

PROLOGUE

SEE THE PAINTED SLOPPY CLOWN... AND **LAUGH!** OH WHAT JOYOUS BOFFOLA...!



I WAS BORN IN 1947...!

BUT YOUR RAUCOUS SHRIEKS WILL ONLY **BOUNCE OFF** EVERY POLKA-DOTTED TARGET OF THE FOOL'S **PRISON SUIT...** AND SLAM BACK IN YOUR EARS LIKE A DUNGEON DOOR SHUTTING FOR GOOD...!

HOW **FUNNY** THIS LAUGH-SOPPER LOOKS WITH HIS FLAPPY FEET **RUNNING...**!



IT CAN'T BE 1984 ALREADY!

GOT TO RUN FOR MY LIFE **EVERY YEAR...** FROM 1984 TO 2001...!



GOT TO GET RID OF THESE RIDICULOUS SHOES! CAN'T **MOVE** IN THEM...!

WHAT? NO MORE SLAP-FLAPPY OXFORDS TO PROVOKE THOSE UPROARIOUS BELLY-BOOMS?



NOTHING ON THIS STREET BUT **SALOONS, BANKS, GENERAL STORES, AND JAILS...**!

...SO **THEY** CAN GET LOADED TO SHOOT THE TELLER TO BUY THE BEANS TO GO TO THE CELL ON A FULL STOMACH! AND THEN **BREAK OUT** TO DO IT ALL AGAIN...!

SIREN-SNAPPY NO MORE **LAUGHY!** THE ICE BLUE SUITS SWOOP IN FOR THE **KILL...!**

SEE THE BUFFOON **SCURRY-SCAMPER**, PANIC EXPLODING IN LATEX EARS!



THROUGH THE SWINGY DOORS... STRAIGHT TO **MADNESS...**



OUTER SPACE...?! NO! NOT AGAIN...!

IT CHANGES... KEEPS CHANGING AT REGULAR INTERVALS...!

I'M TRAPPED... IN THIS... THIS **INSANITY!**

YOU SAY YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S **HAPPENING**, SHRIEK-CREEPS? WELL, ALL THE FUZZIES WILL BE **CLEARED UP...** IF YOU JUST STAY **TUNED!**



BLACK AND WHITE VACUUM TO BLUES

WATCH THE FLOTSAM FUNMAKER, FOLLOWED BY HIS FEROCIOUS **FOES**...

...INTO THE GIGGLY-SILENT **STAROUST**... THROUGH NO **AIR** AT ALL...!

WHAT'S WORSE...?
COPS OR **GALACTIC
MARAUDERS**? THEY'RE
ALL CONTROLLED BY THE
SAME DIABOLICAL
MASTERMIND!



A GREAT SUCKY **INTAKE** AND THE
JESTER OF THE SPACEWAVES
BECOMES LIKE UNTO A **WET
NOODLE**... SLURPED MAMA MIA
TOWARD THE SPACESHIP'S HUNGRY
MOUTH...!

THE
SPACERS'VE
GOT ME... CAUGHT
ME IN A **SUCTION
VORTEX**..!

FWOOOOOP



... **DOWN-THUMPED** ON A SOFT SPOT
IN A **STARBURST** OF **PAIN**...!

OUCH!



**NOBODY
HERE...?**

THUMP

MAYBE THIS
DOOR LEADS TO
THE **CONTROL
ROOM**..? MAYBE I
CAN USE THIS SHIP
AS A VEHICLE FOR
ESCAPE..?



SEE THE MIRTHY CREATOR OF JOLLITY SO FUNNY-STUNNED AS HE OPENS THE
PLASTISTEEL SPACESHIP **PORTAL**...

NOT AGAIN!
I'VE LIVED THIS
BEFORE... OVER
AND **OVER**, THE
SAME THINGS!



UGH! HERE
IS **CLOWN**..! **CLOWN**
MUST UNDERGO
HEAP **BIG TRIAL**..!

LOOKY! THE CLOWN WAVERS ON CHILL-BARE FEET, PREFERRING AN EMPTY **SPACE CRUISER** TO A PLANE FULL OF **SCALP-SEEKERS...**

THEN AGAIN, SWARM-SLEWS OF **SCALP-SEEKERS** SEEM MORE DESIRABLE THAN BLUEMEN WITH **BLASTING BLAZERS...**



...BUT...
**JIGGERS...
THE COPS!**

WHY DID I SAY THAT? I WAS FORCED TO SAY THAT!



SLAMMM

**BLAM!
BAM!**

THERE HE GOES,
O'CASEY!
GET HIM!



HOKAY, CLOWN.
YOU KNOW RULES. THIS IS LAND OF PREDESTINY...
NO FREE WILL!
EVERYTHING PROGRAMMED FOR US!
NO CAN BREAK ORDER...!

BUT YOU CAN'T DO THIS! WE SHARE A COMMON ADVERSARY! WE SHOULD UNITE TO BREAK FREE OF THE BIG BROTHER WHO'S WATCHING US... WHO KEEPS US UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE!



STOP FLICKING FORKED TONGUE, WHITEFACE! YOU WASTE TIME! WE ONLY ALLOTTED CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME... MUST ACCOMPLISH PRESCRIBED PURPOSE THEREIN! NO REBELS ARE ALLOWED!

THE TEEPEE...!
IF I CAN DASH INTO IT...



MAYBE I CAN CONFUSE 'EM BY LIFTING THE BACK FLAP AND ESCAPING!

BUT FATE HAS A GIGGLE OR SO UP ITS TENT-FLAP FOR OUR FUGITIVE FOOL FROM THE VAST GALACTIC DUST CLUSTER...




THE SPACESHIP AGAIN! THE MISERABLE FIENDS ARE TOYING WITH ME... PROBABLY MONITORING ME RIGHT NOW AND HAVING A GOOD LAUGH ABOUT IT TO BOOT!

FRANTIC HANDS OH SO RUMBLY-SLAP THE FLAP BACK ON THE ANGRY SCALPERS...




THAT SOUND... LIKE BUGLES... FROM OUTSIDE.


TA-TA-TADATA TA-TA-TADATA



IT *IS* BUGLES!
THEY'RE SENDING
THE CAVALRY
AFTER ME NOW!




THEY'LL *BE*
HERE *SOON!* GOT
TO GET AWAY FROM
THEM... FROM THIS
INFANTILE
INSANITY!




THIS MATTER
TRANSMITTER
TELEPORTATION
MOLECULAR
SCRAMBLER
TRANSPORTER
SHUTTLE...


...IS
MY ONLY
HOPE!



NO TIME TO SET A
DESTINATION! JUST
HAVE TO FADE OUT
AND SEE WHERE I'M
TRANSPORTED!




IT
WORKED...
I'M
GONE!




I'M FADING
BACK IN! BUT
WHERE
AM I?

THE CLOWN IS **DOWN**... IN A DANK-DARK, CREEPY-CRAWLY, DISMAL - DREARY **CASTLE**...




OH NO... NOT THIS ONE AGAIN! I'VE BEEN IN THIS ONE SO MANY TIMES!

LISTEN TO THE CREAKITY-CRUSTED CASKET CRACK OPEN FROM **WITHIN**...




NOW HE'S GOING TO POP UP... **DRAMATICALLY**... RIGHT ON **CUE**... AND SAY--




GOOD EVE-EN-INGGG...

LISTEN, VAMPIRE, I KNOW YOU'RE OUT TO **GET ME**... JUST LIKE ALL THE REST! BUT **WAKE UP** AND **LISTEN** TO ME!

THEY'RE **WATCHING US!** CAN'T YOU **FEEL** THEIR EYES ON YOU EVEN **NOW?** THEY **MADE** YOU A **VAMPIRE!**




WE WERE ALL BORN IN 1947, MY DEAR CLOWN! WE'VE ALL UNDERGONE **RATINGS**, AND HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO OUR INDIVIDUAL, **SPECIALIZED ROLES**..!



YOU ARE **PARANOID**... SUFFERING FROM AN ACUTE **PERSECUTION COMPLEX**! AND NOW I SHALL **JUSTIFY** THAT COMPLEX!

YOU...YOU HAVE **NO MIND** OF YOUR **OWN**! YOU'RE A **PARROT**, LIKE ALL THE **OTHERS**... SPEAKING LINES **THEY WANT** YOU TO SPEAK..!

YOU WANT MY **BLOOD** BECAUSE I'M **IMMORTAL**..!



I WANT YOUR **BLOOD** BECAUSE THE **BLOOD IS THE LIFE**...

...AND BECAUSE I AM **THIRSTY!**

BUT DON'T YOU SEE THAT OUR LIFE IS JUST A **STAGE**... AND IT'S **WRITTEN** THAT YOU WANT MY **BLOOD**...?!

HELTER-SKELTER, HECTIC LEGS
JOGGLE-BOG THE CLOWNIE DOWN
THE STONE STAIRWELL, DRAC-
FLAK HARD TO HACK?



NO USE
TRYING TO REASON
WITH HIM! HE'S
BRAINWASHED LIKE
ALL THE REST!

GOT TO
RUN FOR MY
LIFE...!



NO! IT CAN'T BE
CURTAINS FOR
ME!

I DIDN'T DO
IT! I'M INNOCENT!
THE MAN WITH THE
HOOK... IN
CASABLANCA--!

THEN THE GREAT VELVETY
CURTAINS START TO PART!
AND THE FOOLISH CLOWN
REALIZES THAT HIS **TIME**
HAS RUN OUT! HE HAS RUN AND
RUN AND RERUN... AND NOW
ALL HIS OPTIONS ARE
CANCELLED...!



TRAPPED
BETWEEN THE
SHADOWS IN
FRONT OF ME AND
THE VAMPIRE
BEHIND ME!



YOU'VE FLED
ACROSS THE VAST
WASTELAND LONG
ENOUGH, VARMINT!
YORE SHOW'S
OVER, CLOWN!

BUT I'M
NOT A CLOWN...
NOT REALLY!



I'M A MAN
UNDERNEATH THIS
CLOWNSUIT! DO
YOU HEAR? I'M
A MAN WITH HIS
OWN IDENTITY!

THAT'S ENOUGH,
AWOL Z38! YOU NEVER
SHOULD'VE LEFT YOUR
SET!

BUT WE GOT YA NOW
AND WE AIN'T EVEN GONNA
BOTHER BOOKIN' YA...
DUE YA CIRCUMSTANCES
BEYOND OUR CONTROL!



I'M A MAN,
I TELL YOU! THE
CLOWN IS JUST
GREASEPAINT... AND
I REFUSE TO WEAR
IT ANYMORE!

I WON'T
MASQUERADE AS
AN IDIOT MOUTHING
INANE PHRASES FOR
THE AMUSEMENT OF
CRETINS WHO CAN'T
THINK FOR
THEMSELVES!

UGH! HEAP
BIG BERSERKER
THIS ONE... DISRUPTING
PROGRAMMING BEST
SUITED TO MASSES!



LEAPIN' ASTEROIDS... HE REALLY WENT NOVA! GUESS HE'LL HAVE TO BE BLASTED BY MY SURE-SEAR ATOMIZER RAY..!

GO AHEAD... ALL OF YOU! SHOOT ME! BLAST ME! BITE ME! AT LEAST I'LL DIE A MAN..! AND AT LEAST IT'LL BE THE LAST TIME THEY STARE AT ME... UNLIKE YOU, YOU WHO ARE THE REAL CLOWNS!



GUESS HE LEAVES US NO CHOICE, PODNUHS..!

AAAAAHHHHHHHHH!



AT LEAST... IT'S... THE LAST TIME... THEY'LL... WATCH... ME...

THE END

AND NOW...



THE END

...A WORD...



...FROM OUR...

THE END



...SPONSOR.

URRRP!

THE END

WEIRD SHOW.

REALLY WEIRD SHOW!

TUNE IN TOMORROW, SAME TIME, SAME STATION, FOR THAT SPARKLING COMEDY HIT, LET'S ALL DRINK TO THE DEATH OF A CLOWN... FOLLOWED BY THIS IS YOUR FUNERAL AND AS THE CORPSE TURNS. SEE YOU THEN!

