



## The Red Playground

**Characters:** Ricky, Big Spender, Hammer, Red Face, Big Foot, Ted, Boy, Miss Yu, Yoko, Winnie, Daisy, Anita, Girl.

### Scene 1

Big Spender: Hey Ricky boy, where you going?...not so fast...come here.  
Ricky: Hey, Big Spender...you're the king of the playground now .... I admit it...I'm finished...now can you just leave me alone?  
Big Spender: Take this money? Here ... take it ...  
Ricky: No... what for?..  
Big Spender: Just take it. Good.  
Ricky: I don't want your money Big Spender.  
Big Spender: Put it in your pocket ... I said ... in your pocket Ricky... Good.  
Ricky: What's this all about Big Spender?  
Big Spender: Okay boys... you all saw Ricky put my money in his pocket.  
Hammer: Yeah, I saw him.  
Red Face: So did I.  
Big Foot: Me too.  
Ricky: Here, take it ack.  
Big Spender: No! No way. I don't take back the money I give away unless.... unless it's doubled.

(All laugh nastily)

Hammer: Yeah, double.  
Red Face: Twice as much.  
Big Foot: He needs it to grow.  
Ricky: But this is two hundred dollars!  
Big Spender: So you make it four.  
Hammer: One two three four!

(All laugh nastily)

Ricky: But I can't...I haven't got any money ... take this back and let me go...I just want to be left alone.

Big Spender: Hear that Hammer? poor little Ricky boy wants to be left alone.

Hammer: (Sarcastic) Ah...poor little thing.

Red Face: Look at him...little Ricky-no-gang.

(All laugh nastily)

Big Spender: You can go Ricky, anytime, but the thing is you've got to come back by five...with the money.

Ricky: By Five?!

Big Spender: If not.... what will you do to him Red Face.

Red Face: I'll get drunk and smash you to pulp.

Big Spender: And you Hammer?

Hammer: I'll smash him with my hammer.

Big Spender: And you Big Foot?

BIG FOOT: I'll kick him round the playground like a football.

(All laugh noisily)

Big Spender: And me Ricky? what will I do if you don't bring me the money? I'll paint the playground with your blood. So, boy ... you'd better find the money ... four hundred dollars by five o'clock.

Ricky: No, please... I don't want this... I just want to be left alone.

Big Spender: Ahhhh... hear that... little Ricky wants to be left alone.

All: Ahhhhh. (all laugh nastily)

Big Foot: Can I kick him Boss?

Big Spender: No Big Foot... wait.

Big Foot: Just once... please Big Spender... just once.

Big Spender: Wait till five... if he hasn't got the money., then okay ... you can kick him till there's nothing left to kick.

Hammer: Can I just... knock a few nails in him with this Boss.

Big Spender: No Hammer... wait... wait till five... and then, if he hasn't got the money you can knock a whole row of nails in him.

Red Face: Hey, Big Spender... can I hit him... just once?

Big Spender: Wait till five, when you're drunk... then, if he hasn't got the money you can beat him to a pulp.

Ricky: Don't worry ... you'll get your money.  
Big Spender: I hope so... for your sake Ricky boy.  
Ricky: But this will be the last time... the last time, you hear?  
Big Spender: Hey ...I give the orders around here... not you  
Ricky: I'm only doing this once.  
Hammer: You heard what the boss said!  
Big Foot: You do as he says.  
Red Face: Big Spender's the boss... you're just a cockroach!  
Big Spender: Goodbye Ricky... and er... see you at five outside the boy's  
toilets.  
Ricky: Okay ... but I'm telling you now... I'm only doing this once.  
Big Spender: There he goes... look at him... pathetic!  
Big Foot: He thinks this is the last time.  
Red Face: Why did you let him speak to you like that boss?  
Hammer: Yeah, he kept saying the last time, the last time... why did you let  
him say that Big Spender?  
Big Spender: Hey ... shut up...I know what I'm doing.  
All: Yes Big Spender.  
Big Spender: Now you, Hammer... take this hundred dollar note and buy me a  
packet of cigarettes.  
Hammer: Okay Big Spender you got it.  
Big Spender: And you, Red Face... take this hundred dollar note and buy me  
six bottles of beer...  
Red Face: You bet.  
Big Spender: And you... Big Foot, take this hundred dollar note and place a  
bet for me on a horse...'Fast Dollar'...he's racing in the eight  
o'clock at Happy Valley.  
Big Foot: Sure thing Boss.  
Big Spender: And where's those other three geeks... Leo, Bobo and Tooth?...  
Ricky's old gang.  
Hammer: Leo is cleaning your shoes.  
Big Foot: Bobo is doing your homework.  
Red Face: And Tooth is trying to find you a girl for tonight.  
Big Spender: Okay...now...off you go...I'll see you all later.  
All: Okay Boss...Okay Big Spender.

## Scene 2

Winnie: (Weeping)  
Yoko: What's wrong Winnie?  
Winnie: Oh Yoko... only one more week and... we'll be apart.  
Yoko: I know ... my mother can't stop crying too... she doesn't want to leave Hong Kong and...neither do I.  
Winnie: Oh Yoko... do you HAVE to go?  
Yoko: I told you Winnie... my parents are divorced now and my dad is refusing to give my mother any money ...we HAVE to go and live with my relatives in Guandong.  
Winnie: I wish you could come with me.  
Yoko: Has it all been arranged?  
Winnie: Yes... when I told my father I agreed to go to university in England he was so happy...but why are you looking so sad?, my mother asked me?  
Yoko: What did you say?  
Winnie: I told her... it's because I was leaving my friends behind... (weeping)... she just doesn't understand... nobody does.  
Yoko: We can write.  
Winnie: Yes.  
Yoko: And one day... when you get your degree and come back to Hong Kong... you can come and visit me.  
Winnie: Oh Yoko... please take care of yourself.  
Yoko: I will. I will. You too.  
Daisy: (Giggling) Look Anita... look at them! Yoko and Winnie! Lovers!! (Giggles)  
Anita: Look at them crying.  
Daisy: Romeo and Juliet.  
Anita: I wonder why they're crying.  
Daisy: Lovers always cry ... a lover's argument, (giggles)  
Anita: Let's mock them.  
Daisy: How?  
Anita: Watch me Daisy ...hide here and just watch me... (approaching Y & W) Hello Yoko... Winnie  
Yoko: What do YOU want?  
Anita: Don't be nasty... I saw you crying and I felt sorry for you.  
Yoko: YOU?... FEEL SORRY for someone?... how can you feel sorrow when you haven't got a heart?  
Anita: Yes I have got a heart... and it's beating for you two girls.

Daisy: (Giggles)  
Yoko: Who's that giggling? I know that giggle... I'd know it anywhere....  
Daisy Chiu! What are you hiding for? Come out! I can't see you  
but I can certainly hear you.  
Daisy: (Emerging. Giggles) Hello Yoko...Winnie.  
Yoko: So what are you doing?... spying on us?  
Anita: Don't get upset Yoko... your secret is safe with us.  
Daisy: (Giggles) Yes... your secret is safe.  
Anita: We wouldn't dream of telling anyone, would we Daisy.  
Daisy: Oh no Anita... we won't tell a soul, (giggles)  
Winnie: What secret?... what are they talking about?  
Yoko: I know what they're talking about.  
Anita: Of course you do Yoko.  
Daisy: (Giggles)  
Anita: But it's safe with us isn't it Daisy.  
Daisy: (Giggles) Oh yes... very safe.  
Winnie: Yoko... what are they talking about?  
Yoko: It's not worth knowing Winnie.  
Winnie: Tell me, I want to know.  
Yoko: Well, don't you remember how these two toads wanted you to be  
Romeo and me to be Juliet in the English class?  
Winnie: Yes?  
Yoko: And haven't you seen them whispering to all the other girls and  
pointing at us?  
Winnie: They always do that.  
Anita: No we don't!  
Winnie: Yes you do and you know it.  
Yoko: Well, these two toads...  
Daisy: I'm not a toad!  
Yoko: Have been spreading rumours about us.  
Anita: Rumours? Only rumours?  
Winnie: What rumours?  
Yoko: Some tittle tattle they made up to amuse their pea brains.  
Anita: It's not tittle tattle, it's the truth and you know it.  
Winnie: What's the truth?...what is?  
Daisy: (Giggles) Look at Little Miss Goody Goody ... acting so innocent!  
Anita: Pretending she doesn't know.  
W: Know what?! I don'tknow!

Anita: That's what she'll say to Miss Yu... acting all innocent...

Daisy: And we didn't have to tell anyone... because everyone knew.

Winnie: Knew what?

Yoko: Winnie... these two toads... have been telling everyone... we're lovers.

Winnie: Oh... is that all.

Yoko: Yes, that's all... but they think it's such a big deal... to their tiny little minds being lovers is something terrible.

Winnie: Why?... it's just as natural as anything else.

Anita: Daisy ... it's true! ... they ARE lovers!!

Yoko: (Laughing) Look at their silly faces... Hey Anita... Daisy ...close your mouth before a mosquito flies in and bites your tongue.

Winnie: (Laughing) They look so stupid!

Yoko: I wish I had my camera!

Winnie: Oh daisy... your teeth! ... they're so rotten...I think you'd better go to the dentist.

Yoko: And Anita...the back of your throat is very Red...I think you'd better go to the doctor.

Anita: (dumbfounded) They... they... admitted it...they really ARE lovers.

Winnie: So you were spreading stories and you didn't even believe that they were true?

Daisy: We were just kidding.

Anita: Having a bit of a laugh.

Yoko: Now listen you two cockroaches and listen carefully .... Winnie and I are great friends... as it happens we are not lovers...but we might have been and if we were that would have been none of your business.

Winnie: Absolutely... I love Yoko and I'm proud to say it, to anyone...but she's not my lover...but as Yoko says...even if she was what business is that of yours?.... it's not a crime .... we're all human beings

Yoko: Although the way you two have behaved.... I'm not sure if we can call YOU human... what did you want to do?...hurt us?

Winnie: If we HAD been lovers what did you want?...to break us up...make us depressed?.... smash up our lives?

Yoko: You're scum.

Winnie: I would never do that to anyone...never...I respect people and you should too.

Yoko: Yes, get a life Daisy...get a life Anita.

Winnie: I hope you will never do this again...it's so cruel and so unfair.... luckily we don't care about your stupid gossip and your stupid rumours...

Yoko: Right.

Winnie: But if we were lovers and if you did have the whole class gossiping about us and laughing at us... then maybe... maybe you would have been able to ruin our lives...so please...never, ever do this kind of thing again.

Yoko: They will...look at them...that's what they're like... Know what? I'm going to get a t-shirt made for you Daisy and on the back it will say, Born to be a Creep.... and one for you Anita and it will say... Beware, Loser at Play'

Daisy: Um, Anita...I think we'd better be going.

Anita: Okay... um.... let's go.

Yoko: Oh no you don't.... before you go I think you BOTH owe US an apology.

Daisy: Um, you mean....?

Yoko: Yes Daisy... I mean try, just TRY to say sorry.... I know you've never said that word before...but believe me...it's just an ordinary word like any other but...you saying it will make Winnie and I feel a whole lot better about you...because at this moment...I don't feel good about you at all. And you Anita, both of you...come on... give it a try.

Winnie: I think you should...just to remind you NEVER to be so destructive again.

Daisy: Anita?

Anita: What?!

Daisy: Shall we?

Anita: What?!

Daisy: Say ... say that word.

Anita: What word?

Daisy: Sorry.

Yoko: Well done Daisy ... well done... you actually said it... Now say it to ME and Winnie... come on... that' s it... open your mouth... good... now say it...

Daisy: (Trying to say the word) SSsss....ssssooooo.....

Yoko: Good, good.... nearly ... try a bit harder.

Winnie: You can do it Daisy ... come on... just say it... you'll feel so much better when you do.

Daisy: Ssssss...soooooorrrrrr..... ssssoooooorrrrrrrr.....y.

Yoko: Now say it once again quickly.

Daisy: (Pause) Sorry.

Winnie: She did it!

Yoko: Once more.

Daisy: Sorry.

Yoko: And again.

Daisy: Sorry. Sorry. Sorry.

Winnie: There... now don't you feel better Daisy?

Daisy: I think so.

Yoko: Now your turn Anita.

Anita: (horrified) Me?!

Yoko: Yes, you.

Winnie: It won' t hurt... will it Daisy.

Daisy: Well.... only a bit.

Yoko: Try Anita.... TRY.

Anita: Ssssssss.....sssssssssssssss.

Yoko: Come on... try a bit harder.

Anita: Sssss....sssoooooooo....soooooorrrrrrrr.....

Winnie: You're almost there.

Yoko: Go for it Anita... give it all you've got!

Anita: Ssoooooorrrrrrrrrr..... y.

Winnie: Horray! She said it!

Yoko: Once more with speed.

Anita: (very fast) Sorry.

Yoko: Too fast.

Anita: (slow) Ssssoooooorrryyy.

Yoko: Too slow.

Anita: (Normal speed) Sorry.

Yoko: That will do.

Winnie: It's so nice to hear you two being pleasant for a change... you know daisy, Anita... when you' re being nice... you both look prettier.

A & D: Do we?

Winnie: Much prettier, don't they Yoko.

Yoko: Yes, you should try be nice more often... you might even end up



with a decent boyfriend.

Daisy: Oh...that's interesting.

Anita: You mean... when I said...sss...sorry...I looked... pretty?

Winnie: Definitely.

Anita: Sorry.

Winnie: There, you see.

Yoko: A different girl...when you're being nasty you look ugly ... all your face gets pinched up and you look like a toad but just then... you looked like an angel.

Anita: Sorry.

Yoko: Much better...

Winnie: Being nice is good for the complexion.

Daisy: Is it?

Winnie: Of course.

Daisy: Sorry.

Winnie: There, you see...no wrinkles.... smooth skin.

Daisy: Sorry... sorry.

Yoko: Okay, well perhaps you two girls girls could go and practice being nice somewhere else... Winnie and I have a lot to talk about.

Daisy: Oh yes...sorry ... we'll be on our way.

Anita: Yes, sorry.... we should let you have time to yourselves.

Yoko: Bye Anita.

Winnie: Bye Daisy.

A & D: Bye...and.... (from a distance) sorry.

Winnie: (calling back as if she's saying goodbye) Sorry

Yoko: Winnie, why are you saying sorry to them?

Winnie: Did I? Oh yes I did didn't I....I don't know-I just got carried away ... they seemed so pleased with their new word.

Yoko: Yes, they did didn't they.

Winnie: Well Yoko... (laughing) it's good for the complexion to say sorry ...

(Both girls laugh) (fade)

### Scene 3

Ricky: Hey you... you, little boy... empty your pockets.

Boy: Why?

Ricky: Don't ask questions! Just do it!!  
Boy: Okay (sound of things falling on floor)  
Ricky: Bah! what's this...bubble gum, keys...little toys...Where's your money?  
Boy: I spent it on sweets.  
Ricky: Why?!  
Boy: I was hungry.  
Ricky: No good...no good.  
Ricky: Hey you... little girl...empty your bag.  
Girl: Why?  
Ricky: Don't ask questions! Just do it!  
Girl: Okay. (sound of things falling from her bag)  
Ricky: Bah! What's this?...a mirror...  
Girl: Oh no!...It's broken!  
Ricky: Shut up!...keys...sweets...some little cards...Where's your money?  
Girl: I spent it on my little cards.  
Ricky: Why?!  
Girl: I collect them.  
Ricky: No good...no good!  
Ricky: Hey you...little boy...empty your pockets.  
Miss Yu: (Suddenly appearing) And why should he?!!!  
Ricky: (Surprised and scared) Oh, Miss Yu... what are you doing here.  
Miss Yu: I'm on playground duty.  
Ricky: Oh. Oh. I'd better go.  
Miss Yu: Not before you tell me why you wanted this small boy to empty his pockets.  
Ricky: Um, I wanted to.... to help him.  
Miss Yu: Help him? How?  
Ricky: Well, er.... if he emptied his pockets.....  
Miss Yu: Yes.  
Ricky: And, er.... He... didn't have any money.  
Miss Yu: Yes.  
Ricky: I would give him some.  
Miss Yu: Ricky Chiu.... do you think I am a complete idiot?  
Ricky: No Miss Yu, of course not... you're a teacher.  
Miss Yu: Then how do you expect me to believe such a ridiculous story!  
You wanted this small boy to empty his pockets and if he didn't

have any money you were going to give him some?!!

Ricky: Ummm...something like that.

Miss Yu: Ricky.... Please...respect me with the truth.

Ricky: Mss Yu...Miss Yu...I...it's not my fault... !... I.....

Miss Yu: I am very disappointed Ricky ... after our meeting I went to the principal and I told her I thought you were going to change... I told her we had had a good talk and I said to her, Ricky Chiu is a new boy... and now this! ... back to your old ways.... extorting money from little boys and girls... and don't deny it... I've been watching you..

Ricky: But I didn't take anything miss... honest I didn't.

Miss Yu: Only because they didn't have any money..., if they had had money then you would have taken it, wouldn't you.

Ricky: Please Miss... you don't understand... I didn't want to.... I had to.

Miss Yu: HAD to? Why did you HAVE to?

Ricky: Because.... please Miss... don't make me say ...please... I can't.

Miss Yu: I'm sorry Ricky... I'll have to report this... and then it won't be only me you'll have to explain your behaviour to... it will be the principal... and if she's not satisfied then you'll be out of the school and there will be nothing I can do to help you.

Ricky: But I didn't want to do this... believe me Miss... I didn't....

Miss Yu: Very well Ricky ... but be prepared to tell the truth to the Principal or else your student days at this school are numbered.

#### Scene 4

Ted: Hey Ricky ... how's your day panning out?

Ricky: Lousy ...this must be one of the worst days of my life.

Ted: What, worse than yesterday?

Ricky: Yesterday was terrible... but I stayed at your place and that was nice... to-day... well to-day I think my life is over.

Ted: Your life? Over? hey Ricky, that's heavy man... what do you mean?

Ricky: See this playground?

Ted: Yes, I see it.

Ricky: What colour is it?

Ted: Grey.

Ricky: Not for long.  
Ted: Why?... is someone going to paint it or something?  
Ricky: Yes, Big Spender.  
Ted: Big Spender's going to paint the playground?.... huh, that's nice of him, it could do with cheering up a bit,.... grey's such a boring colour.... what colour is he going to paint it?  
Ricky: Red.  
Ted: Hey Red... I like Red... Red's much better than grey.  
Ricky: Ted, wake up, you don't get the point.  
Ted: Don't I? Sorry, what am I missing?  
Ricky: Big Spender is going to paint the playground Red... with MY BLOOD.  
Ted: With your blood?... hey Ricky, I hate to tell you but... this is a big playground and, you're big, but not THAT big... I think Big Spender's going to run out of paint pretty quickly.  
Ricky: Hey Ted, don't joke... it's my life... and and Miss Yu... she's going to get me thrown out the school.  
Ted: What?! No way! Miss Yu?! She's on your side man.  
Ricky: She caught me turning out kids pockets.  
Ted: Oh no, Ricky man... I thought you were giving all that stuff up?!  
Ricky: I was... I am... but.... but.... if I tell you you mustn't tell anyone...  
Ted: Okay.  
Ricky: Not even Miss Yu.  
Ted: Sure. Shoot.  
Ricky: Big Spender gave me this.  
Ted: Two hundred dollars! That was nice of him.  
Ricky: It's not a present dummy .... he said I have to give it back to him at five o'clock.  
Ted: So he sees you as a... bank.... kind of.  
Ricky: Yeah, right, and he wants interest... big interest...  
Ted: How much?  
Ricky: He wants this back... doubled.  
Ted: (Whistles in amazement) Double? Like, four hundred?!  
Ricky: Right, and if I don't give it to him... he's going to paint the playground with my blood.  
Ted: So that's why you were frisking those little kids.  
Ricky: Yes... I HAD to Ted, don't you see... I had no choice.  
Ted: Why didn't you tell Miss Yu?

Ricky: You mean tell tales to teachers?! I hate people who do that... squealers... creeps.... Never!

Ted: I see.... but if you don't tell the truth she's going to think you just fell back on your bad old ways... and that's not going to help you Ricky... not going to help you one little bit.

Ricky: I know man... but what can I do?

Ted: Save your neck... tell her the truth... You'll be doing us all a favour... Big Spender is even worse than you were... we can't even come out in the playground and have a bit of fun anymore... his gang's got so big we always getting hassled for money.

Ricky: I better go.

Ted: Go where?

Ricky: I dunno... may go to the docks... hide on a a boat... go wherever it takes me.

Ted: No, you can't do that... you might get sea sick or something... do you get sea sick?

Ricky: Dunno.

Ted: You look the type who does... no forget the boat... you can't always run away Ricky... sometimes you gotta stay and sort things out. Oh no!

Ricky: What?

Ted: Look at the time!

Ricky: Five o'clock...!... and I haven't got the money!.... I'm finished!... the playground is going to painted Red with my blood.!

Ted: And look who's coming.

Ricky: Big Spender.

Ted: And all his gang.

Ricky: What am I going to do?... what am I going to do!!!!

**The End**