

Andrew Morton – 2020 Kresge Artist Fellowship Application
Work Sample 1: Excerpt from *Bloom*

Scene Six

*It's the 4th of July, in the early evening.
DANIEL and ASHLEY are standing on the roof
of an old grocery store. ASHLEY is eating
from a bag of candy.*

Are you sure this is okay?

DANIEL

What's wrong? You scared?

ASHLEY

No, but/

DANIEL

Relax! I come up here all the time!

ASHLEY

You do?

DANIEL

Yeah.

ASHLEY

Pause.

What was this place?

DANIEL

A grocery store.

ASHLEY

Who owns it?

DANIEL

ASHLEY
I don't know. But they obviously don't care about it. We'll get a much better view from up here, I promise.

ASHLEY moves towards the edge of the roof.

Look. You can see most of the neighborhood too. You see the garden?

DANIEL moves closer.

DANIEL

Where? It just looks like a bunch of empty space.

ASHLEY moves closer to him.

ASHLEY

There.

She points.

DANIEL

Oh yeah. It doesn't look so good from here. *(Beat)* So what time's it gonna start?

ASHLEY

Don't worry. It's still early!

DANIEL

I know, but/

ASHLEY

But what?

DANIEL

I told my Mom I wouldn't be out too late.

ASHLEY

Does she know what you're doing tonight?

DANIEL

What am I doing?

ASHLEY

You're on a date, stupid.

DANIEL

I told her I was meeting some people from school.

Well that's kinda the truth, right? **ASHLEY**

I guess so. What about your Grandma? **DANIEL**

What about her? **ASHLEY**

She doesn't mind you being out late? **DANIEL**

Oh she does. *(Beat)* You wanna sit? **ASHLEY**

Sure. **DANIEL**

ASHLEY picks up two old milk crates and places them close together.

Here you go. **ASHLEY**

Thanks. **DANIEL**

You smell nice. **ASHLEY**

Oh. Thanks. **DANIEL**

What is it? **ASHLEY**

Um, I don't know. It's my uncles. He leaves it in the bathroom, so... **DANIEL**

Cool. Maybe don't use so much next time? **ASHLEY**

Oh. You're not allergic or anything, are you? **DANIEL**

No. ASHLEY

Good. DANIEL

Pause. DANIEL stands and moves closer to the edge of the roof.

Don't do it! ASHLEY

Shut up. DANIEL

What's up? ASHLEY

I'm just checking on the bike. DANIEL

It's locked up right? ASHLEY

Yeah. DANIEL

So what are you worried about? ASHLEY

DANIEL sits down again. Pause.

Is this your first date? ASHLEY

No. (*Beat*) Maybe. DANIEL

Awww. ASHLEY

This isn't yours? DANIEL

What are you trying to say? **ASHLEY**

Nothing! **DANIEL**

I was just kidding! Oh my God, you are so gullible! **ASHLEY**

Shut up. **DANIEL**

And now you're blushing! **ASHLEY**

Pause.

Sorry. You want one?

She offers him some candy. He takes some. They eat in silence. ASHLEY gets a text. She doesn't like what she reads.

Everything okay? **DANIEL**

Yeah. **ASHLEY**

Who is it? **DANIEL**

Just some guy. **ASHLEY**

Oh. Is he...? **DANIEL**

Is he what? **ASHLEY**

Your boyfriend? **DANIEL**

ASHLEY

He wishes he was.

She sends a reply and puts her phone away.

So you got a new phone yet?

DANIEL

No. My Mom said I can soon.

ASHLEY

Cool.

Silence.

DANIEL

I need to tell you something.

ASHLEY

Okay.

Pause. She waits for him.

DANIEL

You remember when you came to Mr. Graham's and you asked about my Dad?

ASHLEY

Yeah.

DANIEL

Well what those people said at school, about him dying in a war? He didn't.

ASHLEY

Okay... So why did you say he did?

DANIEL

I never did. It was just that you were talking really fast, and I didn't know what to say at first. And then it was like, too late to correct you and I felt really stupid, and then you were gone.

Pause.

ASHLEY

That's kinda messed up.

I know.

DANIEL

So what happened to him?

ASHLEY

Pause.

He just got sick. One day he was okay, and the next he wasn't.

DANIEL

I'm sorry.

ASHLEY

Silence.

You know it's nothing to be embarrassed about/

I'm not. But I shouldn't have let you believe that, because it's not like he was a hero or anything.

DANIEL

Pause.

I think I'm gonna go.

He stands.

Why?

ASHLEY

Because.

DANIEL

But it hasn't started yet!

ASHLEY

I know, but I feel really stupid now.

DANIEL

So you're gonna leave me up here? At night?

ASHLEY

I'm sorry. I'm just...

DANIEL

Just what? **ASHLEY**

I'm- I'm really nervous around you. **DANIEL**

Well you came to my house to ask me out in person! **ASHLEY**

Your number was in my old phone. **DANIEL**

But you still did it. **ASHLEY**

I guess so. **DANIEL**

But if you don't want to be here, you should go. **ASHLEY**

ASHLEY picks up her backpack from the ground. She takes out his notebook.

I guess I'll just have to keep this.

Where did you find that? **DANIEL**

He goes to take it from her but she moves away from him, still holding the notebook.

ASHLEY
I was walking to my friend's house and it was lying by the side of the road. Those guys must have just tossed it after they took your bike.

Give it to me! **DANIEL**

I thought you said you were leaving? **ASHLEY**

She lets him take it. He inspects it.

It got rained on, but I dried it out as best I could.

She waits for him to respond. He doesn't.

You're welcome!

DANIEL

It's ruined.

ASHLEY

It's not that bad.

DANIEL

Did you look in it?

ASHLEY

Maybe.

DANIEL

This is private!

ASHLEY

I found it in the middle of the street!

DANIEL

I don't care where you found it/

ASHLEY

If it's about the picture, don't worry! I liked it.

DANIEL

You weren't supposed to see that!

ASHLEY

Well it's too late.

ASHLEY gets another text. She looks at her phone and sends a reply.

DANIEL

Who is it this time?

She gives him a look.

This was a stupid idea. I'm gonna go.

He starts to leave. She puts her phone away.

ASHLEY

Wait! I'm sorry I looked inside!

DANIEL

No you're not.

ASHLEY

Please stay!

DANIEL stops. He sits on one of the milk crates. He continues looking through his sketchbook. ASHLEY eventually joins him. She looks over his shoulder.

ASHLEY

Is that him?

DANIEL

Yeah.

ASHLEY

You know I used to tell people my Mom was dead, but she isn't. That's worse, right?

DANIEL

Why would you do that?

ASHLEY

I dunno. I thought it would be easier. People would get all freaked out and not know what to say to me. I liked it that way.

DANIEL

I know what you mean.

ASHLEY

Even now I sometimes think it would be easier if she was, you know? I just hate having to visit her in that place. My Grandma cries the whole way home every single time. Now you probably think I'm weird, right?

DANIEL

No.

He closes the notebook.

You want one?

ASHLEY

*She offers him more candy. He takes one.
Pause.*

She didn't kill anyone, okay?

I didn't/

DANIEL

Well that's what people usually think.

ASHLEY

I'm sorry.

DANIEL

Pause.

You know she used to bring me here a lot.

ASHLEY

The store?

DANIEL

ASHLEY

Yeah. It had one of those horse things you could ride? You know the ones where you'd put in a quarter and it just went up and down. *(Beat)* I don't know why I'm telling you this. It's stupid.

No it's not.

DANIEL

ASHLEY

I was really little, but I remember it, you know? And I was happy.

I'm sorry.

DANIEL

Why are you always apologizing?

ASHLEY

I don't know.

DANIEL

ASHLEY

It's alright. I kinda like it. You know you're different than most people around here.

DANIEL

How so?

ASHLEY

I don't know. You just are.

A firework explodes. They look at it. Then another. ASHLEY moves closer to DANIEL. He takes her hand. They watch the fireworks together. Lights fade.