



AH, THE CIRCUS! IT COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR! AND WITH IT COME THRILLS, LAUGHTER AND EXCITEMENT FOR EVERYONE...

...EVERYONE THAT IS EXCEPT ONE LONE SAD-FACED CLOWN!

A CLOWN WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE BIGGEST ATTRACTION IN THE BARNUM BROTHERS INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS!

LAUGHY CLOWN! LAUGH!

TO THE WORLD, HE'S KNOWN ONLY AS **DROOPY**, THE SAD-FACED CLOWN. HIS ANTICS HAVE MADE HIM A **STAR**...!

BECAUSE OF HIM, THE BARNUM BROTHERS CIRCUS HAS PROSPERED FROM A ONE-RING BACKROAD CHARNY INTO THE EXCITEMENT-PACKED, GAITY-FILLED **GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!**



DROOPY! HE'S MADE MILLIONS LAUGH! WHY THEN HAS NO ONE EVER EVEN SEEN HIM SMILE?

WOW, DROOP, YOUR ACT PACKS THE HOUSE EVERYWHERE WE PERFORM!

IT'S NOT JUST ME, BURT! IT'S ALL OF US!



PEOPLE LOVE TO LAUGH! THERE'S NOTHING THEY LIKE BETTER 'N CLOWNS!



HEY, DROOPY! HOW 'BOUT GETTIN' OUTTA YOUR GET-UP... JOINING US FOR SOME BREWS?

CAN'T, LEW! GOTTA GET SOME REST AND PACK. WE'RE HITTING THE ROAD AGAIN TOMORROW.

NO...THE SAD-FACED CLOWN NEVER SMILES, AND IT SEEMS HE HAS OTHER IDIOSYCRASIES AS WELL...!



ODD DEVIL! WE NEVER SEE HIM WITHOUT HIS MAKE-UP AND COSTUME! AND HE NEVER GOES ANYWHERE!

DON'T KNOCK 'IM! THE GUY CAN DO NO WRONG! HE'S GOT US BOOKED SOLID ALL OVER THE WORLD!

TO THE PERFORMERS AROUND HIM, DROOPY IS A MYSTERY! AN ENIGMA! NO ONE CAN GET CLOSE TO HIM, HE REMAINS ALOOF!

THERE ARE THOSE IN THE SHOW WHO GRUMBLE ABOUT HOW 'STARDOM CHANGES A MAN' BUT THEN THERE ARE THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT DROOPY'S PRIVACY!



WHILE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THE HAPPY LEGEND OF DROOPY THE SAD-FACED CLOWN GROWS, MILLIONS FLOCK TO THE CIRCUS... JUST TO SEE HIM!

AND REPORTERS FROM EVERY MEDIA SEEK TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF THE CLOWN WHO NEVER LAUGHS!



GET PICTURES AND AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM! MAKE IT A HUMAN INTEREST ARTICLE... NO COSTUME... NO MAKE-UP!



SCHEDULE HIM FOR A PRIME TALK SHOW! TELL HIM NO CLOWN SUIT! THE VIEWERS ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE THE REAL DROOPY!



BOOK HIM, ON THE NATIONWIDE HOOKUP, AND BE SURE TO GET HIM TO LAUGH!

AVERSE TO PUBLICITY, IT TAKES DURABLE PERSUASION TO CONVINCE DROOPY TO SUBMIT TO THE PERSISTENT REQUESTS, AT LAST HOWEVER, HE GIVES IN... FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CIRCUS.



THE MAN WAITS! AND THEN CAUTIOUSLY SNEAKS UP TO THE TRAILER AND PEERS IN...

W-WHAT THE...? IT'S UNREAL!



THIS IS THE PICTURE OF THE YEAR!



WHAT WAS THAT? I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW FLASHES OF LIGHT! MUST HAVE BEEN LIGHTNING!



AFTER I GET THESE DEVELOPED I'LL BE FAMOUS! IT'LL SHOCK THE WORLD!



M-MY GOD! MY EYES DIDN'T RECEIVE ME!!



THIS IS THE REAL DROOPY THE CLOWN! NO WONDER HE'S ALWAYS SO SAD-FACED! I GOT A BIGGER SCOOP THAN I BARGAINED FOR!

SO SOMEONE FINALLY HAD PICTURES OF DROOPY BUT WHO WOULD EVER BELIEVE THAT THE BLACK AND WHITE SNAPSHOTS OF AN OGRE WERE REALLY THOSE OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS CLOWN...?



THIS CAN'T BE DROOPY... THIS IS A JOKE!



WHAT A GUY WILL DO FOR FREE PUBLICITY! THIS AIN'T DROOPY!



SORRY, PAL! I DON'T BUY IT! IF THIS IS DROOPY, I'M GRANNY GOOSE!



BUT NOT EVERYONE IS A DISBELIEVER...!

AS SENATOR OF THIS STATE YOU MUST AT LEAST INVESTIGATE MY PICTURES...!

YOU OWE IT TO PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY!

HMMM, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT!

ESPECIALLY WITH ELECTIONS COMING UP...!



THE NIGHT IS ONE OF ENDLESS *TORMENT* FOR THE WORLD-FAMOUS MAN OF LAUGHTER, BUT EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMS TO LAST *FOREVER*, TO THE HAPLESS *CLOWN* MORNING COMES *TOO QUICKLY!*



THE CROWDS *THROWING* AROUND THE CAMERAS... AND AT LAST, *DROOPY* MAKES HIS APPEARANCE!



T-THE PICTURES... THEY'RE *TRUE!* DROOPY IS A *MONSTER!*

BY NIGHTFALL THE HORROR STORY OF THE AGE IS SPREADING RAPIDLY INTO EVERY HOUSEHOLD THE WORLD OVER. NIGHTFALL... OF THE DAY THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED AS THE DEATH OF DROOPY THE CLOWN!

THE TOP NEWS STORY TONIGHT IS A SAD STORY, DROOPY THE CLOWN HAS BEEN EXPOSED--!

A GROTESQUE, DEFORMED BEING!

IN A STARTLINGLY DRAMATIC REVELATION, AND MUCH TO THE DISMAY OF MILLIONS... DROOPY THE CLOWN REVEALED HIMSELF TODAY!

WE CAN ONLY CLASSIFY HIM AS A HUMAN MONSTER!

MY GOD... HOW CAN WE EVER BRING THE KIDS TO SEE HIM AGAIN!

SINCE DROOPY'S STORY BROKE, NOBODY WANTS TO BOOK US! IT LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE ROAD, FOLKS!

THE NEWS HITS HARDEST AT THE BARNUM BROTHERS CIRCUS!

BETTER TELL THE PERFORMERS THAT OUR BOOKINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED ON US!

B-BUT WHY, BOSS?

W-WHAT WILL WE DO?

HOW WILL WE LIVE?

WE'LL ALL HAVE TO LOOK FOR WORK WITH ANOTHER CIRCUS!

WAIT! I HAVE AN IDEA!

GIVE ME TIME... I'M GOING TO HAVE A TALK WITH DROOPY!

HEY, DROOPY! HOLD ON, MAN! YOU CAN'T JUST WALK OUT ON US ALL!

NOBODY BLAMES YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID! OR FOR WHAT YOU ARE! TO US YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED!

LISTEN, MAN! I'VE GOT A PLAN TO SAVE US ALL!

THE RINGMASTER EXPLAINS HIS IDEA TO DROOPY... THE MONSTER!

SO YOU SEE, DROOP IT COULD WORK. IT COULD SAVE THE CIRCUS AND EVERYONE IN IT... AND PEOPLE WILL STILL LAUGH AT YOU!

I-I DON'T KNOW LEW. I'LL TRY IT IF YOU SAY SO THOUGH!

SO DROOPY AGREES, HE JOINS THE CIRCUS SIDESHOW WITH THE OTHER FREAKS... THE OTHER HUMAN ODDITIES! AND STILL MILLIONS COME TO SEE HIM... COME TO LAUGH!

HA HA! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING SO GROTESQUE IN YOUR LIFE? I WONDER HOW THEY DO IT!

WITH MIRRORS, MAN!

DANGER!
DO NOT COME CLOSE!

YEAH! ANYONE THAT UGLY CAN'T BE REAL!

BUT SOMETHING IS MISSING FOR DROOPY: THE LAUGHTER IS NOT THE SAME AS IT WAS WHEN HE WAS A CLOWN!

OUTWARDLY, HE AND HIS FREAK COMPANIONS ARE THE PICTURE OF MIRTH AND GAIETY FOR THE PUBLIC!

HA HA! AND THE POOR DUMB CLODS LOOK SO HAPPY! HA!

BUT INWARDLY, DROOPY CRIES... SCREAMS IN PAIN! FOR THE LAUGHTER HE EVOKES FROM THOSE WHO SEE HIM IS NO LONGER PURE... WHOLESOME LAUGHTER!

IT IS DEBASED!
UNHEALTHY!
THE LAUGHTER OF RIDICULE!

BUT IT IS A LAUGHTER THAT HAS SAVED THE CIRCUS! FOR DROOPY IS STILL A STAR!

LITTLE DO THEY REALIZE THAT WHAT THEY SEE IS NO MONSTER AT ALL...

... BUT AN UNSELFISH TORMENTED BEING...

MILLIONS WHO ONCE CAME TO SEE THE SAD-FACED CLOWN, NOW FLOCK FOR A GLIMPSE OF THE LAUGHING MONSTER!

... WHO WILL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE THOSE AROUND HIM HAPPY!