



Ricky's Fate

Characters: Ted, Ricky, Daisy, Iris, Anita, Big Dollar, Hammer, Social Worker, Headmistress, Miss Ho, Miss Perkins

Synopsis: The social worker decrees that Ricky must leave his friend's Ted's family and go back to his family home. But Ricky does not want to go as his father is a violent, drunken abusive man. But the school and the social worker concur that Ricky must go back to his family home. Ricky says a fond farewell to Li Bin and then ...he runs away.

Scene 1 Reprise

Ricky: Ted.
Ted: Yes Ricky?
Ricky: The social worker wants to see me.
Ted: What DOES he want to talk to you about Ricky?
Ricky: About going back home.
Ted: But you live with me and my family... you can live there for as long as you want.
Ricky: I heard your parents talking.
Ted: About what?
Ricky: They said it was time for me to go home... Your Mum was telling your father to get in contact with the social worker.
Ted: The social worker?
Ricky: Yes, she said something needed to be worked out... she said I needed to go back home and live with my own mum and dad... and I won't. I hate them... I really hate them.
Ted: Leave this to me Ricky boy... leave this to me.

Music

Ted: Um, Mum... Ricky CAN keep staying with us can't he?
Mum: Ted, Ricky's been staying with us for the past three months... it's time

he went home... to his own mother and father.

Ted: But his father treats him more like a dog than a son... he beats him.

Mum: Ted, I'm sorry to hear that but... well... that's not really our problem.

Ted: But we can't send Ricky back to be beaten by his Dad!

Mum: Ted, stop worrying about it... it's all in the hands of the social worker now... now run along and finish your homework before dinner's ready.

Music

(SFX: Bell rings)

Mr C: Damn! That's him... the social worker! Now Daisy you mind what you say... Ricky's been telling them all sorts of lies about me... telling them I'm some kind of monster or something... and I don't want them thinking it's true.

(SFX: Bell rings again)

Mr C: Daisy... answer the door.

Daisy: Daddy... I won't tell them you hit Ricky.

Mr C: Thank you Daisy... you're a good girl.

Daisy: (Wheedling voice) Daddy... I saw this wonderful pair of shoes in Fabulous Walk... but... I can't afford them.

Mr C: How much are they?

Daisy: Only eight hundred dollars.

Mr C: Eight hundred?

(SFX: Bell rings again)

Mr C: Okay, okay... here you are.

Daisy: Thanks Daddy

Mr C: Now go on...

Music

S.W.: Well Mister Chiu, I've really come to talk to you and Mrs Chiu about your son Ricky.

Daisy: Bye everybody.

S.W.: Um... are you going out Daisy?
Daisy: Yeah... I'm going to buy some shoes... Daddy's just given me the money for them... you see what a nice Daddy I've got.
S.W.: I was rather hoping Daisy could stay and join in the conversation.
Daisy: But I want to buy my shoes! I don't have to stay do I daddy?
S.W.: It's about your brother Daisy... I'm trying to help your brother come back home... your input could be very helpful in getting him back.
Daisy: But I want to buy those shoes... if I don't get them now someone else might buy them and THEN what am I going to do?! Okay... be quick... what do you want to know?
S.W.: Well I just wanted to explore the possibility of Ricky coming back home... he's been away for... how long now?
Mr C: Um... oh... um... how long is it Daisy dear?
Daisy: I dunno... the longer the better.
Mr C: Daisy... don't say that about your little brother... (To S.W.) She's only joking... Daisy and Ricky are very close as brother and sister... very close indeed.
Daisy: Is that it? Can I go now?
S.W.: I really came here to ask if Ricky can come back home.
Mr C: Um... do I get any extra benefits if he comes back?
S.W.: That depends on your tax situation.
Mr C: I don't mind having him back but he's a big mouth to feed you know... he eats like a horse... now if I could have a special allowance... just to help me out a bit...
S.W.: (Interrupting) Mister Chiu... Misses Chiu... Daisy... do you, as a family... want Ricky back?
Mrs C: I'd better go to the kitchen.
Daisy: I'm going to go and get those shoes!

Music

(SFX: Knock on the door)

S.W.: Come in.

(SFX: Door opens)

S.W.: Please... sit down.

Ricky: No thanks, I don't need to sit down... I'm not staying... I just came here to tell you that I'm not going back home no matter what you say.

S.W.: Ricky... do you think we could chat a bit first... I want to ask a few questions... get an idea of how things are.

Ricky: What's the point?... we'll chat chat chat and then you'll tell me I have to go back home, and I won't... so I thought I might as well tell you now... just to make things clear.

S.W.: Ricky... I know you might not think your home is a perfect one but it IS your home and you DO have a mother and father and a sister... many boys I talk to don't have a family... you should be grateful.

Ricky: Huh! Grateful for what?... for my father's fists?

S.W.: Ricky... after you go back home I shall come and visit you.

Ricky: Forget it... I'm not going?

S.W.: I'll make sure everything's alright and IF for any reason it isn't... you can tell me.

Ricky: And what if it isn't all right? what will you do then?

S.W.: Well... there are special homes.

Ricky: So that's the deal is it? Either go home and get beaten up by my father or go to a boy's home and get beaten up by the bullies there.

S.W.: Try and look at it in a positive light Ricky.

Scene 2

Ted: Hey Ricks. What did the social worker say?

Ricky: I HATE social workers... they don't know anything.

Ted: Why? What did he say?

Ricky: He's sending me back home.

Ted: Oh no... so you won't be living with me and my family anymore.

Ricky: No.

Ted: We'll miss you Ricky.

Ricky: I don't want to go back home.

Ted: Stay with my family then.

Ricky: How can I? Your mother and father don't want me there any more.

Ted: Oh no... here comes trouble just when we don't need it.

Daisy: (Giggling) Hello little brother.

Ricky: What do YOU want?

Daisy: Hey Ricky boy... don't talk to your big sis like that.

Ricky: Go away!

Daisy: Ricky... you better be nice to me or I'll tell Dad and you know what HE'll do to you if you're nasty to me.

Ricky: Who cares... vanish... drop dead... fly away... fall down a hole.

Daisy: Big Dollar... are you going to just stand there and let this little punk talk to me like that?!

Ted: Um Daisy... Big Dollar... hey guys... give Ricky a break... he's feeling... you know... a bit... well... like being alone?

Daisy: (Giggles, sarcastic) Ah, poor little Ricky... what's wrong with him... doesn't he want to come home? ... doesn't he want Daddy being angry with him? Ah... poor little boy scared of his da-da.

Anita: Is Ricky going to live with you again Daisy?

Daisy: (Sarcastic) Yes... my little brother is coming home... isn't that nice.

Iris: Will your Dad hit him Daisy.

Daisy: (Giggling nastily) I suppose so... IF he's a naughty boy.

Hammer: Can I come and watch?

Daisy: If you want to Hammer.

Anita: And me too... I want to watch too Daisy.

Daisy: Of course you can Anita... you can all come... ring side seats and they'll only cost you a hundred dollars each.

Big Dollar: A hundred dollars.

Daisy: For a rinf side seat? Cheap?

All: (Everyone except Ted laughs nastily)

Ricky: (angry) Clear off... clear off the lot of you.

Daisy: Tell him Big Dollar ... tell his to give me some respect!

Big Dollar: Hey Ricky... watch your mouth... or I'll fill it full of fist.

Daisy: Huh... he's just a silly boy Big Dollar... you can squash him you're your hands tied behind your back.

Ricky: Stupid!

Big Dollar: Hey Ricky... don't speak to my girlfriend like that!

Ricky: YOUR girlfriend Big Dollar... MY sister... worse luck.

Anita: Ricky's so nasty... poor Daisy.

Iris: Yes, poor Daisy.

Both: Poor poor Daisy.

Hammer: Shall I kick him Boss.

Big Dollar: Hey Daisy... want us to teach your little brother some manners?

Ricky: Manners? ... what do you know about manners?

Ted: Hey guys... please... look... Ricky's not feeling too good to-day... how about just, you know... giving him a bit of peace...

Big Dollar: Hey little man... are you trying to tell ME... Big Dollar what to do?
Hammer: Shall I hammer him Boss?
Ted: No please guys... don't hurt him... he's hurt enough already.
Big Dollar: Are you trying to tell me what to do little teddy bear boy?
Ted: No Big Dollar, of course not... I wouldn't tell an important guy like YOU what to do. I'm just saying...
Hammer: (Interrupting) Hey Boss... let me stamp on his feet with my boots.
Ted: Hey Hammer... sweet of you to suggest doing that but... um... my shoes are flat enough without you stomping all over them.
Daisy: See how pathetic my little brother is... he has to have his little teddy bear friend here to protect him.
Ricky: No I don't...I can take care of myself.
Daisy: Really? Hey Big Dollar... Hammer... see if little Ricky bounces.
Anita & Iris: Yes... see if Ricky bounces... like a ball (they giggle together).
Ted: Hey Daisy... Ricky's your brother... what you want to get him hurt for?
Daisy: Listen Ted, you creep... my little brother here got me in BIG trouble over the fight at Bendyburgers.
Ricky: You started it!
Daisy: (Angry) And now the Headmistress said I've got to write all those silly letters to everyone saying sorry... and it's all because of YOU RICKY!
Ricky: What you worried about sister... can't you write or something? Huh?
Daisy: Get him Big Dollar... kick him Hammer... let's give him a taste of what he can expect back home from dad.
Big Dollar: Grab his arms Hammer.
Ricky: Don't touch me.
Ted: Leave him alone (SFX: Smack in the face) Ouch.
Iris & Anita: Wa! Hammer smacked Ted in the face! Wa! Wa! Wa!
Hammer: (Shouting) Now clear off teddy bear!
Ricky: It's alright Ted... go... I'll be alright.
Ted: (In pain) My eye! I can't see anything, can't see!!
Iris & Anita: The Teddy Bear can't see! Can't see!
Ricky: Go Ted... before they do it again.
Iris & Anita: Yes, go Teddy Bear... go, go, go!
Ricky: What are you waiting for Ted... leave... now... before he does it again!
Iris & Anita: Do it again Hammer... do it again!
Hammer: Here Teddy Bear a nice big kick up your teddy bear backside.

Ted: Ouch!
Iris & Anita: Hammer kicked Teddy Bear. Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!
Big Dollar: (Laughing nastily) Nice one Hammer... a big boot up his backside...
just what that little punk needed.
Ted: (Running off nearly crying) I'm telling of you! I'm telling, I'm telling!

(SFX: Big Dollar and Hammer laugh at Ted)

Ricky: Right Big Dollar... you asked for it!

(SFX: Smack in the face)

Big Dollar: Ouch!
Iris & Anita: Oh no! Ricky hit Big Dollar in the face!
Big Dollar: (Angry) Okay Ricky boy... I'll teach you to hit me. Hammer! Kill!
Hammer: Okay Boss.
Ricky: Stay away Hammer... I said stay away! (SFX: Smack in the face)
Ouch!
Iris & Anita: Ricky's hit Hammer! Ouch, ouch, ouch!
Hammer: Hey Ricky! That's not fair... That hurt.
Iris & Anita: Ricky hurt Hammer... Ricky hurt Hammer!
Hammer: My face... it's bleeding.
Ricky: (Solicitous) Let's see Hammer....
Hammer: Ouch... careful Ricky... it's sore.
Ricky: No Hammer... it's not bleeding... I've just bust a few of your spot
That's all.
Hammer: Really?

(SFX: Smack in the face)

Ricky: But you are bleeding now!
Iris & Anita: Hammer's bleeding... oooo there's blood.
Daisy: Hey! Big Dollar! Don't just stand there you big baboon! Get Ricky!
Teach him a lesson!
Big Dollar: Hey Daisy... last time you started a fight between me and Ricky I
nearly got into big trouble.
Daisy: Huh! I thought you were a man Big Dollar... but your not a man...
you're a MOUSE!

Big Dollar: Yes Daisy and this mouse doesn't want to get expelled, okay?
Daisy: Hammer... you're a man... hit him... hit Ricky!
Hammer: (Whining) I can't... my face is bleeding... my pretty face is all covered in blood.
Daisy: Huh! Two mice!
Iris & Anita: Two mice, two mice--- squeak, squeak, squeak!
Ricky: Right I'm leaving.
Daisy: See you later Ricky boy... and don't think you've got away with this... I'm telling Dad... I'm telling him everything and you know what that means don't you.
Ricky: Get lost Daisy... you make me sick.
Daisy: (Calling after him) You're the one's going to be sick when dad finishes with you... Okay. Come on Iris, come on Anita... let's leave these two weak little mice and go and find some real men.
Iris: Hammer... what happened to you... I thought you were big and strong.
Hammer: I am Iris... I am big and strong... but I want to look pretty for you and Ricky's made a mess of me.
Iris: Huh! Who wants a pretty mouse! I want a big strong man not a pretty little mouse.
Hammer: (Whining) But Iris... look... my face is cut... come and kiss it better Iris... please..
Iris: Go and ask your mother to kiss it better... I won't! Huh!... you're not a real Hammer... you're a paper hammer.
Iris & Anita: Paper Hammer Paper Hammer.
Daisy: And you... you're not a Big Dollar you're a tiny ten cent coin.
Iris & Anita: Ten cents... ten cents.
Daisy: Huh! Come on Iris... come on Anita... let's leave these two mice to squeak together.
Big Dollar: Daisy, come back.
Hammer: Iris come back.
Daisy: What? For a mouse? No way!
Iris: Good bye little mouse.
Iris & Anita: Squeak little mice... squeak squeak squeak, (pause)
Daisy: Mmmm... it's going to be such fun tonight watching Dad beating the living daylights out of Ricky... (giggles nastily) Welcome home Ricky... (giggles nastily) welcome home...

Interval

Scene 3

Head: Miss Perkins, Miss Ho... I've called you here to discuss Ricky Chiu with Mister Poon... as you know Mister Poon has been the school's social worker for some time... he is a very experienced professional and I want you to listen to him carefully.

Miss P: Of course.

Miss Ho: What's... what's the problem?

S.W.: You may or may not have known that Ricky Chiu ran away from home three months ago.

Miss P: Huh! I'm not surprised... His poor parents... I don't know how they could have put up with him.

Miss Ho: But he's living with Ted's family isn't he?

S.W.: Yes.

Miss P: Poor people... and I suppose now they want to get rid of him.

S.W.: Well Ted's mother did contact me... and, yes... she does want Ricky to move back to his own home.

Miss P: I don't blame her... the poor woman has been a saint to put up with the likes of Ricky Chiu.

Miss Ho: But does Ricky WANT to go back Mister Poon... I mean why did he run away in the first place?

Miss P: Want to go back Miss Ho?! It's his home, of course he has to go back.

Miss Ho: Not all homes are good homes Miss Perkins.

S.W.: Well actually Miss Ho... Ricky doesn't want to go home.

Miss P: But he must!

S.W.: Um...well... he has little choice in the matter.

Miss Ho: If Ricky doesn't go home where else can he go?

S.W.: An institution... a boy's home.

Miss Ho: But I've heard there's a lot of bullying and violence in those places.

Head: Miss Ho... we should be grateful for such institutions... we should lend them our support... not undermine them by spreading unsubstantiated rumours about them.

Miss Ho: But Headmistress... I've read articles in the newspapers...

Head: Which you should take with a pinch of salt Miss Ho.

Miss P: Huh... if we all believed everything we read in the papers we'd all be chumps.

Miss Ho: I beg your pardon Miss Ho! Are you calling me a...

Head: Ladies, ladies... please... we are here to discuss the fate of Ricky Chiu... not the veracity or otherwise of the daily press... now let us attend to what the social worker has to say for he knows best.

S.W.: It's not an ideal situation I grant you Miss Ho... the home is dysfunctional to some extent.

Miss P: It will be when Ricky Chiu returns to it.

Head: Miss Perkins... please... listen first... comment after you have listened...

Miss P: Yes Headmistress... I'm sorry... but I get emotional about such things.

S.W.: Ricky claims his father beats him.

Miss Ho: Then he mustn't go back!

S.W.: But we have NO proof Miss Ho... none whatsoever.

Miss Ho: But you said he TOLD you...

Miss P: Huh... Ricky Chiu would say anything to anyone if he thought it would get him out of trouble.

Miss Ho: But we can't send him back to be beaten!

Head: Miss Ho... please... you heard the social worker... he said these claims are unsubstantiated.

Miss Ho: So you don't believe him Mister Poon?

S.W.: I...I'm not sure.

Miss Ho: There you are...if there's doubt then the boy is at risk he CAN'T go back to a place where he is beaten.

S.W.: But Miss Ho... the boy's home is not a soft option you know.

Miss Ho: Why can't he stay where he is?

S.W.: Ted's family... well... they've had enough.

Miss P: I don't blame them!

Head: Mister Poon is recommending that Ricky return home.

S.W.: I will pay weekly visits.

Miss Ho: Surprise visits?

S.W.: No... no I'm afraid not... I'll have to make an appointment with his parents.

Miss Ho: So what's the use?! They'll be expecting you and act as good as gold... and it will all be a sham... a complete sham!

Head: Miss Ho... Mister Poon DOES know what he's doing I can assure you.

S.W.: There's nothing else I can do Miss Ho... believe me... I share your concerns but... for Ricky... going back home is... well... the best option.

Miss P: He's lucky to have a home to go back to! Some kids haven't even got a

home.

Miss Ho: And they may just be the lucky ones Miss Perkins.

Miss P: (Outraged) Well! What a thing to say! What a TERRIBLE thing to say!

Scene 4

Li Bin: Ricky! Ricky there you are! Ted has just told me... he said you had to go back home! And he said Daisy and big Dollar and Hammer were hitting you! Are you alright?

Ricky: Yes... no.

Li Bin: Did they hurt you?!

Ricky: I don't care about Big Dollar and Hammer... it's going back home... s

Li Bin: But Ricky... it's your home... your mother and father....

Ricky: I don't mind my mum... she's alright... it's him... my father... I hate him.

Li Bin: But I love my father and Ricky... you should love your father too.

Ricky: Huh... don't compare my father with YOUR father.

Li Bin: But he must love you Ricky... maybe he doesn't know how to say it to you.

Ricky: My father doesn't speak with his mouth... he speaks with his fists.

Li Bin: He beats you?

Ricky: Yes.

Li Bin: That's terrible!

Ricky: The social worker says I have to go back.

Li Bin: When?

Ricky: Tonight.

Li Bin: Tonight?! So soon?!

Ricky: Ted's parents are fed up with me... they want me to go.

Li Bin: But I thought everything was okay there.

Ricky: It is... but I've been there three months and they think it's time for me to go... and they're right... they've been good to me... so... what can I do.

Li Bin: Oh Ricky... you look so sad... I can't bear it when you look so sad. Here... let me... let hold you.

Ricky: No... no don't.

Li Bin: But Ricky... you look so sad... it's breaking my heart... I want to comfort you... look... my arms are open... and they're open for you Ricky.

Ricky: You mustn't.

Li Bin: Why Ricky? Why can't you hold me in your arms and make my troubles go away.

Ricky: Because... if I come into your arms... (struggling with his emotions)... I might... cry.

Li Bin: Cry if you want to Ricky... cry in my arms I don't care... there's nothing wrong in crying... we all have to cry sometimes... if we don't... we explode.

Ricky: No Li Bin... I can't... please... I just can't..

Li Bin: But Ricky... I care for you... I really really care for you.

Ricky: I care for you too Li Bin.

Li Bin: Do you Ricky... do you really?

Ricky: Li Bin... I'm not good at speaking... I cannot say what I am feeling because... I don't know how to... but if you could read, my heart... like a book... you would see written there words like diamonds... words so strong... that nothing could break them...nothing.

Li Bin: Oh Ricky... it will be alright... you'll see... Go home and do your best... just go to your room at night and in the morning come to school... and I promise you... every day I shall be waiting for you... with a smile... a special smile just for you Ricky.

Ricky: (Very emotional) Thank you Li Bin... your smile... would be the greatest gift anyone ever gave me.

Li Bin: (Pause) Ricky I'm frightened.

Ricky: Why?

Li Bin: I don't know... I just feel as if something terrible is going to happen... please please take care of yourself Ricky won't you.

Ricky: Li Bin... there are only things in the whole world that make my life worth living--- you Li Bin--- you.

Li Bin: I shall always be here for you Ricky... always... waiting at the school gate every morning with a smile.

Ricky: I must go now Li Bin.

Li Bin: Are you going to your father's house?

Ricky: That is where they have ordered me to go.

Li Bin: Oh Ricky, it will be okay... you'll see.

Ricky: Goodbye Li Bin... goodbye.

Li Bin: Ricky don't say goodbye like that... such good byes make my heart stop beating... I'll see you tomorrow bright and early, I'll be at the school gate at seven o'clock waiting for you Ricky... waiting for you.

Goodbye Ricky... goodbye my dearest dearest friend... (To herself)
Oh Ricky... Ricky... I love you so much... so very much.

Scene 5

Head: Miss Perkins... Miss Ho... have you seen Ricky Chiu.
Both: No headmistress.
Miss Ho: Why do you ask Headmistress is anything wrong?
Head: Yes Miss Ho, something is very wrong... Ricky did not go home last night... the police were informed and a full search has taken place but he is nowhere to be found.
Miss Ho: Oh no... the poor boy... he must have hated the idea of going back to his father's house so much that he ran away.
Miss P: Causing trouble again as usual... there's no end to it with that boy he's nothing but trouble trouble trouble.
Miss Ho: Miss Perkins... I had great respect for that boy.
Miss P: (Contemptuous) What?! Respect for Ricky Chiu?! Really Miss Ho... you go too far you really do.
Head: If either of you should see Ricky please contact me immediately.
Both: Yes Headmistress.
Head: Miss Ho... maybe you could make inquiries amongst his friends... see if he has tried to contact any of them.
Miss Ho: Yes Headmistress.
Head: You too Miss Perkins.
Miss P: I'll ask Daisy... she might know.
Miss Ho: I would have thought Daisy was the LAST person Ricky would contact.
Miss P: But Daisy's his sister.
Miss Ho: Huh... some sister.
Head: Ah Mister Poon... thank you so much for coming... you've heard what's happened.
S.W.: Yes and I'm very sorry to hear it... very sorry indeed.
Miss Ho: You should never have ordered him back home... anyone with a dram of sensitivity could see the boy was terrified of going back.
S.W.: Miss Ho... if you are implying that I lack sensitivity-.
Head: Miss Ho... please... apologize to Mister Poon at once! I will not have a respected school social worker spoken to in such a way.
Miss Ho: Headmistress I did not mean to...

Head: Miss Ho apologize NOW or face the consequences.
Miss Ho: I see... very well... Mister Poon... if my words were taken amiss I am
Sorry... I merely anted to say that I think it was WRONG to send
Ricky Chiu back to a home dominated by a drunken abusive father!!
Head: Miss Ho! Kindly leave my office--. immediately!
Miss P: Well! Honestly!
S.W.: (Calling after Miss Ho) I was trying to do my best... I wanted to help
the boy... what else could I do?!!

(Fade on his final words)

Scene 6

Li Bin: Oh Ricky... Ricky, Ricky... now I know why my blood was running
cold yesterday when we were saying goodbye... I'm such a fool... I
should have known... I should have packed my bags and ran away
with you Ricky... and now you've gone... who knows where... and
when will I see you again Ricky?... when?... and I didn't even have
the courage to tell you... that I love you Ricky... I love you very very
much.

The End