

**SHED**

by  
KATHRYN GOLDIE

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FADE IN.

**1. INT. RAY'S SHED. DAY**

Tools hang on a wall and occupy shelves behind a large workbench. A chair and a table with a phone, radio and six darts on it faces a wall with a dartboard. Near the dartboard are some pictures, cards and a page from the *Canberra Chronicle* with an article headline: AWARD FOR LOCAL WOODWORKER.

Whistling as he works, RAY, a kind-looking man in his early 50s, screws a handle into the wooden drawer of a filing cabinet he is making. He appraises it from the front, tightens it at the back, runs his fingers over it. He lifts the drawer and slides it into the cabinet, checking that it moves freely.

As he does so, the phone rings. He ignores it for four rings, then glances at it. Leaving the shelf halfway out of the cabinet, he answers the phone.

RAY

Hello?

He frowns.

RAY

Hello? I can't hear y-

He frowns again, looks puzzled, as if what he hears doesn't make sense, then takes the receiver away from his ear. We hear the hang up signal, and Ray replaces the receiver. He looks shocked, distracted. He shakes his head as if to clear it and looks towards the house.

**2. INT. RAY'S HOUSE. DAY**

Ray stirs a steaming mug of coffee and drops the spoon into the sink. He moves slowly out of the kitchen and passes a closed door with the sign KIMBERLEY'S ROOM. He returns to the door, opens it and looks in.

**3. INT. KIMBERLEY'S ROOM. DAY**

From the doorway we see Kimberley's unmade double bed. Jeans and a shirt are tossed over a chair. On a hanger on the wardrobe door is a denim-style jacket. Open on her desk is a thick textbook, with a couple of environmental science textbooks stacked next to it.

Ray moves into the room and looks down at her desk. He fingers the pages of the open book, looks up at her ANU Summer Session timetable blu-tacked to the wall. He puts

his coffee down on a notepad and some of it spills. He doesn't notice.

Ray looks at the series of photos on the noticeboard above her desk: Kimberley with friends on the last day of school, Kimberley with a couple of female friends in a pub, Kimberley at Surfer's Paradise, Kimberley in London, a small Kimberley with Ray. There is a picture of a younger Kimberley visiting her mother in hospital. There are concert tickets, movie flyers and an invitation to a 21<sup>st</sup> party pinned up as well.

Ray looks in particular at a picture of Kimberley with another young woman, both looking really happy. Ray turns and looks around the room. He raises his hand to his forehead.

#### **4. INT. RAY'S SHED. DAY**

Flashback to Ray answering the phone. We hear it ring and see him pick it up.

RAY

Hello?

He frowns.

RAY

Hello? I can't hear y-

He frowns again, looks puzzled, as if what he hears doesn't make sense, then takes the receiver away from his ear. We hear the hang up signal.

#### **5. INT. KIMBERLEY'S ROOM. DAY**

Ray takes his hand away from his forehead. He reaches towards a pile of magazines, sees himself in her mirror and feels ashamed. Ray shakes his head as if to clear it, and leaves, closing the door behind him. He leaves his coffee on the desk.

#### **6. INT. RAY'S SHED. DAY**

Ray enters the shed and stands in front of the filing cabinet. Absentmindedly he pulls the drawer back and forth. It sticks. He tries to pull it out - to no avail - and he thumps the top.

RAY

Damn it!

He takes a deep breath and sits down. He looks at the phone. He picks up the darts and throws them at the

dartboard while still seated - terrible shots. One of the six hits the wall. He grabs them and tries again, faster - more terrible shots. He retrieves them and, standing, pelts them at the board. Two hit then fall off. One dart hits a postcard a foot from the board. Ray stares at it briefly, takes a deep breath, then removes the dart and studies the card.

It is a Gary Larson card (school for the gifted). He touches the dart's hole then opens the card. Inside it says:

To my dearest gifted Dad,  
Best wishes for the happiest  
birthday ever!  
Love,  
Kimberley

Ray stares at it, then stands it up on a shelf. He goes over to the filing cabinet again and pulls out the drawer calmly. It no longer sticks. He checks the groove at the side of the drawer and begins to sand it carefully with a strip of sandpaper.

#### **7. INT. RAY'S SHED. DAY**

Ray is testing the drawer, which glides into the cabinet. He adds a couple of hanging files and checks again. It works perfectly. He runs his hand over the top of the cabinet, then starts sanding it. He seems calmer.

There is a knock at the door, and he starts. We see Ray's daughter KIMBERLEY, aged about 20, pony-tailed, dressed in jeans and t-shirt, back from uni with backpack over her shoulder, through the screen door.

KIMBERLEY  
Sorry, I didn't mean to scare  
you.

Ray looks at her, saying nothing. He looks down at the cabinet. Kimberley opens the door and comes in.

KIMBERLEY  
Hey, it looks great! It's  
beautiful, Dad.

She reaches out to touch the top.

RAY (curtly)  
Don't.

Kimberley withdraws her hand.

KIMBERLEY  
What's wrong?

RAY (pauses)  
It's not finished.

Kimberley looks at him, sensing something is not right.

RAY  
It's almost done. Leave me  
alone and I'll finish it.

Kimberley goes to say something, thinks better of it and leaves. At the door she turns back. Ray has his back to her.

KIMBERLEY  
It's really good, Da-

Ray raises his hand, and she leaves. Ray looks at the phone.

**8. INT. KIMBERLEY'S ROOM. DAY**

Kimberley enters her room and dumps her bag on her chair. She sees her father's coffee cup, full and cold, on her desk.

KIMBERLEY  
Oh, shit!

**9. INT. RAY'S SHED. DAY.**

Ray is sitting down. Agitated, he rolls two darts across his palms. Flashback to Ray on the phone.

RAY  
Hello? I can't hear y-

He frowns again, looks puzzled, as if what he hears doesn't make sense, then takes the receiver away from his ear. We hear the hang up signal.

KIMBERLEY (o/s)  
Dad! Dad!

Ray, startled, drops the darts and returns to reality. Kimberley stands at the screen door.

RAY

Kim, I told you to leave me  
alone. It's not done.

KIMBERLEY

What were you doing in my  
room?

Ray stands and faces her, door separating them. She is  
angry but falls silent. He glares at her, then closes the  
wooden door.

**10. EXT. RAY'S SHED DOOR. DAY.**

Kimberley is shut out of the shed.

KIMBERLEY

Dad! Talk to me!

She opens the screen door and belts on the wooden door.  
From inside comes the loud noise of a radio.

KIMBERLEY

Dad!

**11. INT. RAY'S SHED. DAY**

Ray, radio up, recommences sanding the top of the cabinet  
with the sandpaper. He works frantically. We hear  
Kimberley knocking and calling. We hear a ringing phone.

Ray covers his ears. Then he picks up a sander and starts  
sanding the top of the cabinet. He presses hard, so hard  
he is damaging the wood, but he keeps going.

**12. INT. KIMBERLEY'S CAR. DAY**

Kimberley, upset, is in her car talking on her mobile.  
She looks across at the shed.

KIMBERLEY

I don't know. He won't talk to  
me.

She runs a hand through her hair.

AMY (O/S)

Did you tell him?

KIMBERLEY

No, I didn't tell him! I just  
came home and he was like  
that.

AMY (O/S)

I think you'd better talk to him.

KIMBERLEY

I can't, he's locked the door.  
(sighs) Can I stay with you?

AMY

Of course - but you need to tell him.

KIMBERLEY

I want to; I just don't think I can.

**13. INT. RAY'S SHED. DAY**

Ray, sander in hand, stares dumbly at the filing cabinet. The radio is still up loud. The cabinet top is ruined. He has sanded it so hard that there are deep grooves in it and part of one edge has splintered off.

He hears the phone ring and covers his ears. Flashback to Ray answering the phone: we hear it ring and see him pick it up.

RAY

Hello?

He frowns. We hear some heavy breathing on the other end.

RAY

Hello? I can't hear y-

WOMAN (O/S)

Listen carefully. Your daughter sleeps with women. She's a dyke - a fucking dyke. Ask your darling Kimmy who she was with last night. Dyke!

We hear her hang up. Ray frowns again, looks puzzled. He takes the receiver away from his ear.

Ray, head in hands, sinks to his knees on the shed floor next to the filing cabinet and cries.

FADE OUT.