

Lucy Brown and Mr. Grimes

The book *Lucy Brown and Mr. Grimes* by Edward Ardizzone was first published in 1937. It soon went out of print. A substantially revised version was reissued in 1970. The revisions are discussed in Rebecca Martin's paper "Edward Ardizzone revisited: Lucy Brown and the moral editing of art," *Children's Literature in Education* **31** (2000), 241–257.

The complete text of both editions of the book (excluding text that appears in the illustrations) is reproduced on the following pages, with the 1937 text in the left-hand column and the 1970 text in the right-hand column. Differences are highlighted in **boldface**, except on page 2, where the text has been totally rewritten, and boldfacing would not serve much purpose.

The 1937 edition of the book is now rare, so for the reader's convenience we also reproduce below the blurb on the inside front flap of the dust jacket.

This is the story of a little girl named Lucy Brown and a very ugly but very nice old man named Mr Grimes. Lucy Brown lived with her aunt, but as her aunt was always busy, Lucy was very lonely. Sometimes she couldn't help crying because she had no one to play with. Mr. Grimes was very fond of little girls and boys. Each day when he went to walk in the Recreation Ground he tried to talk to the children he met, but he could never make them stop or speak to him. He was lonely too. And then—he met Lucy Brown. From that moment many things began to happen to both of them. The pictures show, and the story tells, all about these exciting things.

Mr. Ardizzone wrote this story for his own little girl, just as he wrote *Little Tim and the Brave Sea Captain* (see back flap) for his own little boy. But all boys and girls will love both books, because they are full of the things they like best in story picture books. The lettering is large and legible and the pictures are printed in bright colours. Grown-ups who read the story aloud over and over again, or have it read aloud to them all day long, will be happy to find that they grow very fond of Lucy Brown, and Little Tim, too.

Lucy Brown was a dear little girl. She had golden hair and blue eyes and such nice manners that everybody liked her.

She had no father and mother so she lived with her aunt, **who** was very busy and could not be bothered with her very much.

In fact poor Lucy was rather lonely and sometimes she was sad because she had nobody to play with her.

Every fine day **she** went for a ride on her scooter in the Recreation Ground.

Now every day **there** used to walk in the Recreation Ground **an old gentleman called Mr. Grimes.**

He was very old, very ugly, and very sad.

He was **very** sad because he liked **to talk to the little boys and girls he met on his walk, but when he talked to the little girls they were frightened and ran away, crying "Go away you horrid old man",**

and when he **talked to the** little boys they ran behind his back and shouted, "Yah", and pointed in a rude way.

Lucy Brown was a dear little girl. She had golden hair and blue eyes and such nice manners that everybody liked her.

She had no father and mother so she lived with her aunt. **But her aunt** was very busy and could not be bothered with her very much.

In fact poor Lucy was rather lonely and sometimes she was sad because she had nobody to play with her.

It is true that she had some pretty dolls and lots of books. Lucy was clever and could read. She also had the nicest black kitten.

But dolls and books and even the nicest of nice, black kittens can be boring if you are all alone.

Every fine day **Lucy** went for a ride on her scooter in the Recreation Ground.

Here she would see many children, but they all seemed to have fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters and would keep themselves to themselves. This made Lucy feel lonelier still.

Now every day **an old gentleman** used to walk in the Recreation Ground.

He was very old **and** very ugly and very sad.

He was sad because he liked **children, but they didn't seem to like him. When he passed little girls he could hear them laugh and say, "Look at that horrid old thing."**

And when he **passed** little boys they ran behind his back and shouted, "Yah," and pointed in a rude way.

One day, as Mr. Grimes was going for his usual walk, he saw Lucy Brown, and she looked so pretty that he had to go and talk to her. "How are you my little dear?" he said. "You do look nice." "Thank you sir," said Lucy Brown. "I am very well and would like a nice ice cream."

So they went to the pavilion and Lucy had an enormous ice, and Mr. Grimes talked to her while she ate it.

Mr. Grimes was very happy because at last he had found a little girl who was not frightened of him,

and he liked her so much that he asked her to tea.

Lucy said yes she would love to come, but she must ask her aunt first.

Her aunt said yes she could go, as she had heard that Mr. Grimes was very respectable.

Lucy Brown felt sorry for the old man. He looked lonely, as lonely as she felt.

Curiously enough, the more she looked at him the more she felt that she had seen him before.

Then she remembered. He was Mr Grimes, an old family friend.

Feeling rather brave she went up to him and said, "Please, sir, are you Mr Grimes? I am Lucy Brown."

"Why! Bless my soul," he said. "I *am* Mr Grimes and you *are* my dear little Lucy. My eyes are dim and you have grown so tall I never recognised you. This calls for a celebration."

Then he took Lucy by the hand and led her to the pavilion. Here they had a celebration indeed. Lucy had two of the biggest and most expensive ice creams, while Mr Grimes had one to keep her company.

He also talked and talked.

He asked her how her dear aunt was and then about herself.

When Lucy said she was rather lonely he said, "Tut, tut, I am lonely too. This will never do. We must meet again, what about tomorrow?"

"Oh, yes please!" said Lucy.

Mr Grimes was now a happy man. He had met a little girl who was not only an old friend, but unlike other little girls she did not laugh and call him horrid names.

The next morning he liked Lucy even more, so he asked her to come to tea at his house.

Lucy said yes she would love to, but she must ask her aunt first.

Her aunt said she could go, as she had known Mr Grimes and knew he was most respectable.

So that afternoon **she** went to Mr Grimes's house. Mr. Grimes let her in himself and introduced her to Mrs. Smawley his housekeeper. Then they went into the dining room where there was a lovely tea spread on the table.

Lucy ate lots and lots, which made Mrs. Smawley very pleased because she had made the sandwiches and cakes herself.

Lucy was a great success because her manners were so good.

After that Lucy would meet Mr. Grimes every day in the Recreation Ground and go for a walk with him. **Often she would go to tea with him too.**

One day Mr. Grimes had a terrible pain. He went to bed and the Doctor was sent for.

Mr. Grimes's temperature was very high.

"Mrs. Smawley," said the Doctor. "I don't like the look of our patient at all. I must have a second opinion. I will call in the eminent physicians, Sir Joseph Potts and Mr. Sparks **F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., M.D.** (London)."

So that afternoon **Lucy** went to Mr Grimes's house. Mr Grimes let her in himself and introduced her to Mrs Smawley, his housekeeper.

Then they went into the dining room where there was a lovely tea spread on the table.

Lucy ate lots and lots, which made Mrs Smawley very pleased because she had made the sandwiches and cakes herself.

Lucy's manners were so good that she was a great success, not only with Mr Grimes but with Mrs Smawley too.

When she came to leave, Mrs Smawley gave her a kiss and said, "Come to tea as often as you like."

After that Lucy would meet Mr Grimes every day in the Recreation Ground and go for a walk with him. **But if the day was hot and Mr Grimes was tired, he would sit happily on a bench and watch Lucy as she scooted about.**

Sometimes they went to the children's playground where Lucy would swing on the swings or slide down the chute while Mr Grimes guarded her scooter.

And they never felt lonely.

One day Mr Grimes had a terrible pain. He went to bed and the Doctor was sent for.

Mr Grimes's temperature was very high.

"Mrs Smawley," said the Doctor. "I don't like the look of our patient at all. I must have a second opinion. I will call in the eminent physicians, Sir Joseph Potts and Mr Sparks **M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., M.D.** (London)."

So they called in the eminent physicians and they had a consultation. But in spite of the eminent physicians and lots of the nastiest and most expensive medicines, Mr. Grimes felt worse and worse. He felt so ill that he decided to make his will and leave all his money to Lucy Brown.

The cook and the gardener witnessed the will.

All this time Lucy was wondering what had happened to Mr. Grimes, as he was never in the Recreation Ground to meet her.

Then one day she had a letter from Mrs. Smawley telling her that Mr. Grimes was very ill, and asking her to come see him.

She at once **put on her hat and coat and** hurried over to Mr. Grimes's, where she sat with him a long time, which cheered him up a lot.

Her visit seemed to do him **a little** good, so she came to see him every day **for a long time**.

Every day Mr. Grimes **got** a little better, until one day he was well enough to get up in his dressing-gown.

The Doctor said it was all because of Lucy that Mr. Grimes **had got** better, but he must live in the country to get really well.

Mr. Grimes **was** sad as he did not like to be away from Lucy. Then he had a great idea. He wrote to Lucy's aunt asking her if he could have Lucy to stay with him for always, **and telling her that he had left Lucy all his money in his will**.

The aunt said she **did not** mind and Lucy could go as soon as she liked.

So they called in the eminent physicians and they had a consultation.

But in spite of the eminent physicians and lots of the nastiest and most expensive medicines, Mr Grimes felt worse and worse. He felt so ill that he decided to make his will and leave all his money to Lucy Brown.

The cook and the gardener witnessed the will.

All this time Lucy was wondering what had happened to Mr Grimes, as he was never in the Recreation Ground to meet her.

Then one day she had a letter from Mrs Smawley telling her that Mr Grimes was very ill, and asking her to come see him.

Lucy at once hurried over to Mr Grimes's **house**, where she sat with him a long time, which cheered him up a lot.

Her visit seemed to do him **some** good, so she came to see him every day.

Every day Mr Grimes **became** a little better, until one day he was well enough to get up in his dressing-gown.

The Doctor said it was all because of Lucy that Mr Grimes **was getting** better, but he must live in the country to get really well.

This made Mr Grimes sad as he did not like to be away from Lucy. Then he had a great idea. He wrote to Lucy's aunt asking her if he could have Lucy to stay with him for always.

The aunt said she **didn't** mind and **told** Lucy **she** could go as soon as she liked.

The next few days were busy ones for all of them.

For Mrs. Smawley packing, for Mr. Grimes looking in the advertisements for a country house to buy, and for Lucy shopping, as Mr. Grimes had given her lots of money to buy clothes and things with.

First she bought herself a set of black clothes, as she thought they would be useful and look smart.

The set consisted of a black frock, a black hat,

a black coat,

black shoes, **and long** black stockings **with** knickers to match.

Then she bought **herself** a lovely party frock, a pair of roller skates, some rubber boots and a special hat for when it rained.

And with the rest of her money she had great difficulty in choosing between a **red leather pocket-book** and a lovely baby doll.

She chose the doll.

The next few days were busy ones for all of them.

For Mrs Smawley packing, for Mr Grimes looking in the advertisements for a country house to buy, and for Lucy shopping, as Mr Grimes had given her lots of money to buy clothes and things with.

First she bought herself a set of black clothes, as she thought they would be useful and look smart.

The set consisted of a black frock, **trimmed with white lace, and** a black hat.

She had to try on many hats before she found the one she liked best which made the saleswoman rather cross.

The next thing in the set was a black coat.

She chose one with an astrakhan collar and cuffs. it looked terribly smart when she tried it on. Then she looked at her shoes and stockings.

Oh dear! They did not look at all right, so she bought a pair of shiny black shoes, some black stockings and black knickers to match.

Then she bought a lovely party frock **in flowered silk**, a pair of roller skates, some rubber boots and a special hat for when it rained.

With the rest of her money she had great difficulty in choosing between a **diary in red leather** and a lovely baby doll.

She chose the doll, **which she carried home herself. The rest of the things were sent home by the shop.**

Lucy was very excited when the parcels arrived.

Soon the great day for going into the country arrived. Mr. Grimes had bought a large car and all the luggage was piled on top of it. **Lucy Brown was very excited.**

After travelling a long way they arrived at a beautiful white house with a large garden, a kitchen garden, stables and an orchard.

Lucy thought it was the loveliest place she had ever seen, and when Mr. Grimes asked her how she liked her new home she said, "Oh! It is lovely; thank you dear, dear Mr. Grimes. I am the happiest girl in the world."

The End

She unpacked them at once and called to her aunt to come and see all the pretty things she had bought.

But her aunt only said, "Don't bother me, I am far too busy."

This made Lucy rather sad.

Soon the great day for going into the country arrived. Mr Grimes had bought a large car and all the luggage was piled on top.

A very smart chauffeur drove the car. Lucy carried her kit-ten in a basket.

After travelling a long way they arrived at a beautiful white house with a large garden, a kitchen garden, stables and an orchard.

But this was not all. At the back of the house was a conservatory, in which bunches of ripe grapes hung from a vine. Peaches, plums and greengages ripened against the wall of the kitchen garden and a fountain splashed into a pool on which lilies bloomed and goldfish swam in the clear green water.

Best of all. In the stable was a beautiful white pony which had been bought for Lucy to ride.

Lucy thought it was the loveliest place she had ever seen, and when Mr Grimes asked her how she liked her new home she said, "Oh! It is lovely; thank you dear, dear Mr Grimes. I am the happiest girl in the world."