

CLOWN

Written by
Lewis Eastwood

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mrlewiseastwood@gmail.com

OVER BLACK:

The sound of balloons squeaking.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

LUCY and DOUG (both 30s) sit across the table from each other. He fidgets. She shakes her head.

The balloon sound continues.

LUCY
Can you please take me seriously
for just one second?

DOUG
I do.

LUCY
Then get rid of him.

REVEAL: A CLOWN sat at the head of the table making a balloon bouquet of flowers. It's hard to tell his age with all the makeup.

DOUG
He's my emotional support clown.

LUCY
Right...?

DOUG
When you called this meeting...

LUCY
It's not a meeting.

DOUG
... I thought you were going to
break up with me, so.

LUCY
Why'd you think that?

Flustered, Doug turns to Clown.

Clown hands Doug the balloon flowers. Doug passes them to Lucy with an apologetic grin. Clown flashes an exaggerated grin at her too.

She studies the flowers. Quizzical.

LUCY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Doug?

Clown makes a worried face.

DOUG

No particular reason.

LUCY

Be honest.

DOUG

It's not even anything serious,
it's just...

LUCY

Spit it out.

Clown makes an angry face, mimicking Lucy.

Doug turns to Clown for support. Clown gestures "wait a moment" and gets to work on a balloon dog.

Lucy spots the work in progress. She gasps and holds her chest.

LUCY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Mimi?

A chihuahua barks in another room.

Doug jumps out of his skin. A deep hatred for the little rat.

LUCY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

What did you do to my baby?

DOUG

I didn't do anything.

Lucy's eyes widen.

DOUG (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I just, y'know...

Clown puts his fingers in his ears. Knows whats coming.

DOUG (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

... called her a cunt.

Lucy's jaw drops. Clown makes an innocent smiling face, tries to lighten the mood.

LUCY
You are something else. You are a
nasty piece of work.

DOUG
She never listens to me.

LUCY
Because you never spend time with
her.

DOUG
I don't want to be seen walking a
chihuahua.

LUCY
Oh, you're too manly are ya?

He puts on a deep voice.

DOUG
Yeah.

Mimi barks again -- Doug jumps again.

DOUG (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Stop her barking.

LUCY
She's a dog, Doug!

DOUG
Well tell her to...
(he runs out of steam)
Whatever.

They both fall silent and avoid eye contact.

Clown makes a classic sad clown face.

An awkward beat passes. Clown slides the balloon dog into the
centre of the table.

Doug lifts his head. Studies the balloon.

DOUG (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
(to Clown)
Sorry mate, can you give us a sec?

Clown nods and leaves the room.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Clown relaxes his face. Shakes himself out and clicks his neck. It's tiring work. We get a glimpse of the man behind the act.

He leans against the wall and takes a deep breath. There's a sadness to him.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a little bottle of vodka. Swigs it from the bottle. Instant relief.

Through the door we hear Lucy and Doug patch things up:

LUCY (V.O.)

I know she's not the easiest, but she loves you.

DOUG (V.O.)

So... you're not going to break up with me?

LUCY (V.O.)

I can't. I'd end up spending all my money on an emotional clown.

DOUG

(correcting her)
Emotional Support Clown.

LUCY (V.O.)

Whatever. You're so adorable.

DOUG (V.O.)

Yeah?

LUCY (V.O.)

I love you.

DOUG (V.O.)

I love you too. I'm so sorry. I'll try harder with Mimi.

The sound of chairs screeching from the table followed by kissing.

LUCY (V.O.)

I never want us to be apart.

Clown takes another swig of vodka and relaxes into the wall.

The door suddenly opens and Doug appears. Clown scrambles to hide the booze.

DOUG
 Mate, thank you so much, I think it
 actually worked.

Clown nods "no problem".

Doug pulls a bunch of notes from his pocket and hands it to
 Clown.

DOUG (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Keep the change.
 (then)
 You alright to see yourself out?

Clown nods.

DOUG (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Good man. Thanks.

Doug offers his hand out to shake Clown's hand. As Clown
 reaches, Doug pulls his hand away, puts his thumb to his
 nose, wiggles his fingers and pokes his tongue out.

DOUG (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Wehaaay, got ya with your own
 trick.
 (then)
 Brilliant.

Doug delighted with himself. Clown deflated.

DOUG (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Anyway, later mate.

Doug disappears back into the Dining room, closes the door in
 Clown's face.

INT. CLOWN'S FLAT / ENTRANCE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Clown returns home and throws his car keys into a bowl on a
 unit. Beside it is a photo of him and a BLUE HAired CIRCUS
 CLOWN looking lovingly into each others eyes. Next to the
 photo is the blue wig.

INT. CLOWN'S FLAT / LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A neglected home. Beer cans, pizza boxes, litter everywhere.
 A stained duvet on the worn sofa where Clown evidently
 sleeps.

Clown enters with a pack of beer. He drops onto the sofa,
 cracks open a beer and sits there in silence, alone.

We linger with this for a while.

He reaches into his pocket and takes out his payment for today. Studies it. Deep in thought, then --

FLASHBACK - Clown's POV of Doug sticking his tongue out and wiggling his fingers.

Back in the room and --

He springs up -- An overly angry face.

CUT TO

Clown puts on a balaclava. His squished wig pokes out of the bottom. His white makeup pops through the eye holes. He looks ridiculous.

INT. CLOWN'S FLAT / ENTRANCE HALLWAY - NIGHT

He plucks the car keys from the bowl as he storms out of the door.

INT. DOUG'S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

A silhouette of Clown grows as he approaches the door from outside.

Clown tampers with the lock.

The door pops open and he enters.

Mimi barks immediately, the alarm has been raised. Clown freezes on the spot (very clown-like) and pulls an exaggerated afraid face.

Through an open door, he sees -- Mimi in a small cage.

Afraid he'll be caught, he rushes to Mimi and gets her out of the cage. Shoves a 'shhh' finger in her face, but --

She hops into his arms and immediately stops barking, allowing us to hear --

Muffled giggling from another room. Doug and Lucy making up. Ignoring Mimi.

After a beat, Clown looks down at Mimi staring lovingly into his eyes. His character fades slightly, and we see another glimpse of the human behind the makeup.

INT. CLOWN'S HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scissors cutting into the blue clown wig.

Clown looks down at Mimi looking back up at him. Surrounded by scattered blue hairs, some still raining down around her. He bends down and puts a tiny blue wig on Mimi.

They share a loving look.

END