ... I hate to say this... but you' re no angel you know... you go around doing some pretty mean stuff... maybe your dad thinks he HAS to hit you to keep you in control... not that I agree with that...in fact I think it stinks but...he may think he HAS to do something...

Ricky: I hate him... I'm not going back... never!

Ted: Yeah? Well... that's your decision but, well...where you gonna stay?... I mean you can stay with s for a bit, sure, welcome, but, forever?

Ricky: Your Dad's nice.

Ted: He's nuts... but yeah...he's nice.

Ricky: You' re lucky nice dad, nice mum, nice sister.

Ted: What about your mum? is she like...well does she hit you too?

Ricky: No, but she doesn't stop my dad when he hits me... she just watches so she is as bad as he is.

Ted: Maybe she's frightened of him. And what about your sister... dear old Daisy.

Ricky: My dad always says she's good... Daisy' s a good girl Ricky's a bad boy ... but Daisy' s not good ...she only shows a good face to our dad ... pretends... like an actress... smiling and taking money from him.

Ted: But, hey Ricky, come on...I hate to say it... but you' re no angel... I mean you and your gang have been... well, pretty heavy in the play ground...know what I mean... like... everyone is frightened of you.

Ricky: My gang is finished.

Ted: Yeah?... glad to hear it Ricky.

Ricky: But that's no good for me.

Ted: Sure it is...you can start concentrating on your studies... you know there ARE other ways of earning a living... you don' t HAVE to go around grabbing money off people... you can, like, EARN it....

Ricky: No... it's not so easy.

Ted: Well, you got to do a lot of homework... and TRY to pay attention in class... but, you'll manage.

Ricky: No.... I'm in trouble... Ricky with no gang is bad news... they will kill me.

Ted: Who will kill you Ricky?

Ricky: Big Brother

Ted: Oh right... Big Brother... like... your, er... triad boss.

Ricky: He used to be my family... my real brother... but now I know that was all lies... he' s only a brother if I give him money... a money brother, nothing else... a money brother... huh! ... I don' t want him... I don't want a money brother.

Ted: I don't blame you.

Ricky: And Big Spender

Ted: What about Big Spender.

Ricky: He's King of the playground now..., and you watch... he wants to

kill me.

Ted: Why? Why does he want to kill you? What did you do to him?

Ricky: He just wants to show he's king, real king... he wants to paint the playground with my blood... to show he's king... he wants to write, 'Ricky is dead' all over the playground, write it with my blood.

Ted: Wow, heavy stuff.

Ricky: Hey look Ted... I'd better say goodbye.

Ted: Goodbye? Hey, why?... we're going to school, the same school, so why say good-bye?

Ricky: I can't go to school... Big Spender will kill me.

Ted: So where are you going?

Ricky: I don't know. Somewhere.

Ted: Home?

Ricky: My dad will hit me.

Ted: The streets?

Ricky: Big Brother will beat me.

Ted: School then.

Ricky: Big Spender will kill me.

Ted: So Ricky... nowhere to run, nowhere to hide.

Ricky: I'm finished... finished... maybe I'll go to Aberdeen... find a boat and sail away.

Ted: Hey Ricky... it's Typhoon season... you could be out there on some little fishing boat and some massive typhoon comes whacking down on you... you wouldn't stand a chance... you'd be blasted into oblivion.

Ricky: Can I?...

Ted: Can you what Ricky?

Ricky: Can I stay in your flat?... just for to-day... I'll stay in your room... just for to-day... so no one can find me.

Ted: Um... well....

Ricky: Please Ted... do this for me... be my brother.

Ted: Um... I'd er..... have to ask my parents.

Ricky: No!... no need!... I can hide in your room... hide... under the bed... no one will see me..., no one.

Ted: Um.... but, I HAVE to ask them.

Ricky: Why?... why Ted?

Ted: And I guess they'd say no because, well... you should be at school, not under my bed and... they'd sort of be helping you

play truant.

Ricky: You don't want me to.

Ted: Go to school Ricky ...

Ricky: I can't! Big Spender will kill me!

Ted: We can... er..." speak to Miss Yu.

Ricky: Why?! She hates me! She wants to throw me out the school!

Ted: Hey Ricky, Miss Yu's cool... she doesn't hate anybody... if you tell her you want to change your life... you know... stop all that gang stuff and start studying... she'll help you...I know she will.

Ricky: I don't think so.

Ted: I'm sure she will. Come on Ricky... school... it's your best chance.

Ricky: Okay, okay... you don't want me in your house, okay

Ted: Hey Ricky ... you sure know how to make a guy feel guilty.

Ricky: I'll go to school, sure, sure... and you'll see... tonight there'll be blood on the play ground... my blood ... and it will be you that puts it there.

Ted: Hey Ricky.... steady on... Look, we've got to speak to Miss Yu, okay?

Ricky: NOT okay.

Ted: Okay Ricky.. whatever you say...but the way I see it... Miss You're your only hope.

Scene 2

Yoko: (Crying)

Winnie: Yoko! Yoko what's wrong?

Yoko: (Through her tears) Oh Winnie... I just... I can't.

Winnie: Is it that stupid Daisy and Anita? Is it? Well I don't care what they say about us... who cares what they say....?

Yoko: (Weeping) It's not Daisy OR Anita.

Winnie: What is it then Yoko? Please, tell me.

Yoko: Winnie...I don't know how to tell you .

Winnie: Tell me what?

Yoko: You'll be so upset.

Winnie: No I won't.... well... I don't think I will what is it?

Yoko: Sit down.

Winnie: Okay... I'm sitting down.

Yoko: Now promise you won't be upset.

- Winnie: I promise.
- Yoko: Winnie.... my mother told me something last night and... and I don't know what I'm going to do.
- Winnie: What did she tell you Yoko?
- Yoko: It's about Dad.
- Winnie: What about him?
- Yoko: Well you know he's getting divorced from my Mum.
- Winnie: Yes.
- Yoko: Well... it's all happened... they are divorced.... and he's supposed to give Mum some money to... to pay for things... and... and well... he's disappeared and he hasn't given her any money.
- Winnie: Oh dear... well somebody must know where he is... can't you ask your uncle or aunt or your grandparents where he is.
- Yoko: We did... but they won't say... none of them will tell us anything... they think that Mum is just after his money and she isn't.
- Winnie: That's terrible... you mean his family know where he is hiding and they won't tell you?
- Yoko: Yes... but I know he still loves me and I think... well I think he's just confused... but Mum says....
- Winnie: Yes Yoko.... tell me.
- Yoko: She says that without Dad giving us money we can't....
- Winnie: Can't what?
- Yoko: We can't pay the rent.
- Winnie: Oh...
- Yoko: And the landlady came round last night and shouted at Mum.
- Winnie: Didn't your mother explain the situation to her?
- Yoko: No ... Mum is too embarrassed to... she thinks it's a kind of shame to get divorced... so she didn't say anything... it wouldn't have mattered if she had... our landlady is as hard as stone.
- Winnie: What are you going to do?
- Yoko: Mum says we are going to have to move and... (crying)
- Winnie: Move? Move where?
- Yoko: She says we can't afford to live in Hong Kong and... and... she wants us to move to mainland China.... and live with an Aunt of mine... she says that's all we can afford to do.
- Winnie: Move to mainland China?!
- Yoko: Yes....
- Winnie: No Yoko... you can't...you just can't.

- Yoko: Mum says we've got no option... she says we're out of money... the landlady has said if we can't pay by the end of the month we have to get out!
- Winnie: The end of the month?!
- Yoko: Yes.
- Winnie: Yoko... but that means... that means we won't see each other anymore.
- Yoko: I know Winnie... that's why I didn't want to tell you.
- Winnie: I can't bear it Yoko.... you're leaving... what will we do? How will we live without each other?
- Yoko: I don't know Winnie... you're the best friend I ever ever had.
- Winnie: Maybe you're father will change his mind"- maybe he will come back and pay up... can't you find out where he is and talk to him... appeal to him... tell him to let you stay.
- Yoko: I've tried.... I phoned up my Grandmother last night but she was so hard... she just started lecruring me on how my mother is only interested in stealing money from her son and she said such mean things about mum that I had to put the phone down..
- Winnie: Oh Yoko... this is terrible.
- Yoko: My life is such a mess.... But why Winnie?... why is this happneing to me?... why me?
- Winnie: Yoko... whatever happens you've got to be strong... where's there's life there's hope... and you've got so much going for you... your bright... pretty... kind..., wherever you go you'll be able to find happiness... I know you will.
- Yoko: But... what will happen to me locked away in some village in mainland China.
- Winnie: Is it a village?! You' re going to live in a village??!
- Yoko: I... I think so... a village or a town...
- Winnie: But what if it's a village?! what will you do? feed the ducks?!!
- Yoko: Or...or the pigs?
- Winnie: Oh no Yoko, that's terrible, maybe it's a town.
- Yoko: Maybe.... but Winnie, I don't want to leave Hong Kong... I love Hong Kong.
- Winnie: You've got to be brave Yoko... very brave... even if you have to feed ducks and pigs....
- Yoko: Urghhh, so stinky!
- Winnie: You will have to put some perfume under your nose and, and....

work hard and look after your mother.

Yoko: My poor mother... she just sits in her room and cries and cries.

Winnie: You must look after her..., with your love she will survive.

Yoko: I know... that's what she tells me... I'm all she's got... she tells me I am her only hope.

Winnie: So Yoko... you are leaving Hong Kong and you are going to another life... a hard life but at least you know that you are helping your dear mother.

Yoko: Winnie... I shall miss you so much.

Winnie: It's strange Yoko... you know last night I had a big talk with my mother and father.

Yoko: Did you Winnie?... about what?

Winnie: They got very angry with me (little laugh) it's funny now... because now it doesn't matter.

Yoko: What doesn't matter Winnie?

Winnie: Well... they wanted me to go abroad to study... they really want me to study at University in England but I said I wouldn't go... and the reason I said I wouldn't go is... because it would separate us Yoko.

Yoko: You mean you would turn down the chance of going to University in England because of me Winnie?

Winnie: Oh yes... yes Yoko.... good friends are worth more than anything else... why should I go and leave the best friend I've ever had.

Yoko: Thank you Winnie... I feel the same way about you.

Winnie: But now... suddenly... things have changed.

Yoko: I'm going away...I HAVE to go away.

Winnie: Yes..... and so..... what would be the point of me staying?... I might as well go to England.. (little laugh) You wait till I tell Dad.... he was so mad last night.... and I was so stubborn..... 'no' I said, I'm NOT going to England!... I was like a lion.... but tonight, when I go home, I'll knock on his door and go in and I'll say...sorry daddy, you were right... I shall go to university in England just as you and mummy want me to..... and he'll be sooo happy, and he'll call my mother and tell her and she'll hug me and then we'll go out to dinner and I'll be able to order whatever I want.

Yoko: I'm glad you can make your mum and dad happy.

Winnie: Yes.... but they will never know that the only reason I agreed to leave Hong Kong and study in England was because YOU were

leaving too.

Yoko: You can tell them if you like.

Winnie: No, let them think I am going because of their wise words... that will make them happy.

Yoko: Yes Winnie... yes you're right.

Winnie: So Yoko these are our last weeks together.

Yoko: Yes Winnie... our last precious weeks together.

Winnie: Come on... don't let's be sad..... let's celebrate them..... and you know... we can always stay in touch... I can write letters.

Yoko: And I'll write too.

Winnie: And email.

Yoko: I wonder if they have emails in the Chinese village?

Winnie: Send me a message with a carrier pigeon.

Yoko: (Laughing) Yes, I'll find a pigeon, tie a message to his foot and let him fly all the way from China to England.....

Winnie: (Laughing) Pigeon Post!

Yoko: (Laughing) Yes Winnie.... pigeon post! (they laugh)

Winnie: (stops laughing) Wait... what are we laughing for?... you're leaving... I'm leaving (they start crying)

BREAK

Scene 3

Miss Yu: Ricky.... Ricky can I have a word with you please.

Ricky: I'm going to my class.

Miss Yu: This won't take long.

Ricky: What is it? What's it all about?

Miss Yu: Um Ricky... Ted tells me your in trouble.

Ricky: (Rough words in Cantonese, angry at Ted) What did he say?

Miss Yu: Don't be angry with Ted Ricky... Ted's your friend... I'm not sure why... but he is... perhaps the only friend you've got in the whole school... I shouldn't say bad things about him if I were you.

Ricky: So? Say what you want... I have to go.

Miss Yu: Ricky.... you can call me either Miss Yu or just Miss but please... call me something otherwise... it sounds rude.

Ricky: Okay Miss... speak.

Miss Yu: That's a BIT better... but do you have to sound so aggressive...

okay...well... as I was saying... Ted tells me you want to turn over a new leaf.

Ricky: Leaf?! What leaf?! I don't know anything about a leaf.

Miss Yu: Ricky...that's just a figure of speech... turning over a new leaf means...changing your life..., giving up your bad old ways and starting nice new ones

Ricky: He said that?

Miss Yu: Yes... is it true Ricky? (silence) Well?... is it?...I have to know because if you really DO want to change your life and become a better person then... I'm here to help you... if not... well there's nothing I or anyone can do.....

Ricky: (Mumbling) I think so.

Miss Yu: Sorry? I didn't hear what you said.

Ricky: I said...I think So.... Miss..

Miss: Good, I'm glad to hear it. You know many people in this school would like to see you kicked out... expelled and quite honestly if Ted had reported you... the time you tried to stab him... well... you WOULD have been expelled, there's no doubt about that.

Ricky: Okay, okay!

Miss Yu: I'm only telling you the truth Ricky. Now then... tell me... how do you intend to improve Ricky?

Ricky: I just want to be left alone.

Miss Yu: Hmm, is that all?

Ricky: I just want to do my work and get a job and be independent ...so I don't need anybody...so I can have my OWN life.

Miss Yu: Well that's good... I'm glad to hear that. Very well... I believe you...I believe that you, Ricky Chiu, really want to change, to turn over a new leaf... and I shall report this to the principal and try to persuade her to give you another chance.

Ricky: You mean I can stay on at school Miss?

Miss Yu: I'm not promising but... I think you might be able to... ON CONDITION that you work hard and stay out of trouble... do you think you can do that Ricky?

Ricky: I think so Miss.

Miss Yu: Very well... off you go then... you don't want to be late for your class.

Ricky: Hmm... thank you Miss.

Miss Yu: But remember Ricky.... no getting into any trouble... because if

you do... there's nothing I will be able to do to help you.

Scene 4 The playground

Big Spender: Hey, hey, hey!!! What have we got here?... the mighty Ricky.. Hail Ricky! Big Chief! Here... let me lick your boots Ricky... here Ricky... want some money... here... I'm so scared of you I want to give you all my money... see..., all this money and I give it to you Ricky... see.... that's why they call me Big Spender cos I spend sooo much money o my friends.... here, takke it.

Ricky: Okay Big Spender... quit the jokes just go away and leave me alone.

Big Spender: Leave you alone... you hear that boys big gang boss Ricky wants to be left alone (gang boys laugh).

Ricky: What do you want Big Spender? Look, you see this play ground... it's yours... every square foot of it... yours... all yours... you're the king now.... Big Spender, King of the Playground.... and me ? ... I'm nothing... okay, so just let me pass and leave me alone.

Big Spender: Hey Ricky ...not so fast.

Ricky: Let me pass.

Big Spender: No man... I offered you some money... if you don't take my money I'm going to be hurt... real hurt... and you're going to feel hurt too Ricky boy.

Ricky: Give it to someone else who needs it more than I do.

Big Spender: Ain't no one gonna need it more than you after I finished with you Ricky boy... now take it. (SFX: Criap notes being grasped) That's better.

Ricky: Now can I go?

Big Spender: Not so fast Ricky Boy.... I want to speak with you some more.... I Like speaking to you and the boys want to hear your sweet voice too... don't you boys? (gang boys laugh) See... they do.

Ricky: Okay... so Big Spender... what do you want me to say.

Big Spender: Well... I want you to call me Sir for a start..

Ricky: Okay Sir, anything you want Sir... now can I go now please Sir?

Big Spender: Hey Ricky boy ...what's that I see in your hands?

Ricky: Here... take it back.

Big Spender: Oh no... oh no no no... you took my money, didn't he boys
(affirmative grunts)

Ricky: But I'm giving it back. Here, take it.

Big Spender: Big Spender don't take money back... once he gives it he wants something in return... ain't that right boys? (affirmative grunts)

Ricky: What do you want from me Big Spender?

Big Spender: Now you're talking Ricky Boy... well... seeing as you ask...I want..... that money back but double.... by tomorrow morning.

Ricky: Double?!! How am I going to get that?

Big Spender: I dunno Ricky Boy-not my problem ... but get it and I won't ask no questions and YOU won't get hurt.

Ricky: Big Spender... you don't need me...you got a big gang...you got MY gang.... Bobo, Tooth, Leo, they're all with you now... I'm nothing now so why don't you let me crawl down a hole and you just forget about me.

Big Spender: Just like that? Huh? No way Ricky you're good at getting money and I want you to make that work for me..., no holiday for you Ricky boy. Now go... get me that money or else... Hammer's going to hammer you... Big Foot's gonna kick you and red face is gonna get so drunk he won't know you from an ant and he's gonna squash you (affirmative grunts from gang members) Now go.

Ricky: But Big Spender...please.... give me a chance....

Big Spender: I said go and don't try hiding because if you do... I'm gonna come looking for you and paint this playground with your blood... understand?

Ricky: I understand.

Big Spender: Sir!

Ricky: Sir.

Big Spender: (Evil laugh)

Music

The End