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Tears of a Clown

Adam Knobler

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INT. OUTSIDE CIRCUS TENT MID DAY

Adam is standing front of a banner of the circus wearing clown makeup talking to the audience.

ADAM: (V.O.) There is an old joke. Two cannibals are eating a clown and one turns to the other and says, "Does this taste funny to you?" That's how I feel about life, its just funny. I don't mean it in the sense that it is always humorous, but also sometimes ironic. (SIGH) Sally left me last week for the cotton candy vendor. I don't know what she even sees in that guy, honestly. I don't care what I have to do, I will win back her affection. I was going to ask her for her hand in marriage. I truly love her and know that if I don't win her back, my life will be empty. Allow me to start at the very beginning.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE CIRCUS EARLY EVENING

A young boy at the circus sitting with his parents with a look of fascination on his face.

ADAM: (V.O.) When I was six, I had a life altering experience. My parents took me to the circus. I remember vividly being captivated by the three ring format with a lion tamer in the middle, acrobats on one side, and a giant elephant on the other. But there was one thing that captivated my imagination. One thing that I could not take my eyes off of; the clowns. For some reason beyond my understanding, I thought that was the greatest sight I had ever seen. (MORE)

ADAM: (V.O.) (cont'd) I knew at that moment, at the tender age of 6, that I was going to grow up and be a clown in the circus.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S BEDROOM AFTERNOON

Adam is ripping open a package that is in brown paper wrapping. Underneath, a box labeled "Bozo the Clown's Clowning Kit for Kids" becomes visible.

ADAM: (V.O.)

I remember the day my very first clowning kit arrived. I was about 10 years old. I opened it up and immediately put together the entire outfit, rubber nose and all. However, I didn't want my parents to find out, so I hid the whole kit in my closet under some old blankets. The tricky part was going to be how I was going to keep it a secret from them. I called in my older brother Jonathan to show him my whole getup.

JONATHAN:

What's up, little bro?

ADAM:

Oh man! You gotta see what I got in the mail!

JONATHAN:

Lemme guess. Is it genuine alligator eggs? No, it's a kit to build a home made rocket ship!

ADAM: Nope. It's a clowning kit!

JONATHAN:

What are you wasting your measly three dollars a week allowance on that for?

ADAM:

Because I want to be a clown. I want to entertain. I want to make children happy.

JONATHAN:

You're a child yourself! Your gonna have to grow up first before you make it as a clown.

ADAM: I know, I know.

JONATHAN: What do mom and dad think of this?

ADAM: They don't know. You have to promise me something. You can't tell them what my plan is, because if they find out, I'll get the lecture of a lifetime. So do you promise?

JONATHAN: Yeah Adam, sure. I promise.

ADAM: Thanks a lot. I knew I could count on you.

JONATHAN: No problem.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLOWN CONVENTION DAY

Adam is walking into a convention center where there is a banner that reads "National Clown Convention"

ADAM: (V.O.) When I was 17, I went to my first clown convention. I thought I had died and gone to heaven. But I never thought in a million years that I was going to find the love of my life.

CUT TO:

INT. CONVENTION HALL DAY

Adam goes over to a table to sign in and get a name tag. At the table there are 3 people, two men and a young girl who seems to be in her late teens. She is wearing a nametag that says Sally. She is a beautiful girl with shoulder length dark brunette hair and freckles. Adam takes one look at her and is mesmerized by her beauty. He immediately goes over to talk to her, but fumbles when he goes to speak.

> ADAM: Hi um my, um, name is um Adam Radin.

SALLY: Ok, Adam, let me look for your name tag.

ADAM: Cool, cool. Are you with the National Clowning Association.

SALLY: Ah here it is. Yes, I am.

Adam asks her how long in order to figure out how old she is.

ADAM: Oh. How many years with them?

SALLY: Well I started when I was 10, and I am 17 now, so about 7 years.

ADAM: Cool. So what is your area of specialty? Juggling, pie throwing?

SALLY: Actually I really love balloon animals, but I just can't seem to get it right.

ADAM: Really? Its funny you should say that because I happen to know balloon artistry quite well. If you'd like, I could teach you sometime.

Sally looks sort of confused because Adam is a stranger, yet she sees something in him that makes him special.

> SALLY: Wow that would be great! Do you live around here?

ADAM: Actually I live about 15 minutes from here.

SALLY:

Well, I normally don't give out my number, but you seem harmless. Let me give it to you. By the way my name is Sally O'Malley.

ADAM:

The pleasure is all mine.

Sally writes down on a piece of paper Sally O'Malley and her phone number 555 - 1234.

ADAM: Fantastic. Listen, when you are done here with the name tags, would you like to go get some lunch or something?

Adam, in his mind says, "Oh man. Or something? I'm such a schmuck."

SALLY: Sure. I get off work in 15 minutes. Just come back here and we can grab a bite to eat.

ADAM: Alright. I see ya in a few.

INT. CONVENTION HALL DAY

Adam walks around the convention hall looking at different booths. He approaches a booth for a new type of squirting flower. A salesman is speaking to a small crowd.

SALESMAN:

That's right folks, feast your eyes on this beautiful achievement in clowning technology. Introducing the squirtmaster 5000. On the outside, it may appear to be just your average squirting flower, but please take a closer look folks.

Everyone in the small crowd gathers around.

SALESMAN:

If you notice the flower is made from the finest vinyl laminated in silicon for that genuine flower look.

The crowd oohs.

SALESMAN:

Next you will notice the tubing is made out of surgical plastic, the finest in the industry.

The crowd ahhs.

SALESMAN:

And finally you will notice the hand pump fits discreetly in your hand attached to a genuine gold plate ring so no one will suspect a thing.

Adam talks to himself.

ADAM:

Man I gotta get me one of these.

SALESMAN:

Now you might ask yourself how much for this amazing product? Normal squirting flowers sell for 3-5 dollars with no life time guarantee. Mine comes with a lifetime guarantee for a measly 15 dollars. SO for an extra 10 dollars you can take home your very own squirtmaster 5000. But that's not all, if you purchase from me at this very moment, I will throw in a deluxe rubber nose that honks. Now isn't that a great deal folks?

Crowd applauds.

SALESMAN: Now, who would like to purchase one?

The crowd rushes to the salesman throwing cash in his face. Adam purchases one.

> ADAM: Wow. This is so cool.

Adam continues passing a booth with seltzer bottles in demonstration. He continues walking seeing a balloon animal demonstration. As he passes that he hears something over the intercom.

> ANNOUNCER: Attention all clowning enthusiasts of all ages. At 1 p.m. we will have a mime exercise at the east end of the convention center. That's 1 o'clock at the east end. Thank you.

ADAM: Hmm, maybe I can go see that with Sally.

Adam walks over to a juggling demonstration. A man is juggling singing the Star Spangled Banner.

JUGGLER: ...And the home of the brave!

Audience cheers and gives him a standing ovation.

ADAM: I wish I could learn to do something like that. I bet that would go over well in Clown College.

Adam looks at his watch

ADAM: Damn, I gotta call Jonathan.

CUT TO:

INT. PHONE BOOTH AT CONVENTION CENTER DAY

Adam is on the phone with his brother, Jonathan, telling him about Sally.

ADAM: Oh my God Jonathan, I think I am in love.

JONATHAN: What are you talking about?

ADAM:

I just met my dream girl. She is a clowning student too and she loves balloon animals. She said she needed help so I offered to show her the ways of balloon animal making.

JONATHAN:

Excellent move my friend. Who ever thought the balloon animals could be used as a pick up line?

ADAM:

Oh shut up.

JONATHAN: Nah, I'm just messin with ya. It sound like you are very happy. What's her name?

ADAM:

Her name is Sally O'Malley.

JONATHAN: Oh. She's not Jewish.

ADAM:

So, that doesn't bother me at all.

JONATHAN:

Yeah, but mom and dad won't like that. You got a double whammy on your hands. You want to be a clown and you want to be with a non Jewish girl. I think you're going to have quite a dilemma here.

ADAM:

I'm not concerned at all. Oh, I gotta go. Sally and I are going to grab lunch. I'll talk to ya later.

JONATHAN:

Ok. Have a nice time.

INT. CONVENTION HALL DAY

Adam goes back to the sign in table to meet Sally for lunch.

ADAM:

Hey. Are you ready to go?

Yup. Lets go.

ADAM: So how does corn dogs sound? My treat.

SALLY: Sounds good to me.

Adam and Sally walk over to the concession stand and get corn dogs and two large sodas. Adam begins to inquire about Sally.

ADAM: So tell me a little about yourself.

SALLY:

Well, my parents performed as the comedic duo Smith & O'Malley.

ADAM: Not the Smith and O'Malley who had their own TV show

SALLY: Yeah, that's them.

ADAM:

Oh man, this is so cool. I loved that bit they did as the married couple.

SALLY: Oh you mean the groceries bit.

ADAM: That's the one.

Adam and Sally laugh.

ADAM: So what made you get into clowning?

SALLY: Well, with entertaining in my blood, I knew I would be a performer. I chose clowning because it made children happy. I can't believe you said that. That's one of the reasons I got into clowning. Well lemme ask you this. Have you ever seen a Bozo the Clown's Clowning Kit for Kids?

SALLY:

Have I seen it? I bought it the day I saw it in the clowning catalogue!

Sally and Adam pause for a moment and look into each others eyes with a romantic look.

ADAM: You know Sally, they're clowns to left of us, Jokers to the right. And I'm stuck in the middle with you.

Sally burst out laughing.

SALLY: You know Adam, I've never met anyone like you.

ADAM:

Well that's good, because if you did, you'd be with them right now instead of eating a delicious corn dog with me.

SALLY: You're a real character you know?

ADAM: I prefer Clown, but you can call me whatever you want.

Sally laughs again.

ADAM:

Listen, there is that mime workshop at 1 in the east end of the convention center. Would you like to go check it out?

SALLY: I'd love to. 10.

INT. CONVENTION HALL DAY

Adam and Sally go to the mime workshop.

ADAM: You know I always wanted to do a mime routine, but I never had a partner.

SALLY: Well you do now. Let's go try it out.

Adam and Sally go to the stage. Music is playing. Together they improv a pantomime act. The audience applauds. Adam turns to Sally.

> ADAM: I think we go something here.

SALLY: Yeah, we make a great team. Listen, I have to go back to work at the nametag table.

ADAM: Well, wait. Can I call you so we can get together?

SALLY: Anytime. I gotta run now. It was nice meeting you.

Adam and Sally smile at each other then exit.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S ROOM EARLY EVENING

Adam comes back home with various items he has purchased at the convention. He sneaks in so his parents don't see what he has. He calls Jonathan into his room.

> ADAM: Jonathan, come in here.

JONATHAN: What is it?

ADAM: I had the most incredible time at the convention. I got all these new clowning supplies like a improved squirting flower and a rubber nose that honks!

JONATHAN: Well P.T. Barnum said it best. A sucker is born every minute.

ADAM: Hey! This is top of the line clowning equipment!

Jane, the boys' mother knocks on the door. Adam did not lock it and she walks in on him with the clown merchandise. She is angry when she sees him with the merchandise.

> JANE: Boys', dinner is read...What's all this!

ADAM: Uh, it's nothing! It's just my....

JANE: Clown costume! Why do you have a clown costume?!

ADAM: Well mom, I think its time I told you and dad.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM EVENING

Adam is sitting on the couch while his parents Jane and Robert yell at him about his most recent announcement.

ROBERT You want to be a WHAT?

ADAM

A clown, dad

JANE What do you mean a clown. You're supposed to be a doctor so I can say, "My son the doctor" not, "My son the clown".

ADAM I want to bring a smile to people of all ages.

ROBERT

Do you see? Do you see what you're doing to your poor mother?

Robert puts his hand on his head in an act of disgust

JANE

Why can't you be like your brother, the lawyer? I was supposed to have two professionals for sons, my son the lawyer and my son the doctor.

ADAM But being a clown is so emotionally rewarding.

ROBERT

I tell you what's emotionally rewarding, getting a paycheck to feed your family! Ugh. Did you think what we would have to say to our friends and

JANE Oy vey! You know this will kill your grandmother.

ADAM

Mom, Dad, calm down. Here's the deal. I already applied to clown college and got in.

Adam shows them a letter of acceptance.

ADAM I even got a scholarship for my balloon animals. I secretly took clowning lessons after school to master the craft.

Jane clutches her chest as she screams out in disgust

JANE I thought you working on your science fair project. Oy vey, you're killing me!

ADAM Mom, please, calm down. This is not the end of the world.

JANE It is to me! (Sobbing)

Adam turns to camera and speaks to audience

ADAM I think it might be best if I tell them I am in love with a non-Jewish clown tomorrow.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S ROOM EVENING

Adam is in his room concerned about the argument his just had with his parents. He is in his bed listening to the radio. The song "Tears of A Clown" comes on the radio.

ADAM: (V.O.)

This was a difficult point in my life. Here my parents had my life mapped out for me as a doctor, which I had no interest in at all. On top of that, I was in love with a non Jewish girl. This was quite a pickle considering I had a relish for clowning. Pardon the pun. I gave it some thought and I figured out what to do. I had to, despite the argument, gain their acceptance for my future clowning career.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM EVENING

Adam's parents call in Adam to tell him that they are taking him to see a psychiatrist to discuss the problem with wanting to be a clown. ROBERT: Adam, come in here. Your mother and I need to speak with you.

Adam enters the living room

ADAM:

What is it? Are you going to disown me as a son because of this? Well, I better go pack my bags.

ROBERT: Adam, sit down!

ADAM:

Ok. Sorry.

JANE:

Listen, your father and I have come to a decision. We are taking you to see a psychiatrist about this clowning business.

ADAM: Mom I don't need to see a shrink.

ROBERT:

Psychiatrist, son. They hate being called shrinks.

ADAM:

Who cares what you call them, I don't need to go to therapy for this.

JANE:

Oh yes you do! No son of mine is going to be a clown as a profession. You're going to go to college and become a doctor.

ADAM: Hey, you can't map out my life.

JANE: Well, maybe you're right. But you are going to see the psychiatrist about this situation.

ADAM:

Fine, if it will appease your hysteria, I'll go see this doctor.

ROBERT: Good. We called Dr.Feldman. You have an appointment on Wednesday at 6 o'clock.

ADAM: But I'll miss P.T.Barnum's biography on A&E.

ROBERT: Well I guess you'll have to Tivo it.

ADAM: Fine. I'm going to bed, I'm exhausted. Goodnight.

Adam exits.

JANE: Maybe Dr. Feldman will knock some sense into that boy.

ROBERT:

I hope so.

JANE: You know he takes after your mashugina side of the family.

CUT TO:

EXT. DR.FELDMAN'S OFFICE

Jane takes Adam to Dr.Feldman's office. Dr.Feldman comes outside from his office and introduces himself to Adam.

DR.FELDMAN: Hello, Jane how are you?

JANE: Ugh, I'm very frustrated. This is my son Adam I told you about.

DR.FELDMAN: Hello Adam, I'm Dr.Feldman.

ADAM:

Hello.

DR.FELDMAN:

Well no need to worry. Believe it or not, I run a group therapy for clowns today which is why I made the appointment for today.

JANE:

Well hopefully you will be able to convince him that being a clown is a waste of time and that he should be a doctor.

DR.FELDMAN: I'll do my best.

JANE: Thank you doctor.

DR.FELDMAN: Adam, why don't you come with me into my office. I have some people I would like you to meet.

ADAM:

Ok.

CUT TO:

INT. DR.FELDMAN'S OFFICE

Adam enter's Dr.Feldman's Office and to his surprise the room is filled with 4 other clowns in complete costume.

ADAM: What the hell kind of psychiatry are you practicing?

DR.FELDMAN:

Well Adam, you must remember that clowns are people too. Just because they are laughing on the outside doesn't always mean they are laughing on the inside.

ADAM:

Oh I see.

Adam rolls his eyes.

DR.FELDMAN: Let's go around the room and introduce ourselves shall we?

CHARLIE CHUCKLES: Hi, my name is Charlie Chuckles.

SILLY BILLY: Hi, my name is Silly Billy.

GOOFY GARY: Hi, my name is Goofy Gary.

WACKY WALLY: Hi, my name is Wacky Wally.

ADAM:

Hi, my name is Giggles, eh I mean Adam.

DR.FELDMAN:

Ok, know that we all know each other, let's discuss each of your problems in brevity. Charlie let's start with you.

CHARLIE CHUCKLES: Well, I have a problem with my clown make up.

DR.FELDMAN: Well what is your problem specifically?

CHARLIE CHUCKLES:

Well, I suffer from OCD. As a result I never can make the perfect face. I am constantly putting on makeup then taking it off. I have developed a rash on my face as you can see as a result of this. What should I do?

DR.FELDMAN:

Anyone have any suggestions before I speak?

GOOFY GARY: You went to clown college right?

CHARLIE CHUCKLES:

Yeah, so?

GOOFY GARY: Well part of the entrance exam is to come up with your own face. What did you do for that?

CHARLIE CHUCKLES: Well, I made up a face that looked like I was laughing, because I am Charlie Chuckles.

DR.FELDMAN: Well, what was wrong with that face?

CHARLIE CHUCKLES: Nothing really.

WACKY WALLY: So what's the problem. If clown college accepted it, why can't you?

DR.FELDMAN:

It's not that simple. He needs this new medicine for OCD. It's designed specifically for clowns by big top pharmaceuticals. It's called worrioff, also know as the worry free drug. I'll write you a prescription at the conclusion of the session. OK, Billy you're next. What can we help you with?

SILLY BILLY:

Well, I have a great deal of difficulty focusing on juggling because of my ADD.

GOOFY GARY:

Why don't you drink caffeinated beverages to focus?

SILLY BILLY:

I do, but I always wind up with the shakes. So it really is useless as a result of that.

DR.FELDMAN:

Fortunately for you, big top pharmaceuticals has also made a new drug to combat the distraction from Clown ADD. Its called concentratol. (MORE) DR.FELDMAN: (cont'd) I'll also write a prescription for you. Gary you're up next.

GOOFY GARY: My problem is somewhat embarrassing. I do an act with a seltzer bottle. An like 1 out of every 20 clowns, I suffer from premature squirting.

Goofy Gary begins to sob. Charlie chuckles hands him a tissue.

GOOFY GARY:

Thank you.

CHARLIE CHUCKLES: This is nothing to be embarrassed about. So many clowns have this problem but get through it.

SILLY BILLY: I myself was afflicted with this very same issue.

GOOFY GARY: Well how did you overcome it?

SILLY BILLY:

Well, I tried this form of squirting therapy created by the fist clown psychiatrist, Dr.Rubbernose. Get his book off of Amazon, Premature seltzer squirting and you a beginners approach.

GOOFY GARY: It really works?

SILLY BILLY: Well lemme just say this. I just recently won the regional seltzer bottle classic?

GOOFY GARY: Really? Wow. Alright well I'll give this book a shot.

DR.FELDMAN: Well we seem to be moving along at a steady pace. Wally, you're up.

WACKY WALLY:

My problem is that I have a bad case of multiple personality disorder. One minute I am Wacky Wally the clown then next minute I am Francesco the acrobat. It is hard for me to distinguish which one I am.

DR.FELDMAN:

This is a very serious problem. The only solution to this problem, and I must say it is a very risky procedure, is ECT.

WACKY WALLY:

What's that?

DR.FELDMAN:

Electric clown therapy. It's a relatively experimental method of treating this problem in clowns. It has a 70% chance of success, but when it does succeed, it stops the problem entirely.

WACKY WALLY: Well are there any other options?

DR.FELDMAN:

We could try drug therapy with concentratol and possibly some lithium to supplement it.

WACKY WALLY:

I would much rather try drug therapy than electric shocks.

DR.FELDMAN:

I don't blame you. We can discuss your issues at the end of the session. Now let's conclude the session with Adam.

ADAM: Um, well I don't feel I really belong here.

DR.FELDMAN: Why is that?

ADAM:

Well I don't suffer from any psychological issues that afflict clowns. I mean I am only a clown in training. I haven't even graduated clown college yet.

CHARLIE CHUCKLES: You're young blood.

SILLY BILLY: Yeah, I remember when I was young blood.

GOOFY GARY: Me too, best years of my life.

WACKY WALLY: Yeah. Nothing quite like it.

DR.FELDMAN:

Hey guys! We're not here to talk about the glory days of clowning, we're here to discuss an issue that is very serious.

WACKY WALLY: Which is what?

DR.FELDMAN: Well, I'll let adam tell you.

ADAM: My parents just found out that I want to be a clown.

GOOFY GARY:

Oh boy.

ADAM: What, you had a problem with your parents?

GOOFY GARY: Did I have a problem with my parents? I have not spoken to them in 15 years because of it.

ADAM: Really? DO you miss them?

GOOFY GARY:

Sometimes I think of them, but then I remember all of the crap I had to deal with because of my decision.

DR.FELDMAN:

Guys, its not like Adam here is a sociopath and his parents want to disown him, he's just a boy who wants to entertain.

SILLY BILLY:

Well I can relate. I have wanted to be a clown all my life. I can tell you with all of my confidence that I have made the right decision.

GOOFY GARY:

Yeah me too.

CHARLIE CHUCKLES:

Me too. Follow your dream kid, even if it means going against what your parents want for you.

ADAM:

What do you have to say Dr.Feldman?

DR.FELDMAN:

Well, I have to say, and I know your parents will disagree, but I feel that you should follow your dream. You are young only once. If you don't try now and let time pass you will never know what you could have been.

ADAM:

Thank you for agreeing with me, all of you. But how do I bring up this issue with my parents, they are a brick wall when it comes to this.

DR.FELDMAN:

Well, as a therapist, my only advice is to get them to feel the same way you do about clowning. I don't know what makes your parents tick, but I'm sure you do. All you need to do is get on their sensitive side. (MORE) All the clowns in unison say, "Yeah"

ADAM: Well I think this was a very productive session.

DR.FELDMAN:

I agree.

ADAM: You know, you really opened my eyes to how I should run my life.

DR.FELDMAN: Well I'm glad I could help. Your mother should be outside in the waiting room.

ADAM: Thanks again for everything.

Adam exits Dr.Feldman's office.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S HOME EVENING

Adam is trying one more time to convince his parents that he wants to be a clown.

ADAM: Mom, Dad, we need to talk.

ROBERT: Ok son, what do you have to say?

JANE: Yeah, I want to hear what you have to say after meeting with Dr.Feldman.

ADAM: Dr.Feldman opened up my eyes to a whole new world.

JANE: Oh thank god! That man got through to you. That was definitely worth the 200 dollars. ADAM:

Well, I don't know if he told me what you would have wanted him to have told me.

JANE: What does that mean?

ROBERT: Yeah, what does that mean.

ADAM:

It means that he told me the truth and it's something that you should learn to accept. He told me that I should pursue my dream of becoming a clown. He said that you were only young once and if you didn't take risks, you will never know what you were capable of.

ROBERT:

Jane, what kind of schmuck psychiatrist did you find to help our son?

JANE: He came highly recommended.

ADAM:

Anyway, I am going to be a clown whether you want me to or not. If that means cutting off our relationship, then so be it, but I am not giving up on my dream.

JANE:

You are making a HUGE mistake.

ROBERT:

You don't know what the hell you're talking about Adam.

ADAM:

Yes I do Dad. Now I am going to bed. I'll give you the night to sleep on what we have discussed. Goodnight.

Adam exits.

ROBERT: Jane, what are we going to do?

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN MORNING

Adam and his family are having their weekly Sunday morning bagel breakfast. Adam starts to apologize and explain his actions to his parents.

ADAM:

Mom, dad, can I speak with you.

JANE: Well before you say something, your father and I would like to discuss last night with you.

ADAM: Oh, well that's what I wanted to

discuss with you.

Adam sits down at the kitchen table with his parents.

ROBERT:

Look Adam. I am going to be perfectly candid with you. Your mother and I are not happy at all with your decision. However, we have come to a decision.

ADAM:

What's that.

ROBERT:

Well how does this sound. We will let you go to clown college. BUT, here is the deal. You will have six months to find a job after your schooling. If you don't succeed, you are going to come back home and then go off to real college.

ADAM:

OK. Well that seems fair. Listen, there is one other thing I forgot to tell you.

JANE: What is it now? ADAM: Well, when I was at that clown convention, I....

JANE:

You what?

ADAM: I met a girl.

JANE:

Oh, how nice. Does she want to be a clown too and screw up her family as well?

ADAM:

MOM!

ROBERT:

Jane, you promised you wouldn't lash out at him again.

JANE:

I'm sorry. There is still a part of me that wishes this wasn't what my son wanted to pursue as a career. OK. SO what's her name?

ADAM:

Her name is Sally. Sally O'Malley. I think I am in love. I am going to bring her over for dinner this Saturday night.

JANE:

A shicksa! Are you trying to kill me. Oy gevalt! Not only are you going to be a clown, you're going to be with a shicksa! This will be the death of me. We'll have a fakakhta mishpucha with a shicksa in the family!

ROBERT:

Janie. Calm down!

ADAM:

I'm begging you to at least give her a chance.

JANE: Fine. I will, but I am not letting you get seriously involved with her.

Adam turns to the camera and speaks.

ADAM: I knew this was going to be a mega disaster.

CUT TO:

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

It's Saturday evening and Adam is at Sally's house to pick her up for dinner. Adam appears to be calm, but is very nervous internally. He rings the doorbell and Sally answers the door.

> SALLY: Hey! I'll be ready to go in one minute. Come in, I want you to meet my parents.

Sally goes and gets her jacket.

CINDY:

Hello Adam, I'm Cindy, Sally's mother. I have heard so much about you.

ADAM: I hope nothing too bad.

Cindy laughs.

CINDY: Frank, come in here. I want you to meet Sally's friend Adam.

Frank yells from the other room

FRANK: One minute honey.

Frank enters the room.

FRANK: Well, who is this fine young man.

ADAM: Adam, Sir, Adam Radin. It's a pleasure to meet you. FRANK: What a refined gentlemen, your parents must be proud. ADAM: Well, uh, yeah, they are very proud. FRANK: I'd like to meet them some time. ADAM: Oh, uh, we can arrange that. SALLY: Ok, I'm ready to go. Bye mom, bye dad.

CINDY: Don't stay out too late.

SALLY:

We won't.

CUT TO:

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE

Adam and Sally are walking to the car.

ADAM: You look really pretty tonight.

SALLY: Why thank you. You look very handsome as well.

Adam blushes

ADAM: Thanks. My car is right this way.

Adam open the door for Sally and she gets in the car. Adam then gets in and they drive away.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S CAR - EARLY EVENING

Adam is driving and telling Sally what to expect this evening.

ADAM:

Ok. So here is the deal. My parents, especially my mother, are upset that you are not Jewish. I personally don't care what you are because I like you for who you are.

SALLY: Do you really mean that?

ADAM:

Of course I do. We can discuss that in a minute. What I am trying to say is if my mother seems like she is insulting you, please don't take it personally. She is just really wound up for what I have told them recently about my plans after high school.

SALLY:

Alright. I understand. Oh that reminds me. I got my letter from Clown College yesterday.

ADAM:

And?

SALLY:

I got in!

ADAM: Congratulations! Now we can be together.

SALLY: Yeah. Its gonna be great.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAM'S HOME FOYER - EARLY EVENING

Adam and sally arrive at the house. The ring the doorbell and Jane answers the door.

JANE: Well hello, please come in. I'm Jane. You must be Sally.

SALLY: It's so nice to meet you Mrs.Radin. I have heard so much about you from Adam.

Sally give Jane a very big hug

JANE: Oh, what a nice gesture. Your parents raised you well.

SALLY: Why thank you, I'll be sure to tell them that.

Robert enters the foyer

ROBERT:

Hello, I'm Robert. It's nice to meet you.

SALLY: It's nice to meet you Mr.Radin.

JANE: Come this way, I'll show you pictures of Adam when he was a baby

ADAM: Oh mom, don't show her those!

JANE: Why not? It's my job as a mother to show baby pictures to your girlfriends.

ADAM: Alright fine.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM EVENING

Jane is showing Sally pictures of Adam as a baby and little boy.

JANE: Look at him. Did he not have the cutest tushie you have ever seen?

Adam turns bright red and starts to slump in his chair.

SALLY:

I had no idea that you looked so much like your mother, Adam.

ADAM: Fortunately, I didn't inherit her neuroticism.

JANE:

Hey!

Sally laughs.

ADAM: Anything else to embarrass me before we eat mom?

JANE:

Oh, I'm glad you mentioned dinner. I got to go take the roast out of the oven. You kids go into the dining room.

SALLY: Can I help you Mrs.Radin?

JANE: No, I don't ever have my company help me in the kitchen.

ADAM: Don't take it personally Sally, she does this with everyone.

SALLY: Ok. Let's go sit down I guess.

ADAM: Sounds like a plan to me.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE DINING ROOM

Adam, Jane, Robert and Sally eating dinner.

graduation.

SALLY: Well, I just received word that I got into Clown College.

Jane rolls her eyes in such a way that only Robert sees it.

JANE: Oh, how wonderful. So you and Adam will be going to school together.

SALLY: Yeah. I'm looking forward to it.

ADAM: Sally is also into balloon animals like me. I told her I would tutor her, because I passed the AP exam.

JANE: There is an AP exam for balloon animals?

ADAM: Yeah. You have to make an entire zoo of balloon animals in 30 minutes or less. I did it in record time of 22 minutes.

Jane leans over to Robert

JANE: He clearly takes after your side of the family

ROBERT: Oh don't be ridiculous

ADAM: What were you two saying?

JANE: Nothing. Who's ready for dessert?

CUT TO:

Adam is driving Sally back home.

ADAM:

I am so sorry about the way my parents behaved. They just are being overly neurotic.

SALLY:

It's OK. Despite their behavior, I see that they are good people.

ADAM: Once they get to know you it won't be that bad, I promise.

SALLY: Adam, really, its no big deal.

ADAM: Well it is to me. They should at least treat you with some respect instead of like a stranger.

SALLY: Alright, if you insist.

CUT TO:

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE

Adam and Sally are standing outside of her front door to her house

SALLY: I know you won't believe me when I say this, but I had a really nice time tonight.

ADAM:

Really?

SALLY: Yeah, Really.

ADAM: Alright. Well at least you don't hate me. SALLY: Why would I? The fact that you stand up for me against your parents proved how much you care about me. That is all I need.

ADAM: Well that a relief. Well, I gotta get back home. Goodnight.

Adam and Sally kiss.

SALLY: Goodnight. Call me tomorrow.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM EVENING

Adam walks in the door to find his parents sitting in the living room waiting for him.

ROBERT: Adam, can you please come in here for a minute?

ADAM: What's wrong?

side.

JANE: I'll tell you what wrong. You are dating a shicksa! That's what's wrong.

ADAM: So, what's the big deal? I can date whomever I want.

JANE: Sure you can, but don't expect to have me or your father on your

ROBERT:

First, you tell us you want to be a clown. The you bring home to us a non Jewish girl who also wants to be in this ridiculous profession. What's next, you going to go join the circus?

ADAM: Well, that is my ultimate plan.

ROBERT: Are you serious? How are you going to make a living? What are they going to pay you in, corn dogs?

ADAM:

No, Dad, they will pay me with money. I will be making a living, as you say, as a professional clown.

JANE:

You know he takes after your side of the family. Your mashugina genes are responsible for this.

ADAM:

Look, you guys need to chill out. I'm going to my room to go to sleep. I'll talk to you when you both calm down. Remember, this is my life, not yours. If I chose to live it this way, then so be it. Goodnight!

Adam exits

ROBERT: At least he's not doing drugs.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S ROOM AFTERNNOON

Adam is on the phone with Sally

ADAM: So you really didn't have a bad time last night?

SALLY: No it was fine. Let's just drop it.

ADAM:

OK.

SALLY: So when are you going to move in to Bozo Hall at Clown College?

ADAM: Probably the last week of August.

SALLY:

I'm only asking because I want to move in when you do so we are together.

ADAM:

Definitely. Where are you living?

SALLY: I'm moving into Seltzer hall.

ADAM: Cool. I'm looking forward to pledging the national CO-ED fraternity/sorority, I Throwa Pie.

SALLY: Yeah me too. I hear initiation you get pied in the face 10 times then seltzer bottled for 5 whole minutes.

ADAM: I gotta run. My parents need me to bring in the groceries.

SALLY: OK. I'll talk to ya later.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOZO HALL AFTERNOON

It is now the last week of August. Adam and Sally are moving into their dorms at clown college. Jane is crying not because Adam is making the transition to college, but rather because he chose clown college over an academic university.

> JANE: Are you sure you want to go through with this?

ADAM: Yes, mom. This is my calling in life. ROBERT: Son, I think you're nuts. However, I have to respect your wishes. Just remember about our deal.

ADAM: I remember dad.

ROBERT: OK. Well it looks like you are all moved in.

JANE: I can't believe this is what you want to do.

ADAM: Mom, just let it go alright?

JANE: OK. I will, but it's not going to be easy.

ADAM: Dad I need some money.

ROBERT:

For what, you don't have any books for this school.

ADAM:

Yes, that's true. But I need supplies for a balloon pump, a seltzer bottle and refills. You know they charge you for seltzer refills.

ROBERT: Alright. I'll deposit \$500 dollars into you bank account.

JANE: What are you crazy? Are his rubber noses made out of gold or something?

ADAM:

Mom, please!

JANE:

Sorry.

ADAM: Look. I love you both dearly, but you have to respect my decision.

JANE: I know, and deep down I do.

ROBERT:

So do I, Adam.

ADAM:

I gotta run, orientation starts in 15 minutes.

JANE: I love you! Good Luck!

ROBERT: Good luck, son. Make us, well,(pause)make us proud.

ADAM: I promise I will.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM MORNING

Adam and Sally attend their first class together at Clown College

SALLY:

I can't believe it's our first day of Clown College.

ADAM: Yeah, me either. I've been waiting for this day since I was 10.

SALLY:

Well don't get so excited just yet. This clowning professor isn't supposed to be the easiest grader. I hear he can be pretty harsh.

ADAM:

Nah, how bad could he be?

A man dressed as a intimidating clown enters the room. Sally turns to speak to Adam. You were saying.

PALIATCHI:

Greetings clown students. My name is Professor Paliatchi. I will be your clowning professor for this semester. I hope that this will be a semester of both fun and learning all rolled into one great clowning experience.

Adam leans over to Sally

ADAM: See, I told you.

PALIATCHI:

This course is comprised of one midterm and one final. There are absolutely no second chances. In clowning, there is a right way and a wrong way. My job is to make sure that all of you do it the right way.

Sally leans over to Adam

SALLY:

See, I told you so.

Professor Paliatchi hands out a syllabus to all of his students.

PALIATCHI:

As you look at my syllabus, you will find all of the dates, time and locations for the exams in this course. In a couple of weeks, you will schedule your appointments for your exams. The first midterm is strictly balloon animal making skills. My suggestion to all of you is that you begin practicing immediately. This may be a weak area for some of you, so ask around for help if you need it. Are there any questions?

Adam raises his hand.

ADAM:

If you have taken and passed the AP exam, what should you do?

PALIATCHI: Excellent question young man, what is your name?

ADAM:

Adam, Sir.

PALIATCHI:

Well, if you have passed the AP exam you are exempt from taking the midterm. However, no one is exempt from the final regardless of AP credit. Any other questions.

Adam raises his hand again.

PALIATCHI:

Yes.

ADAM:

What are you looking for in terms of balloon animal skills? Speed or accuracy.

PALIATCHI:

Another excellent question. When it comes to balloon animals, accuracy always superceded speed. However, speed is also a critical factor in balloon animal artistry. Nobody wants to wait 5 minutes for a simple giraffe.

Paliatchi looks at his watch

PALIATCHI:

Well, I think that wraps it about up. Don't forget to go purchase your supplies at the school store. Class dismissed.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S DORM ROOM

Adam and Sally are discussing what they thought of class

I'm really worried.

ADAM: Why? What seems to be the problem?

SALLY:

You know what my problem is. I can't do balloon animals.

ADAM:

No problem. You know I got in on a scholarship for balloon animals. I'm a pro. With my help you'll be through this without any problems what so ever.

SALLY:

But Adam, I'm bad. I mean really bad. One time I tried making a giraffe for a kid. It looked like I made a balloon of the lower intestine.

ADAM:

Are you serious?

SALLY:

Yeah. The kid was crying and I didn't know what to do. That was the first and last birthday party I did for kids.

ADAM:

Well listen, there is no need to worry. By the time I get done with you I will have you making a balloon merry go round with all of the animals. Anyway, I don't know about you, but I'm starving. Wanna get something to eat?

SALLY: Yeah, sound good.

CUT TO:

INT. P.T. BARNUM DINING HALL

Adam and Sally enter the dining hall and are continuing the discussion about class

ADAM: So what I was saying was....

SALLY: Ewww. What the hell is that being served to us.

ADAM: Wow, you're right that looks pretty gross.

Adam asks the cafeteria attendant what the food is that is being served.

ADAM: Excuse me miss, what food is that?

CAFETERIA LADY: Why it's corndog casserole.

ADAM:

I've never heard of that dish. I didn't even think you could make a casserole out of corn dogs.

CAFETERIA LADY: You can make a casserole out of pretty much anything.

ADAM: Interesting, but why does this school serve food that you could get at the circus.

CAFETERIA LADY: Excellent question. The reason is that when you work at the circus, you must learn to survive on circus food such as corn dogs and cotton candy.

Adam leans over and whispers in Sally's ear.

ADAM: So basically were on the hillbilly diet

Sally laughs.

CAFETERIA LADY: Ok, so are you ready to try some of my casserole? Yeah sure.

Cafeteria lady gives Adam a serving of Casserole

CAFETERIA LADY: How about you dear?

SALLY:

Yes, please.

Adam and Sally walk away to go to a table.

ADAM:

Well, all I can say is that there are some interesting people at this school

SALLY: Most definitely

ADAM: However, they seem to have a great knowledge for the art of clowning.

SALLY: You know, my father always said, "Those with the greatest knowledge always clown around."

Adam Laughs

ADAM: It's things like that, that I know you are the perfect girl for me.

SALLY: Aww. How sweet.

ADAM: Would you like to go for a walk after dinner through the campus?

SALLY: Yeah, that would be great.

CUT TO:

EXT. P.T. BARNUM DINING HALL

Adam and Sally go for a nice walk while holding hands.

ADAM:

You know the minute that I saw you, I knew you were the one for me.

SALLY:

I wish I could say the same. My heart belonged to zippy the chimp. I would go nuts when he would do that thing with his lip.

Adam and Sally laugh together

ADAM:

Seriously though, when did you know I was right for you?

SALLY:

Honestly, it was when we were both in that mime show at the clown convention. When we did that together, I felt this feeling that I had never felt before. It was as if I had been struck by lightning.

ADAM:

I had that much of an impact on you?

SALLY:

Yeah, you did. I remember feeling that if I couldn't be with you then I would not have a happy life.

ADAM:

Really? Because I felt the same way about you. I was mesmerized by you then and I still am today.

SALLY:

Adam, that's so sweet. You are the first guy I have ever been with who is able to discuss his feelings with me. That makes you special.

ADAM:

Well, I guess my mother was right then.

Adam and Sally laugh

ADAM: Well, its getting late. Let me walk you back to your dorm room. SALLY:

Ok.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM EVENING

Adam walks Sally back to her dorm room.

SALLY: I had a great time with you tonight

ADAM: Yeah. I love spending time with you.

SALLY: Same here. Well, Goodnight.

Adam and Sally kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM MORNING

The teacher discusses what will be on the balloon animal midterm.

PALIATCHI: Ok kids. Watch closely. I am going to make a carousel. Could I have a volunteer from the class to time me.

Adam raises his hand.

PALIATCHI: Ok son, please come to the front of the class. By the way, what is your name?

ADAM: Adam, Sir. Adam Radin

PALIATCHI: Ok Adam, when I say go, start the timer.

ADAM:

Yes sir.

Ok, GO!

Adam starts the timer and watches in amazement as the professor makes a balloon carousel in under 5 minutes.

PALIATCHI:

And that my pupils, is how it is done. Please keep in mind that I don't expect you to be able to do it as fast as me. However, I do expect the same accuracy and precision.

Sally says to herself.

SALLY: I'm in deep shit.

PALIATCHI: Adam, you may return to your seat.

ADAM: Thank you professor.

Adam returns to his seat and notices that Sally seems to be discouraged.

ADAM: What's wrong Sally?

SALLY: I am never going to pass this exam

ADAM: Don't say that. I will help you ever step of the way. Class is over lets go for a walk.

SALLY:

OK.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLASSROOM LATE MORNING

Adam and Sally are walking and discussing their plan to study for this examination.

ADAM:

OK. Here's the plan. We both are done for the day. Let's go to the school store and purchase the necessary supplies for this exam.

SALLY:

Alright. But the exam is tomorrow. Will I be ready in time?

ADAM: I will make sure you will be ready because I care for you so much.

SALLY: You're so sweet. OK let's go to the store.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL STORE AFTERNOON

Adam and sally are purchasing the necessary supplies to practice.

ADAM: Ok. You'll need a 500 count bag of balloons. 1 hand pump and, Hey! Look at this! A new type of hand pump!

SALLY: Adam, you're such a sucker for gadgets.

ADAM:

Sorry.

SALLY: Ok. Will I need anything else?

ADAM: Nope, I think you're set.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL STORE CHECK OUT LINE

Adam and Sally are waiting on line to purchase their supplies

SALLY: How much should all of this come out to?

ADAM: Probably about 15-20 dollars.

SALLY:

That seems reasonable.

Adam and Sally go up to the checkout counter.

CASHIER: OK, that all come out to 300 dollars and 55 cents.

SALLY:

What?!

Sally Smacks Adam

SALLY: I thought you said it would be 20 dollars.

ADAM: I thought so too. I don't know....

CASHIER: Easy you two, I was just kidding. Its 17.89.

ADAM: Why would you misquote us like that?

CASHIER: Hey, were clowns. Its our job to joke around.

ADAM: Ah I see.

Adam and Sally walk away. Adam turns to Sally.

ADAM: This school is literally a joke.

SALLY: You're telling me? ADAM: Anyway lets go back to my room and we can being practicing.

SALLY: Sounds good to me.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

Adam begins teaching Sally balloon animals.

ADAM:

Ok here is the first step. Pick out your colors. I can explain this, but certain colors inflate better for some reason. Darker colors such as blue and purple are better. Did he say he is going to be judging us on colors or just technique?

SALLY:

Just technique.

ADAM:

Ok then I recommend that you use the darker colors.

SALLY:

Alright. So i selected the colors, now what?

ADAM:

OK. Here's the best tip i could possibly give you. When making balloon animals, go from hardest to easiest.

SALLY: Why should you do that?

ADAM:

Because the harder they are, the more time it takes to make them. That way, you can make the easiest one which take the shortest time in the last few minutes. I see.

ADAM: Ok, now a balloon carousel consists of 5 animals. This is the order from hardest to simplest. Rhinoceroses, elephant, horse, lion and giraffe.

SALLY: OK. Lets start with the rhino.

ADAM: Ok. This is the most difficult of all. Watch closely.

Adam makes a rhino out of the balloons with instructions along the way to teach Sally.

SALLY: Ok. I think I got it.

Sally attempts to make the rhino, but the balloons pop.

SALLY:

Damn it.

ADAM:

Just calm down. Nothing to worry ab out. Hey, listen, its such a beautiful day outside. Why don't we go practice out on the quad?

SALLY: Great idea. Lemme get my stuff.

ADAM: OK. Lemme help you.

CUT TO:

EXT.QUAD - AFTERNOON

Adam continues teaching Sally balloon animals.

ADAM: Ok. Lets try this again. SALLY: Adam, I've done this 15 times already and failed every single time.

ADAM:

Well there is an old saying, if at first you don't succeed, try again.

SALLY: Good point. Ok. Lemme try again.

Sally makes an other attempt and is successful

SALLY: I got it! I don't believe it!

ADAM:

What is there to not believe it. You had the ability all along. It was just an issue of your state of mind.

SALLY:

You're so right. If I learn to believe in myself, I can accomplish anything.

ADAM:

This is true. OK. I know you just did it once, but nobody ever mastered anything in clowning with out a great deal of practice. I want you to make 5 more rhinos.

SALLY: But I did it already.

ADAM:

Do you want to master this or just give up?

SALLY: You're right. Ok, lemme try this again.

Sally attempts again and is successful.

ADAM: You're doing it babe. Keep practicing. (MORE)

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM EVENING

Adam finalizes his teachings of the balloon animals

ADAM: Alright. This is it. This is your Colosseum, your forum to preform. Are you ready?

SALLY: No. I am really nervous.

ADAM:

Fair enough. Just remember this. You are a clown. Your main purpose is to make people happy. If you envision the smile of a young child, all of your worries will melt away. Now give it a try.

SALLY:

Ok.

Sally closes her eyes and envisions the smile of herself as a little girl when she first saw clowns at the circus.

SALLY: Alright, I am ready to do this. Let's get it over with.

Sally starts to create balloon animals with great speed and precision. Adam is timing her.

SALLY:

Done.

ADAM: Well, let me just tell you this. You broke my best record.

SALLY: Alright. Adam, I love you. You're the best. ADAM: Thanks, I love you too.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM MORNING

Sally is nervous about the exam. Adam does his best to comfort her.

ADAM: Alright, babe. You're ready for this.

SALLY: Are you sure that I am ready?

ADAM: Yes, I am sure that you are ready, sweetie.

SALLY: Ok, if you say so.

ADAM: Just remember what I told you. Envision a child smiling and you will succeed.

PALIATCHI: Ok, Ms. O'Malley, please come to the front of the classroom.

SALLY:

Yes, sir.

Sally walks to the front of the classroom still very nervous.

PALIATCHI: Alright. Did you bring your hand pump?

SALLY:

Yes sir.

PALIATCHI: And did you bring your balloons with you?

SALLY:

Yes Sir.

PALIATCHI: OK, you know the drill. When I say go, start making your carousel. And Go!

Sally begins frantically to make her carousel. She fumbles at first, but then clams down. She ultimately succeeds in accomplishing the task.

> PALIATCHI: Congratulations Ms. O'Malley, you passed.

SALLY:

Great!

Sally gives the thumbs up to Adam and runs towards him in the back of the classroom.

ADAM: You did it! I knew you had it in you.

SALLY: But I couldn't have done it without you. Let's go celebrate!

ADAM:

Absolutely! Hey do you want to go to the frat house tonight, you know I throwa Pie? I hear they are having something tonight.

SALLY: Of course. I have been meaning to sign up to join.

ADAM: Yeah, me too. Ok, lets grab some lunch and discuss it.

CUT TO:

INT. PIZZA CIRCUS RESTAURANT

Adam and Sally are enjoying a pizza and discussing the international coed fraternity/sorority I Throwa Pie.

SALLY: So what's do you know about I throwa Pie?

ADAM:

It's the only clown fraternity/sorority in the entire world, dedicated to preserving the art of clowning. Everybody whose anybody in clowning is a member.

SALLY:

So what do we need to do to join?

ADAM:

Here's the deal. We have to go through a hazing process. It consists of three stages. The first stage is the honking stage. For 5 whole minutes, you stand in a circle while all of the brothers and sisters honk their horns at you.

SALLY: That doesn't sound that bad.

ADAM:

Well it gets harder. The second step it the seltzer bottle stage. For another 5 minutes you are sprayed in the face with a seltzer bottle.

SALLY:

Oh geez.

ADAM: Yeah, oh geez is right. And for the final stage, you must be hit in the face 3 times with a cream pie.

SALLY:

This sounds like a very brutal process for a profession that is so peaceful.

ADAM:

There is a reason for that. They only want the most devoted clowns to join. If a clown doesn't have drive to survive this, then they should not be a clown. There is an element of devotion to this job, much like any other job. However what makes our job special is it makes people happy. SALLY:

That is so true. Well, I guess I better go start practicing for the initiation practice. When did you say that the hazing is?

ADAM: Actually Sally, its tonight.

SALLY: What?! How is that possible?

ADAM: Much like the force in a Jedi, clowning flows within you. This means that you either are made of the right stuff or not.

SALLY: I just hope we are.

ADAM: Me too. Me too.

CUT TO:

INT. I THROWA PIE FRAT HOUSE - EVENING

Adam and Sally go to the frat house to be hazed in. Show a montage of clips playing the score "going the distance" from Rocky

EXT. I THROWA PIE FRAT HOUSE

Adam and Sally are initiated into the fraternity along with the other pledges

CLOWN BROTHER: Friends, I have called you all outside because I wanted to congratulate you on all of your excellent performances. This year's class was the highest in success rate in the history of Clown College. Welcome to I throwa Pie! The crowd cheers.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM MORNING

Paliatchi discusses what will be on the final.

PALIATCHI: Well, students, it's been a fantastic semester. Now, for the final. The final will cover two separate yet equally important areas of clowning. They will be juggling and pie throwing. Based on the results of the midterm, I expect all of you to do extremely well. Class is dismissed for today.

Adam turns to Sally

ADAM: Alright, well I'm going to go back to my dorm room and practice. Do you need any help with this stuff?

SALLY: No, I should be ok.

ADAM: Ok, well I'll see you later.

SALLY:

Bye.

Sally kisses Adam on the cheek

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

Adam is practicing juggling and pie throwing.

CUT TO:

INT. SALLY'S DORMROOM - AFTERNOON

Sally is on the phone with Adam.

SALLY:

I can't believe that we are almost done with Clown College.

ADAM: Well you know the old expression, time flies when you're throwin pies.

Sally laughs

SALLY: But seriously, I am going to miss this place.

ADAM:

Yeah, me too. I'll go through corndog withdrawal. Oh I do have some good news that you might be interested in.

SALLY:

What's that?

ADAM:

Well, I spoke with a very important person at Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Baily Circus. I spoke with a Mr. Barnum. He's P.T's great grandson and head of the circus.

SALLY:

And?

ADAM: And, he was very interested in our act together.

SALLY:

Really?

ADAM:

Yes and he said if our GPA's from Clown College are good, he would hire us.

SALLY: Yipee! I think we need to celebrate. ADAM: Not just yet. We still need to pass the final.

SALLY: Yeah, you're right. Well in that case I better go practice.

ADAM: Ok, well I'll talk to you later.

SALLY:

Ok. Bye.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM MORNING

Adam and Sally both arrive at class to take the final. Adam turns to Sally to speak.

ADAM: So, are you ready for this?

SALLY: Ready as I'll ever be.

PALIATCHI: Ok, next up is Mr. Radin

Adam walks to the front of the classroom

ADAM: I have prepared something special for my juggling routine.

PALIATCHI: And what might that be?

ADAM: I am going to sing the star Spangled Banner while juggling.

Sally thinks to herself

SALLY: What is he nuts?

PALIATCHI: This I would like to see. Begin when you are ready. Adam juggles flawlessly while singing the Star Spangled Banner. Paliatchi as well as the class give him a standing ovation.

> PALIATCHI: Well done Mr. Radin! You are going to be a master clown someday. Bravo!

ADAM: Thank you professor.

PALIATCHI: Ok, next is Ms. O'Malley

Sally goes to the front of the class. As she passes Adam he says, "Good Luck"

SALLY: I have also prepared something.

PALIATCHI: Well begin when you are ready.

SALLY: I will juggle with one hand behind my back.

Sally juggles with one hand behind her back flawlessly. She also gets a standing ovation.

PALIATCHI: Quite impressive Ms. O'Malley. Excellent job.

SALLY: Thank you professor

PALIATCHI: Well that's it my red nosed pupils. Have a good life.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLOWN COLLEGE - AFTERNOON

Adam and Sally are at graduation. Bozo the clown is giving the address.

BOZO:

Let me tell you a story about a little boy and his dream. Many years ago, there was a young lad who only wanted to be a clown. He loved every aspect of clowning from juggling to balloon animals. He even made his very own rubber nose. But there was one problem. His neurotic Jewish parents had a conniption when he told them that he wanted to be a clown. They had other aspirations for him of becoming a doctor. But he didn't want to follow this fakakhta plan. He said, "I'll do what I want to do. If you're gonna be a bunch of shnurers I don't wanna have anything to do with this crazy mispucha.

PALIATCHI:

Bozo, please!

BOZO:

Sorry. Anyway this boy ran off with the circus. He was living his dream of being a clown and entertaining people both children and adults alike. About five years after he joined the circus, his parents contacted him and told him how proud they were of him. In case you didn't know, that boy was my best friend Silly Billy the clown. The point of this story is to follow your dream and don't let anyone get in your way. Congratulations Class of 2006.

Sally turns to Adam

SALLY: Congratulations Adam.

ADAM: Congratulations Sally.

Adam and Sally look into each others' eyes and kiss.

EXT. BOZO HALL AFTERNOON

Adam tells Sally that they got the job at the Circus.

ADAM: I have some exciting news.

SALLY:

What?

ADAM: We got the job! We're in the circus!

SALLY: I can't believe it. I have to call my parents.

ADAM: I've just told mine. Believe it or not, they were happy for me.

SALLY: That's great. Maybe they finally accept you for what you want to pursue as a career.

ADAM: Hopefully. But more importantly, we'll be working together as professional clowns. How great is that?

SALLY: It's quite spectacular. When do we begin?

ADAM: We just have a month. We start in June.

SALLY: Great. I have so much to do and so little time.

CUT TO:

INT. CIRCUS TENT - MORNING

The ringmaster shows them around.

And here is where you will be performing your mime act together. Not since Marcel Marceau have I seen such great pantomime. The two of you are a great team.

Adam and Sally both say thanks

ADAM: And where will our living quarters be.

RINGMASTER: Well, despite the fact that you are a couple, you must be married to live together.

ADAM: Ok, fair enough.

Sally has a look of dissatisfaction on her face but lets the feeling go.

CUT TO:

EXT. CIRCUS TENT - AFTERNOON

Montage of Adam and Sally running around the circus holding hands with the song "looks like we made it". Sally slips in a huge pile of elephant feces. Adam points and laughs. Sally trips Adam and he falls into the feces. The two start laughing.

CUT TO:

EXT. CIRCUC TENT VENDING AREA - AFTERNOON

Adam and Sally meet the cotton candy vendor.

ADAM: Man, I am really hungry.

SALLY: Yeah me too.

ADAM: Let's go over to the vending area to get something to eat. Adam and Sally approach the food vender wearing an identification badge with the name "Joe" on it.

JOE: Hey, you guys must be new.

ADAM:

Yeah, we just were hired. What do you do here?

JOE:

Well for now I am the cotton candy vendor. But if i work hard, in six months, I'll be promoted to popcorn salesman, and that's where the big money is.

SALLY:

In popcorn?

JOE: Yeah. Plus I get CHIMP coverage.

ADAM: Pardon my ignorance, but what is CHIMP coverage?

JOE:

Oh. It stands for Circus Health Intervention Medical Plan. Basically if you need medical or dental, you're covered by the circus.

Sally turns to Adam

SALLY: Maybe we should consider getting that.

ADAM: Actually, I think it's already in our contracts now that you mention it.

SALLY: Alright. Anyway we came to get some food.

ADAM:

Yeah. Do you have anything else other than cotton candy to eat?

SALLY: Yeah like maybe a.....

JOE: How about a corndog?

ADAM: Are you serious? I haven't had a corn dog in 6 months. Pass one of those bad boys over. I'm starving!

SALLY:

Me too.

Adam and Sally walk away and continue a conversation.

ADAM: Did you get a load of that guy?

SALLY:

I know. He was so strange. I mean imagine that, your life long goal is to be a popcorn vendor at the circus?

ADAM:

Well, we are working in the circus. We were bound to run into some weirdos somewhere.

SALLY: Good point. About this CHIMP thing, are we covered for it?

ADAM:

Yeah, it was in our contracts. As performers we're, pardon the pun, higher up on the food chain than vendors. It comes standard.

SALLY:

Ok just checking. Hey, what time is it?

ADAM:

Uh, its 4:30.

SALLY:

Oh crap. The show is at seven. We gotta go get changed and practice.

ADAM: Holy crap you're right. Alright. I go get dressed. Meet me in the tent in 5 minutes.

SALLY:

Ok. Bye.

CUT TO:

INT. CIRCUS TENT - EVENING.

Adam and Sally's debut their performance together

RINGMASTER:

And now ladies and gentlemen, i would like you to shift your eyes to the center of the 3 rings, you will see our newest addition to our family Giggles and Sally Wally. They will perform for your viewing pleasure a pantomime show entitled, "the dance"

Adam and Sally Perform their pantomime routine to perfection. When it is over, the crowd goes wild giving them a standing ovation. Adam and Sally look at each other and embrace each other, take a bow, then exit the middle ring. The start a conversation outside the circus tent.

ADAM:

Sally, you were amazing. This couldn't have been done without your beautiful moves.

SALLY: Don't kid yourself, you were quite spectacular as well. The way you executed those moves was just perfect.

ADAM: I am so glad that you are in my life. I am the happiest clown in the world.

SALLY: I don't know, I can give you a good run for your money.

Adam and Sally embrace. Adam then looks into Sally's eye and slowly moves forward to kiss her.

SALLY: What was that for?

ADAM: That was just because I am so lucky to have you. Would you like to go for a walk? We can get an opportunity to catch up on old times.

SALLY: Sounds great.

CUT TO:

EXT.CIRCUS TENT - EVENING.

Adam and Sally go for a walk and discuss their new job as well as fond memories from the past.

ADAM: You know the first time I met you, I knew that you were the one for me.

SALLY: How did you know?

ADAM:

Well, when I saw your pretty face, I was breath taken. But it wasn't until we did our pantomime act for the first time that I knew you were my soul mate. That routine is very near and dear to my heart. It was the first time I felt your heartbeat against my body.

SALLY:

You know I felt the same way. It was like that was an instant connection for us. It also is a special to me because it was the beginning of being with you.

ADAM:

Oh Sally. Now you've done it.

SALLY:

Done what?

ADAM: You've made me want to hold you and kiss you and never let you go.

SALLY:

Oh Adam.

CUT TO:

EXT.TRAILOR-EVENING

Adam leaves Sally for a poker game with his other circus friends.

ADAM: Sally, I'm gonna go play poker with the guys.

SALLY: But I thought we were going to spend the remainder of the evening together.

ADAM: We will, but lemme just go and play a few hands of poker.

SALLY: Well, alright. Just make sure that you are back by 11.

ADAM:

No problem.

Time passes until it is 1 am. Adam comes back to Sally's trailor and she is fast asleep. He leaves and goes back to his trailor.

CUT TO:

EXT.TRAILOR-EVENING

Adam is about to go to the bar with his circus friends

SALLY: But I thought we were going to cook dinner together tonight.

ADAM: We will babe, we will. I promise I'll be back no later than 7. (MORE) ADAM: (cont'd) I'm only going to happy hour. If you come dressed as a clown you get drinks for half price.

SALLY: Alright. I'm making your favorite, corn dog casserole.

ADAM: Ok babe. Ill see ya around 7.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - EVENING

Adam is at the bar drinking away. He completely loses track of time.

ADAM: Hey, bartender, what time is it?

BARTENDER:

It's 11:30.

ADAM: Holy crap! I gotta get back to Sally!

CUT TO:

EXT. SALLY'S TRAILOR

Adam is walking up to Sally's trailor a little drunk. He knocks on the door of the trailor. It is unlocked so the door opens when he knocks. There is a table set up with melted candles and a dish filled with corndog casserole. Sally is sleeping. There are tissues strewn throughout the entire trailor being evidence that she was crying. Adam speaks to himself.

> ADAM: No worries. I'll just tell her I'm sorry tomorrow. She'll understand.

> > CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S TRAILER EVENING

Adam and Sally are fighting about the fact that Adam doesn't pay enough attention to her any more

SALLY: Adam, are you ok?

ADAM: Sure, I'm fine. Why do you ask?

SALLY:

Well you haven't been acting normal lately.

ADAM:

How so? If you referring to smoking cigars with Zippy the monkey, he pressured me in to it.

SALLY:

Well sort of. You don't seem to be taking your job seriously, which I know sounds ridiculous because we're clowns. But its taken a blow at our social lives.

ADAM:

What do you mean? We still have good times together, don't we?

SALLY:

I feel you don't pay as much attention to me anymore. Almost as if you're tired of me.

ADAM:

I'm not tired of you. It's just sometimes I wanna go out to a bar with the guys or play a friendly game of cards.

SALLY:

See that's the thing, I know that I'm not the only thing in your life, but we hardly do anything anymore.

ADAM:

So are you saying I am supposed to give up my social life and spend all my time with you?

SALLY:

No, but...

ADAM:

You know what? I don't think you're in any position to tell me what I can and cannot do. If you won't let me have a social life, I don't wanna be with you. You might be the world's only anal retentive clown!

SALLY:

What?! That's how you talk to me? Well if you're going to be an obnoxious jerk then fine! I don't wanna be with you either.

Sally storms off in a rage

ADAM:

Sally, wait I'm sor....

Adam tries to apologize, but Sally has already walked away. Adam has a look of sadness on his face.

CUT TO:

EXT.CIRCUS TENT

Adam is wandering around the circus grounds thinking to himself about the fight he had last night with Sally. Adam addresses the audience.

ADAM:

I'm such an idiot. What was I thinking? I mean really, does life get any better than it was? I am doing my dream job with my dream girl. What more could a clown ask for? I really messed up this time. Now she won't perform with me. What am I gonna do now? I'm going to have to make up a whole new act. Oh no, what am I gonna tell the ring master? He might fire us because of this. I better get my ass over there and explain to him what's going on right away.

INT. RINGMASTER'S OFFICE AFTERNOON

Adam is telling the ringmaster about his fight with sally and how it might effect their performance.

ADAM: Um,sir, we have a problem.

RINGMASTER:

What is it?

ADAM: Well, Sally and I had a fight.

RINGMASTER:

What do you mean a fight. What happened between the two of you. You seemed so in love with each other.

ADAM:

Well it's funny you should say that. The entire fight was about the fact that I wasn't paying enough attention to her.

The ringmaster thinks to himself

RINGMASTER:

Oh, geez. Who would have thought that all the drama in the circus would be with the clowns?

ADAM:

Anyway, she refuses to speak to me which I assume means she will not perform with me either.

RINGMASTER:

No problem. I'll just fire her and get you a new partner.

ADAM:

NO! Please don't. If she lost her job because of me I would be devastated. I can come up with something else to do as an act in place of our normal routine for the meantime.

RINGMASTER:

Well the show must go on. As long as we have something to fill that slot in the show, I'll be happy. I would prefer, though, to have your act with Sally. (MORE) RINGMASTER: (cont'd) If I were you, I would take some time to think about yourself and what Sally means to you.

ADAM: You're right. Well, I'll see you at the show tonight.

RINGMASTER: Yeah. I hope things work out.

ADAM: Yeah, me too.

CUT TO:

INT. CIRCUC TENT EVENING

Adam is going to perform an act without Sally.

RINGMASTER: Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, and children of all ages. If you would now shift your eyes to the center ring you will see Giggles the clown in his very first one man show. Take it away Giggles.

Adam walks out in a costume that has a patriotic theme to it. He begins to juggle and sing the star spangled banner. The crowd roars. He then does a new pantomime act by himself, but unfortunately does not get the same response from the crowd as did his juggling.

> RINGMASTER: Giggles the clown everyone.

The audience gives him a standing ovation.

RINGMASTER: One more time, Giggles the clown!

Adam exits the tent. He did not know but Sally was watching him the entire time. She too felt that she needed him back.

SALLY: I really want to take him back, but I am just afraid that I am going to get hurt again.

CUT TO:

INT. SNACK BAR MID-DAY

Adam bumps into Sally who is now holding hands with the cotton candy vender who goes by the name of "Joe"

SALLY:

Hello Adam.

ADAM: Sally! Hi! Who is this?

SALLY: This is Joe. He is the cotton candy vendor. He knows how to treat a lady right.

JOE:

How's it going. I love your act with the balloon animals.

ADAM: Sally, we need to talk. I have been miserable without you, I...

SALLY: Adam, don't start with me.

ADAM:

But I....

SALLY: You had your chance and you screwed it up.

JOE: Yeah man, you blew it

ADAM:

Stay out of this sticky fingers! Sally, I need to have you back. You made my life complete. I might be laughing on the outside, but I'm crying on the inside. Please...

SALLY: I have nothing more to say to you.

ADAM:

Sally wait! I...I love.....

Sally hears in the distance Adam's cry out to her. She looks back shakes her head and continues walking with Joe.

ADAM:

I have to get her back no matter what it takes. (sigh) Smokey Robinson was right. There ain't too much sadder than the tears of a clown.

INT. ADAM'S TRAILER EVENING

Adam is in the midst of devising a plan to get Sally back. He is laying in his bed talking to himself about what he did wrong and what he will need to do to fix the current situation.

> ADAM: Think, damn it, think! What do I have to offer her that no one else can? There's gotta be something...wait!

Adam leaps from his bed with great excitement of an idea how to win Sally back.

ADAM: Adam, you magnificent bastard, you got it!

CUT TO:

EXT. SALLY'S TRAILER MIDDAY

Adam appears in front of her trailer in full makeup as a clown prepared to perform a pantomime act for Sally. He is sure that this is going to work because this is how the two met when they first knew they had feelings for each other. Adam throws a small rock at the trailer to get Sally's attention. Sally opens the door and stands in the doorway.

SALLY:

Adam, what do you want?

Adam turns on a boom box and begins to play classical music to pantomime to. It is the same music that was playing when they met.

> ADAM: Sally, this is the only way I can truly show you that I love you.

Adam begins to do a a variety of mime acts that they did a few years ago when they met.

Sally is watching and you can see a happy tear in her eye. Adam then trips over the boom box and falls flat on his face. Sally, with her happy tears laughs.

ADAM:

Whoops! I meant to do that. Sally, please give me another chance. I really do love you. And I give you my word that from this day forward I will make it my job to show you every day for the rest our lives.

Sally runs to Adam's arms with happy tears in her eyes. Adam is emotional as well as they embrace.

ADAM:

Sally, my dear. You are the greatest thing that has ever happened to a clown like me. I love you with all my heart.

Adam kneels down on one knee. He gives her a box that has a ring inside. Adam opens the box.

ADAM: Sally O'Malley, will you make me the happiest clown alive and marry me?

SALLY:

Oh Adam, of course! You know it's about time. These few years I thought you were nothing but a jokester. Now I know you really care about me.

ADAM: This is the happiest moment of my life! I have to call my parents!

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S TRAILER MIDDAY

Adam is on the phone with his parents.

ADAM: Mom! I don't believe it! I'm engaged to Sally!

JANE: Oh Adam, that's wonderful. ROBERT: Yeah Adam, I'm very happy for you.

ADAM: I just don't understand one thing. Why are the both of you content with me marrying Sally? You made all that fuss just when I was dating her.

ROBERT: Well Adam, your mother and I realized something.

ADAM:

What?

JANE:

This is your life and you should do whatever make you happy and not worry about what others think of you, even if we don't agree.

ADAM:

Mom, Dad, I have to say, I couldn't have asked for a better set of parents. One other thing.

JANE:

What is it honey?

ADAM:

Sally and I are adopting twin boys. We're naming them Harley and Quinn.

Both parents laugh on the phone

JANE:

Well, Bob it's clear that he takes after your side of the family. Anyway, we have a wedding to plan. There's a lot to do over the next few months.

ADAM: Yeah. I gotta run. Our friends want to go out and celebrate our engagement.

JANE: Ok. Well call me later. ROBERT: Yeah, I so happy for you son.

ADAM: Thanks, I'm pretty damn happy too!

EXT. SYNAGOGUE SUNDAY AFTERNOON

People are walking in to the synagogue. The guest include members from both side of the family as well as friends from the circus. The audience sees jugglers, clowns, lion tamers and other circus folk arrive in full costume.

CUT TO:

INT. SALLY'S DRESSING ROOM

Sally is preparing to go walk to the alter. She is with her mother, Cindy.

CINDY: Oh Sally, I'm so happy for you. Adam is a wonderful person.

SALLY: I know. I'm the luckiest clown in the entire world.

Cindy takes a step back and looks at Sally who is dressed as a clown in a wedding gown.

CINDY: What can I say? You look both beautiful and ridiculous at the same time if that is even possible.

Frank, Sally's father enters the room

FRANK: What the hell kind of getup is this? We're having a wedding not a 6 year old birthday party.

SALLY: Dad, this is what Adam and I agreed upon for our wedding.

FRANK: All right, what ever makes my baby happy. This is your day, not mine. (MORE) SALLY: I love you daddy.

FRANK: I love you too dear.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S DRESSING ROOM

Adam is the most nervous he has even been in his life. He is pacing back and forth in his dressing room. His brother, Jonathan is there to comfort him.

> JONATHAN: Adam, you gotta calm down.

Adam is speaking in a very fast manner.

ADAM: I don't know. AM I doing the right thing. What if this doesn't work out? What the hell am I doing?

JONATHAN: Adam, do you love Sally?

ADAM:

Hunh?

JONATHAN: I said, do you love Sally?

ADAM: Of course I love her. She is the best thing that could happen to a goofball like me.

JONATHAN: Well then what are you concerned about?

ADAM: I don't know if I am ready for this marriage thing. I mean all the things are in place. I love her, she loves me.

Jane enters the room

JANE:

Adam, what are you making a fuss about?

ADAM: I don't think that I am ready for marriage.

Jane laughs.

ADAM: What's so funny?

JANE:

Your father was the same way before our wedding. Its must be genetic with the men in our family.

ADAM:

You're right. It must be nerves. The last time I felt this was when I had to perform all by myself in front of the whole class in clown college. I love Sally and I'm not going to let anything get in the way.

JONATHAN:

That's what I wanna hear! Now get out there and marry the clown of your dreams.

ADAM: Alright, its go time.

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Adam and sally are at the alter dressed in clown suits with makeup. The rabbi is dressed as the ringmaster.

RABBI: Do you, Sally Wally take Giggles in sickness and health till death do you part?

SALLY:

Yes, I do.

RABBI: And do you, Giggles, take Sally Wally in sickness and health till death do you part?

Adam had a horn and honks it to say yes

RABBI: I need a VERBAL answer please! You're not Harpo Marx!

ADAM: Sorry. I do.

RABBI: I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the clown.

Everyone applauds and everyone is emotional. Robert leans over to Jane.

ROBERT: Let's just hope their kids aren't afraid of clowns.

CUT TO:

INT. RECEPTION HALL

Adam and Sally are dancing to their wedding song, "Send in the Clowns."

SALLY: Well, our lives have turned out great so far.

ADAM: Most definitely. But you know what the best part is?

SALLY:

What?

ADAM: We don't have to hire clowns for our kids' birthday parties.

Sally laughs

SALLY:

Oh, Adam.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

EXT. CIRCUC TENT

Adam is speaking to the audience.

ADAM:

So, I guess it turned out the right way in the end. I got the job, I got my parents to accept me and the profession, but most importantly I got Sally. I am reminded of the old joke about the cannibals and the clowns. Life can be funny. It's funny that it all ended up the way it did. But hey, what's life without a sense of humor?

FADE OUT