

Kiss Me Ruby

A short play by
Rodrigo Baumgartner Ayres

rodrigo@directorayres.com
directorayres.com

CAST OF CHARACTERS

RUBY (30s), a prostitute trying to quit her promiscuous life.

SIMON (30s), a film director on the eve of a long and risky film trip to South America.

SETTING

Ruby's bedroom.

TIME

The present.

LOGLINE

A director on the eve of a dangerous film trip to South America struggles to say goodbye to a prostitute whom he has developed feelings for.

SYNOPSIS

Simon had been struggling in his film career after being fired from a big directing gig, but found support on the arms of Ruby, a prostitute recommended to him by an actor called Patrick. During six months of 'consulting' with Ruby both physically and psychologically, Simon put together a new daring project to be shot in the dangerous jungles of South America. He comes to see Ruby one last time on the eve of the voyage, but finds it difficult to say goodbye as he has grown very fond of her. Ruby is the one who surprises him by revealing she has developed true feelings for him and wishes to come together on the trip. Caught off guard, Simon must decide if he loves her back and if it would be prudent to bring her along. The many obstacles involved, such as the dangers of the jungle, tight budget, and the fact that Patrick knows she's a hooker, might prove to be too many for Simon to take her. Ruby threatens she won't be around anymore if and when Simon comes back, because she can't wait on a dangerous trip that has no date of return, and risks so high as to become a 'one-way trip'. Today might be the last day they see each other and their last chance for love.

KISS ME RUBY

(SIMON (30s) and RUBY (30s) make sex noises.)

Oh yeah. That's it. SIMON

Yeah? RUBY

Yeah, yeah. SIMON

Yeah! RUBY

Yeaaaah! SIMON

Yes! RUBY

(They orgasm.)

(LIGHTS UP. A bedroom is revealed. Simon and Ruby are in bed under the sheets.)

Baby, I love you baby. SIMON

I love you too darling. RUBY

(He's embarrassed.)

Wow, that came out of nowhere. I'm sorry. SIMON

Don't worry, it's ok. RUBY

Do your other clients say shit like this? SIMON

Right. Ahm, yeah, these things happen. RUBY

Right. SIMON

RUBY

The heat of the moment, right?

SIMON

Right, I don't know why I got embarrassed. I guess I do love you in a way and I just wanted to say that I'm going to miss this. I'm going to miss this a lot.

RUBY

You are?

SIMON

I wish I had a little more time.

RUBY

Do you wish we had more time?

SIMON

But then I would just be giving excuses wouldn't I? Thanks to you I don't do that shit anymore.

RUBY

Right. Good job Mr. Director.

SIMON

Thank you. I mean, of course I'm a little nervous and since you can see right through me I won't even try to hide it, but because of you I feel good, you know? I feel patient. I know there will be a lot of conflict on this trip and everything's gonna go wrong all the time. But that's ok. Conflict is good.

RUBY

I wish we had more time.

SIMON

That's so cute. I'm so sorry my money is going away from you.

RUBY

Right... Haha...

SIMON

All right, I get it. I'm taking off. Just let me find my clothes.

RUBY

No, not at all.

(Simon finds his watch.)

SIMON

Shit, 6:30pm, my assistant will start calling me soon. All right. Life. What am I doing. I... Let me get out of here, I don't want to mess with your precious schedule. I'm sure you have more clients coming in soon.

RUBY

What? You know I don't bring anybody here.

SIMON

Time is money.

(Simon clumsily puts his clothes on.)

RUBY

Hey, just calm down. All is gonna be there for you just where you left it.

SIMON

What?

RUBY

I mean... Hurry up? You're gonna fuck it up?

SIMON

Right.

RUBY

Directors are always early... Right?

SIMON

Yep, fun time is over, unfortunately. Now it's the important stuff. Business.

RUBY

Yes sir...

(Simon is ready to go. They look at each other.)

SIMON

(Tries to 'french it up')

Avant que je ne parte, mon cheri, je veux juste dire, merci. J'espère vous revoir. Au revoir.

(Simon kisses Ruby's hand.)

RUBY

That was beautiful.

SIMON

All right, see you in six months. I mean, if I don't get shot by some crazy narco or something, right?

(Simon walks to the door.)

RUBY

Are you not forgetting anything?

SIMON

Holy shit, I almost forgot to pay you.

RUBY

Oh, no. Not that...

SIMON

Yes, I did.

RUBY

Don't worry about it, honestly, just pay me next time? I was thinking-

(Simon checks his wallet.)

SIMON

Next time? That will take months. I mean, literally this whole production just might go south because I have no money to pay for it and if that's the case I might never see you again.

RUBY

Really?

SIMON

No, I mean, I do have money to pay you now, obviously, but probably not to get the shooting done and then come back to America and-

RUBY

No, Simon, just relax for a minute.

SIMON

Right, I'm rambling, no second thoughts. A director always knows what he is doing even if he doesn't.

RUBY

Yes...

SIMON

\$250?

No. RUBY

No, right, extra time. SIMON

No! RUBY

(Simon checks his watch.)

6:35pm. And I thought you were supposed to keep track of time. SIMON

Simon. RUBY

It's ok, I forgot it too. Let's call it another \$100 then? SIMON

It's not about the money. RUBY

(Simon senses something in Ruby's tone but prefers not to indulge.)

No. Of course I'll pay you. I told you, 'therapy' is in the budget. Oh, I almost forgot. I've been wanting to do this for a long time. Ready? SIMON

(Simon tosses \$1 bills in the air.)

I shower you with gold my diva! SIMON

Woo... RUBY

You see? I brought the bills. My wallet was like so thick. SIMON

(Ruby is not excited but catches a couple of gliding bills and places them in her bra.)

Don't you think that's funny? You seem a little... What's wrong? SIMON

RUBY
Nothing.

SIMON
Is it because I'm leaving?

RUBY
What? Of course not...

SIMON
Right. Didn't think so.

RUBY
I was just thinking that...

SIMON
Hum?

RUBY
You could use more 'therapy'.

SIMON
Hum?

RUBY
And I could use some time off.

SIMON
What?

RUBY
God damn it, do I have to spell it out for you?

SIMON
What?

RUBY
Can't you take me with you?

SIMON
What?

RUBY
I don't know, it's just something I was thinking. Take a vacation or something.

SIMON
You want to come to South America with me?

RUBY
Maybe?

SIMON

Are you being serious right now?

RUBY

I can help, no? Like I was helping with the castings?

SIMON

Well, I am going to be working, yes, in the middle of the jungle! Where you can't wear your pretty clothes that you look so beautiful. I told, it's so rainy and damp over there your clothes don't get dry for days. Plus the bugs, diseases, rebel groups...

RUBY

Like in 'Hearts of Darkness', I get it. A filmmaker's real life nightmarish adventure.

SIMON

Plus, I'm pretty sure I got all the help I can afford.

RUBY

You don't have to pay me anything. I can pay for my own ticket, and what's even better, I can be an investor. So you see. You paid me for... 'Therapy', and I'll pay you for... Accompanying me in an adventure.

SIMON

Ok... I'm gonna go..? I have a meeting...

RUBY

We could make it work.

SIMON

...And everyone is probably there already, and I'm in charge. I'm the director...

RUBY

We could keep each other company.

SIMON

...The plane leaves tomorrow, I have to explain everything to the entire crew today, there's a major investor I still have to secure, the whole enterprise might be ruined! I mean, odds of that happening are already like, so high.

RUBY

Nobody would know. We would be mixing business with pleasure.

SIMON

You're not kidding, ok, first of all-

RUBY

Except for Patrick of course.

SIMON

Exactly. Patrick.

RUBY

He's such a nice guy though, he wouldn't give us any problems.

SIMON

Is he now? Nice in what sense?

RUBY

Don't even start, you know I exercise full discretion with all my clients.

SIMON

Fucking actor is already nagging me for more lines. If I bring you along-

RUBY

Well, if it weren't for him you wouldn't have met the love of your life.

SIMON

Exactly. The fucking guy knows how happy you make me. He knows me too well.

RUBY

Just man up. If he keeps asking you for stuff just cut him off.

SIMON

Just man up... If Patrick knows then Wanda knows. And if Wanda knows then everybody will know.

RUBY

Wanda is a troglodyte and a bitch, I don't know why you cast her.

SIMON

Jungle? Hiking? Narcos?

RUBY

Yes, I get the troglodyte part.

SIMON

Whatever, that's not the point I'm trying to make.

RUBY

You're afraid.

SIMON

No, that's not the point either.

RUBY

Mixing business with pleasure.

SIMON

Yes. That's what got me in trouble in the first place.

RUBY

I know.

SIMON

I got fired for freaking out on set and snapping at my producer. Why? Because I took something personal when I shouldn't. And did my long lasting friendship with him make any difference when I called to apologize? Of course not, the damage was done.

RUBY

You're afraid.

SIMON

No. No more mixing business with pleasure. That's the best decision. Otherwise you just ruin everything.

RUBY

We have been seeing each other for six months, I think I know a little bit about you at this point.

SIMON

Shit Ruby, c'mon, if you want to take a vacation go somewhere else, you have the entire world. Definitely not the middle of the jungle. I mean, ok if it happens that you are in South America in the same country as me, and in a hotel, I guess we can meet for a quicky.

RUBY

You would like that wouldn't you?

SIMON

Yes, but I have more important things to worry about right now.

RUBY

Then what is keeping you?

SIMON

You are!

RUBY

Am I? Are you sure? Because I don't think so.

SIMON

Yes, I'm ready to go.

(Simon's PHONE RINGS.)

SIMON

Look, Clarence is calling me. I have to go.

RUBY

I won't be here when you come back. If you ever come back.

(Simon answers the phone.)

SIMON

(Into phone)

Clarence. I'll be right there ok? I know the investor is there. Just pull your shit together Clarence, just stall them. What? Of course I care about this movie, I literally went broke because of it, what sort of question is that? No, we're not losing it. This movie is my baby, and I'm not losing my baby. Fuck. Just calm the fuck down! I'll be right there.

(Simon hangs up the phone.)

SIMON

Clarence... He's freaking out already. I have to go.

RUBY

Goodbye then.

SIMON

Goodbye. I don't know why you're doing this. You're really sort of ruining this for me because the idea of seeing you again was actually bringing me some comfort. Anyway-

RUBY

Because I fucking love you, you stupid ass.

(Simon is speechless.)

RUBY

There. I said it. I don't want you to go without me.

(Simon is playful.)

SIMON
I mean... I love you too darling?

RUBY
No...

SIMON
Holy shit.

RUBY
Surprise...

SIMON
No, no, no. Nobody loves me.

RUBY
I do.

SIMON
I mean, my mom did but that's because she carried me for nine months and I came out of her vagina.

RUBY
You've opened up to me so many times. You're funny and cute and sad and I think I have a thing for sad guys, I feel pity for them-

SIMON
Got it. Yes, I agree, I am depressing.

RUBY
No wait, let me explain.

SIMON
Thank you, I appreciate your pity.

RUBY
With you is different. You know? I know you.

SIMON
No, you don't. You're not my fucking therapist, you're a hooker. Ok? How about we go back to being honest with each other here.

RUBY
Do you think it's fair that you got to open up to me so many times and made me listen to all your bullshit.

SIMON
Wow!

RUBY

And I didn't get to open up not once.

SIMON

First of all, bullshit?

RUBY

First of all, hooker?

SIMON

I'm paying you.

RUBY

I just thought that... I'm so fucking stupid. Why do you do this Ruby? Why do you do this! Ruby!

SIMON

You're so unfair. You had plenty of opportunities to say whatever you wanted.

RUBY

No I didn't.

SIMON

But you were always so... Boss. I never thought-

RUBY

That's the job. It didn't seem smart to mix business with pleasure. But after listening to you-

SIMON

What? I said the opposite.

RUBY

You said the opposite but what you actually meant was the opposite of the opposite.

SIMON

Well I'm sorry, but I thought I was saying what I was saying.

RUBY

Is that all you have to say?

SIMON

If it makes you feel any better I've been told that I'm like a vampire. That I suck people's energies to feed my ego and make everyone around me feel miserable. And it never stops, because I'm a depthless well. The emptiness inside of me can never be fulfilled. Best thing for you is to stay as far away from me as possible.

RUBY

You told me that already. In different words but meaning the same thing.

SIMON

How can I possibly love you back, Ruby? I'm not gonna date a... Call-girl.

RUBY

Right... Got it. Forget about it. Let's not make a big deal out of this. I was just kidding. And you better go. You're running late.

(Simon checks his watch.)

SIMON

Yeah, shit. At this point I should probably spend on an Uber.

(Simon checks his phone.)

SIMON

Great, there's a 'Mohamed' only five minutes away... Done.

RUBY

Ok. Have a safe trip, thank you for your business. Now get out.

SIMON

Ruby-

RUBY

Go away.

SIMON

Ruby, I'm sorry.

RUBY

Get out! Get out of here! Do you want to see me cry you fucking asshole? Go away and never come back.

SIMON

Fuck man. Why the women I like never like me and the women I don't like, do! No, I mean, it's not that I don't like you. I mean... All this time I thought we were being honest with each other but now you are telling me that it was all a lie?

RUBY

No, I thought I was being honest too, but then for once in my life I started feeling something different than ego, or pity or envy. And you gave me that.

So, I'm sorry that I told you, but I'm also really glad that I did because I would regret it so much more if I didn't.

SIMON

I don't know what to say.

RUBY

Of course you don't. It's not fair what I did to you. And now you're gonna be late for your meeting and it's my fault. I'm sorry, it's just something I do, I repeatedly ruin other people's lives just so I can blame myself for it.

SIMON

You're kind of like a vampire like me.

RUBY

Yes, but with a burden of blame.

SIMON

Do you want to talk about it?

RUBY

How the tables have turned.

SIMON

I can't give you good feedback though. Best I can do is an awkward tap at the back.

RUBY

I appreciate your pity.

SIMON

You're welcome.

RUBY

...A long time ago I ran away from home because I thought I could make it on my own. One day when my beautiful prideful self found herself with no roof above her head and nothing to eat, she did not go back to mommy. No she didn't... It's funny I told my mom I was gonna be an actress. That that was my destiny, you know? It had always been my dream since I was little. C'mon, how depressing is that. You can laugh.

SIMON

Yeah, that's pretty depressing. It would be even more depressing if you were still pursuing acting.

RUBY

I am!

(They laugh. He is suspicious.)

RUBY

Yeah... For a second there I became that little girl again who pictured... I pictured my self... That's so silly... I pictured myself with you, going to South America together and shooting your stupid movie... I know what you're thinking. I admit I appreciated your business if that's what you want to hear. But I mostly enjoyed being with you, hearing your stories about show business. Your passion, the struggle of making a movie. I wanted to be a part of it, but how could I possibly tell you any of that without sounding utterly and completely petty and desperate... I wanted to have everything, mix business with-

(Simon's PHONE RINGS.)

RUBY

Your Uber is here.

SIMON

(Into phone)

Hi. Yes, I'll be right down.

SIMON

Fucking Ubers come so fast.

RUBY

You're gonna be late. C'mon, just go. Get out of here.

(Simon doesn't move.)

RUBY

Are you worried about me or something? Just go. I'll be fine. Because you know who loves me? Me. I know how to take care of myself. I will go on my own adventure and I'll start over as many times as I have to.

SIMON

You're gonna be fine. I mean, I wish I was going by myself too, you know? Loners will be lonely... Nah, who am I kidding, I'm glad that I have company. The guys are nice. Patrick is nice... And...

RUBY

Clarence?

SIMON

Yes, Clarence.

(Ruby imitates Clarence in a squeaky voice.)

RUBY
 (Imitating Clarence)
 Hi I'm Clarence. How are you beautiful peoples?

(Simon also imitates Clarence's
 voice.)

SIMON
 (Imitating Clarence)
 I'm Clarence. Don't think of me as your boss, think of me as
 your friend.

RUBY
 (Imitating Clarence)
 I am so sorry everybody. I am SO sorry about EVERYTHING.

SIMON
 (Imitating Clarence)
 Mimimi. Sniff, sniff, sniff.

RUBY
 And Wanda.

SIMON
 (Rough voice, imitating
 Wanda)
 Yes. Wanda.

(Ruby strikes a masculine pose.)

RUBY
 Wanda-Wall. Woo!

SIMON
 Somebody's gotta protect Clarence.

RUBY
 Right.

SIMON
 Yeah...

RUBY
 They're nice.

SIMON
 Yeah... They are very nice... Everybody's nice...

(Simon's PHONE RINGS but he doesn't
 answer.)

The Uber car starts HONKING. Simon and Ruby are just standing there.)

SIMON

I used to work with this guy and he kept telling me that because I'm lonely and shit I would end up dating a hooker. That one day I would have enough money to keep fucking her and then I would get an exclusive or something. And it kind of made sense, I never really excluded that possibility, I just never thought that I would end up dating a hooker without having any money. I'm broke Ruby. All my money is going into this crazy movie in South America.

(Ruby is trying to listen to Simon but the HONKS of the Uber car are annoying her.)

RUBY

Shut up motherfucker! Sorry, what did you say?

SIMON

I said... I love you.

(The HONKS start again. Simon's PHONE RINGS.)

RUBY

The meeting!

SIMON

The meeting! Oh my god!

RUBY

Oh my god! You're gonna be late!

SIMON

Everyone is waiting for me.

RUBY

You better hurry.

SIMON

Yes, yes. Right. Ok.

(Simon is ready to leave.)

SIMON

So, we're going to South America then?

RUBY

Yes we are.

SIMON
Ok. We have to buy your plane ticket

RUBY
Good idea.

SIMON
Oh my god, this is never gonna work.

RUBY
Nothing ever works.

SIMON
You might die in the jungle.

RUBY
You'll protect me.

SIMON
We're going to fight a lot.

RUBY
Conflict is good?

SIMON
I'm going to be jealous. Fuck, I mean, Patrick's going to be there.

RUBY
Patrick is ugly and horrible in bed.

SIMON
Really?

RUBY
Yes, and his dick is small.

SIMON
I knew it.

RUBY
I prefer yours even when it's soft.

SIMON
Ok. That's too far.

RUBY
Ok, sorry.

SIMON
Ok. It's ok. Wait. What about you?

RUBY
What?

SIMON
Are you not coming to the meeting?

RUBY
Of course not. You go.

SIMON
But everyone's gonna be there.

RUBY
Precisely. And I'm a mess. We are both a mess, but you unfortunately have no choice. You have to go.

SIMON
No... You should come. I should introduce you today. My new assistant.

RUBY
Simon, no. We're not thinking straight over here.

(He approaches her.)

SIMON
C'mon, put some clothes on. Let's go mix some business with pleasure.

(She embraces him.)

SIMON
Ok. Let's do a quicky and then we go.

(They kiss.)

END PLAY