

Spook's Breath

By

Lee Betteridge

For Impact50

FADE IN

EXT. HOUSE DOORSTEP - DAY

KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCK!

By a front door waits CANDY (5) and her mum, MOIRA (20s), hand-in-hand. Moira is pale and troubled.

CANDY
So why might he want to hug me?

MOIRA
He just might, that's all.

CANDY
And why am I to let him? He's a stranger-

MOIRA
He's not. Not really. He knew you when you were very very little.

The door opens and HOWARD (40s) stares out. He's a mess, has been crying. He is confused by the pair of visitors.

CANDY
Hi. My name's Candy. Short for Candyfloss. My grandma, who's from South Arctica -

MOIRA
Africa!

Candy gives Moira a look: Whatever!

CANDY
She calls me Spook, because candy floss is called spookasem there, and that means spook's breath!

Howard looks from Candy to Moira.

HOWARD
I'm sorry- Do I know you?

MOIRA
Yes and no. I was so sorry to hear about your wife.

Howard nods sadly.

(CONTINUED)

MOIRA (cont'd)
What I'm about to tell you...
Please just... Think of Candy.

She puts a protective arm round her daughter.

HOWARD
What... Who are you?

Moira struggles to know how to say what she needs to say.

MOIRA
I named her Candy. My mum called
her Spook... You called her Rosa.

HOWARD
(Shocked)
Rosa was snatched from her pram-

He claps a hand to his mouth. Eyes dart from Moira to Candy.

HOWARD (cont'd)
(Furious, to Moira)
You-

MOIRA
I'm so sorry.

HOWARD
Five years! That's why my wife...
Did what she did!

Moira cannot meet his gaze.

Howard regards Candy with such pain. Tears squeeze free.

MOIRA
Do you have anyone with you? For
the end?

Howard cannot speak so shakes his head.

MOIRA (cont'd)
Could we..?

Howard's eyes widen at Moira. He nods his head, looks at Candy and gives a wracking sob.

Candy steps forward and wraps her little arms round his waist in a tight squeeze.