

HERE COME THE CLOWNS

by Clarice Moon



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CHARACTERS: Two Clowns.

PROPS: Table, chair,
rubber donut, rubber egg, pie (for
face).

(CLOWN comes in and sits at table.)

WAITRESS: *(Comes to table.)* What would you like?

CLOWN: A million dollars.

WAITRESS: We only serve food here.

CLOWN: How about coffee and a donut?

WAITRESS: How about coffee and a donut?

CLOWN: Will you bring me one?

WAITRESS: OK. *(Brings cup of coffee and donut.)*

CLOWN: *(Tries to eat donut.)* Where'd you get the donut — out
of King Tut's tomb?

WAITRESS: Not exactly! Funny, you're the third person who
tried to eat it.

CLOWN: *(Throws donut down.)* I'll have a fried egg.

WAITRESS: *(Brings egg on plate.)* Here you are — sunny-side up.

CLOWN: It's the only sunny thing I've seen around here.

WAITRESS: You can say that again. Happy eating!

CLOWN: *(Tries to eat egg.)* I've heard of tough meat — but not
tough eggs before.

WAITRESS: It would be tougher if you didn't have any.

CLOWN: I doubt that. I'd like to see you eat that egg!

WAITRESS: I'm sorry, but I never eat off of customers'

1 **plates!**

2 **CLOWN:** Well, bring me some pie. Maybe that will be OK.

3 **WAITRESS:** Coming right up.

4 **CLOWN:** Put it there! (*She does — right in his face.*)

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At the Head ShrinkER

CHARACTERS: Two Clowns.

PROPS: Desk (or table), two chairs.

(CLOWN comes into room.)

DOCTOR: What's your problem?

CLOWN: I have so many problems that I think I need my head examined.

DOCTOR: You've come to the right place. Sit down and tell me about it.

CLOWN: First, my wife won a million dollars in the lottery.

DOCTOR: That's a problem?

CLOWN: It sure is. She went to Vegas on the next plane.

DOCTOR: Well, you should be glad to get rid of that problem.

CLOWN: Then my son got fired from his job as a paper hanger.

DOCTOR: What was his problem?

CLOWN: He was too stuck up to work.

DOCTOR: Maybe he'll find something else —

CLOWN: My daughter ran off with an exterminator.

DOCTOR: That is rather pesky —

CLOWN: And my cat had ten kittens.

DOCTOR: Maybe you'll find a large family that likes pets.

CLOWN: And the dog ran away from home.

DOCTOR: Well, look at it this way. You won't have to buy dog food anymore.

CLOWN: But I didn't mind buying dog food.

DOCTOR: So, you're saving money.

CLOWN: And someone stole my wallet —

DOCTOR: *(Shakes his fist.)* Now you really have bad trouble. You won't be able to pay me. *(DOCTOR chases CLOWN out of office.)*



UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE FOR CLOWNS

CHARACTERS: Five Clowns.

PROPS: Desk (or table), telephone with bell, six chairs.

(One CLOWN is seated at desk. Other CLOWNS sit on row of chairs as though they have sat there for a long time. There is a short lapse of silence. Telephone rings.)

CLOWN AT DESK: Hello, Unemployed Clowns. Yes! Yes! Yes!

(Writes on paper. Other CLOWNS straighten up and look at him.) Here's a birthday party!

CLOWN 1: *(Standing up)* I'll go!

CLOWN AT DESK: For a Doberman Pinscher.

CLOWN 1: For a dog — a birthday party?

CLOWN AT DESK: For a dog — for fifty clams!

CLOWN 1: I'll take it!

CLOWN AT DESK: Had your rabies shot?

CLOWN 1: Hope doggie has! *(Goes out singing "Happy Birthday, Dear Doggie." Phone rings again.)*

CLOWN AT DESK: Hello, Unemployed Clowns. Yes. Yes. Yes. I'll see. *(Hangs up phone. Writes on paper.)* Here's a job come in!

CLOWN 2: What is it?

CLOWN AT DESK: To be shot out of a cannon.

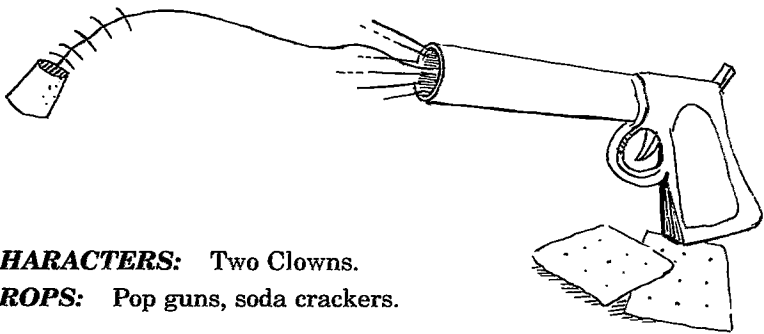
CLOWN 2: It's not my line — but I'll take it.

CLOWN AT DESK: It's a shot to the moon.

CLOWN 2: I'll take it. It's better than nothing.

1 **CLOWN AT DESK:** *(Handing him paper)* **For one hundred clams.**
2 **CLOWN 2:** **I won't need money on the moon —**
3 **CLOWN AT DESK:** **Hope you have a soft landing. (CLOWN**
4 *2 exits.)*
5 **CLOWN 3:** **I hope I get a job. I've been here for two weeks.**
6 *(Pulls crust of bread out of paper bag and eats it.)*
7 **CLOWN AT DESK:** **Maybe something will show up. (CLOWN**
8 *3 chews his crust.)*
9 **MAN:** *(Running in)* **I need a clown!**
10 **CLOWN AT DESK:** **What's the job?**
11 **MAN:** **A funeral!**
12 **CLOWN 3:** **I never play funerals —**
13 **MAN:** **I don't need a clown at the funeral — but to dig a grave.**
14 **Trust Uncle Finnian to die during the grave digger's strike.**
15 **CLOWN AT DESK:** **To dig a grave?**
16 **MAN:** **For one hundred smackers — so I can do right by**
17 **Uncle Finnian!**
18 **CLOWN 3:** **I'll take it!**
19 **CLOWN AT DESK:** **So will I! (Hangs up "Closed" sign and all exit.)**
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TARGET SHOOTING



CHARACTERS: Two Clowns.

PROPS: Pop guns, soda crackers.

(CLOWN 1 shoots at soda crackers held by CLOWN 2. When gun pops, the cracker is pinched and broken so it falls to the floor. CLOWN 1 shoots at all sorts of angles and from all positions; from the shoulder, hip, backwards, over the head, back through the legs, lying on the floor and with eyes shut.)

High Diving Act



CHARACTERS: Two Clowns.

PROPS: Ladder, small bucket.

(DIVING CLOWN sets stage with step ladder and small pail. He climbs ladder, waves hands, throws kisses and waves farewell. He puts his hands together to dive. Everyone yells, "No, no, no." Finally, another CLOWN comes out and takes away pail. DIVING CLOWN comes down the ladder and chases other CLOWN Off-stage.)



Tight Rope Walking

CHARACTERS: Many Clowns.

PROPS: Rope laid on floor.

(CLOWNS using umbrellas, long poles, etc. One CLOWN walks on top of rope on floor as if it were one hundred feet up in the air. Shows fear of falling off, etc.)

FASHION SHOW



CHARACTERS: Many Clowns in costumes.

PROPS: Whatever props clowns carry.

(Each CLOWN comes On-stage, walks up front, shows off props, turns around, walks backstage clowning it up, and walks off other side. Continue until all clowns have appeared.)

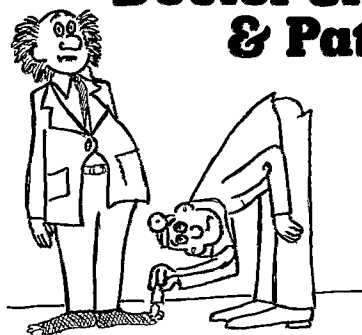
MISSING HUSBAND

CHARACTERS: Group of Clowns, one Lady Clown.

PROP: Gaudy pair of shorts.

(LADY CLOWN goes to each clown and describes her husband differently to each; tall to one, short to another, etc. Every clown listens to her intently and sadly shakes his head. Finally, she goes to walk off and mournfully holds up pair of gaudy shorts as all she has left of her husband.)

Doctor Clown & Patient



CHARACTERS: Two Clowns.

PROPS: Chair for patient, doctor bag, hammer, stethoscope, tongue depressor, rubber snake, silk scarves, piece of chain, hypodermic needle (big).

(CLOWN PATIENT comes in wearing a business suit. He points to his stomach and registers pain. DOCTOR listens with stethoscope and then pulls out wiggly snake. PATIENT points to his foot and takes off his shoe. He has a sock with all toes sticking out. DOCTOR puts stethoscope on big toe and listens. He motions "OK." PATIENT puts shoe back on and then points to his ear. DOCTOR looks in ear. He pulls out about six tied silk scarves from under wig, behind ear. PATIENT registers relief. PATIENT then points to his mouth. DOCTOR looks in mouth with tongue depressor. He pulls out a piece of chain. PATIENT looks surprised and relieved. DOCTOR gets a big hypodermic needle and gives PATIENT shot. Someone Off-stage breaks a balloon. PATIENT gets up and chases DOCTOR Off-stage.)



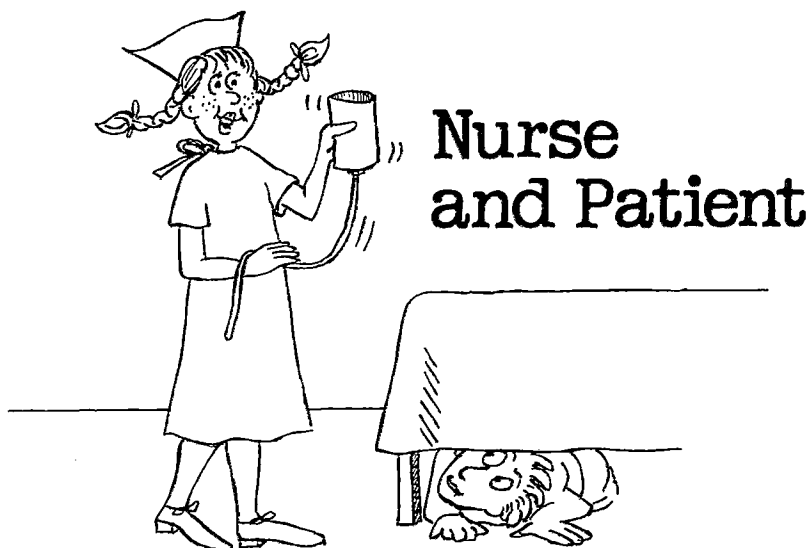
William Tell and the Apple



CHARACTERS: Two Clowns.

PROPS: Bow and arrow, apple, blindfold.

(FIRST CLOWN (marksman) enters with an apple and a bow and arrow. He spies SECOND CLOWN and in mime he shows that he wants to shoot the apple from the SECOND CLOWN's head. There is lots of disagreement about this but finally SECOND CLOWN agrees, if a blindfold is used. On goes the blindfold. Now the FIRST CLOWN puts the apple on SECOND CLOWN's head and gets back ready to shoot. Silly business about peeking from under the blindfold interrupts the shot. When everything is ready again, FIRST CLOWN stops, walks back and takes a bite while he does it. As he gets back in firing position, he's still chewing. Delicious. He likes the taste and so goes back for another bite — and another, until finally there's only a core left. Suddenly the SECOND CLOWN notices that there's only a core sitting on his head. He gets very angry, grabs the bow and arrow and chases after the FIRST CLOWN.)



CHARACTERS: Two Clowns.

Props: Can with rubber tubing (to represent enema).

(This is a hide-and-seek routine with PATIENT CLOWN running On-stage and hiding. NURSE CLOWN comes in with can. NURSE sees PATIENT and goes after him. NURSE puts flowers in can to fool PATIENT. Many entrances and exits. Ought to be good for a laugh.)



COUNTRY BUMPKINS

CHARACTERS: Two Fat Clowns (one a Lady Clown).

PROPS: Basket of apples (or balloons).

(LADY CLOWN comes On-stage. Other CLOWN rushes by, bumping and spilling her apples on floor. CLOWN keeps on running. LADY CLOWN chases other CLOWN and grabs him by his ear or coattail. Motions for him to help pick up apples. They pick up apples, bumping together, LADY CLOWN showing fancy underpants when she stoops over. When all apples are picked up, LADY CLOWN walks Off-stage. CLOWN goes Off-stage in other direction, acting disgusted.)

THE SAFETY CLOWN



CHARACTERS: Clancy (the Safety Clown), Cindy (little girl who lives in the house).

(Stage is set like a living room with everything topsy-turvy. There is a knock at the door.)

CINDY: *(Opening the door)* Hello.

CLANCY: Hello. I am the Safety Clown and I would like to inspect your house for accident hazards.

CINDY: Our house doesn't need inspecting.

CLANCY: Don't you ever have accidents?

CINDY: No. Not very much. Daddy just fell down the cellar stairs this morning. But he went to work anyway.

CLANCY: Is that all?

CINDY: No. Mama stepped on the block that the baby dropped on the floor and hurt her ankle. But she can still walk.

CLANCY: Where's your baby sister?

CINDY: Oh. She swallowed a pin and Mama took her down to the doctor to get it out.

CLANCY: I think your house needs a Safety Clown. May I

1 **come in?**

2 **CINDY:** Yes. Come in. What do Safety Clowns do?

3 **CLANCY:** They find things that cause accidents and then
4 correct them. The fire chief in our ward gave the clowns
5 lists to check and made us all Safety Clowns.

6 **CINDY:** What do you check?

7 **CLANCY:** Well — for instance: those shears should be put out
8 of reach of your baby sister. Also, the pin cushion and
9 the matches.

10 **CINDY:** OK. I'll put them in the cupboard and shut the door.
11 Then she can't reach them.

12 **CLANCY:** Take these pills with you. They should not be left
13 where she can get at them. If she eats some, it will mean
14 another trip to the doctor to pump out her stomach.

15 **CINDY:** Ugh! That sounds awful! I'll take the pills and put
16 them in the medicine chest where baby can't reach them.

17 *(CINDY goes out with shears, pin cushion, matches and pills.)*

18 **CLANCY:** *(As CINDY comes back)* Toys should be picked up as
19 people could fall over them and maybe break a leg. It
20 would be hard for you to get along if your mother were
21 in the hospital for six months with a broken leg.

22 **CINDY:** Oh! I guess so! *(CINDY and CLANCY pick up toys and*
23 *put them in a toy box.)*

24 **CINDY:** Is that all?

25 **CLANCY:** Oh, no! All papers and rubbish should be picked up
26 and put in the garbage can. It is a fire hazard if left lying
27 around.

28 **CINDY:** Here's some papers I can pick up and put in the
29 garbage. *(CINDY picks up papers and takes them out.)*

30 **CLANCY:** *(As CINDY comes back)* Let's look at the cellar stairs.
31 The steps should not be filled with magazines, buckets,
32 fruit jars, boots or mop pails. Anyone can fall on such
33 things and end up in the hospital.

34 **CINDY:** There it all is on our cellar steps. No wonder Daddy fell
35 this morning. I will tell Mama about it when she comes home.

- 1 CLANCY: Then there are electric cords. Old frayed cords
2 should not be used. They should not be under rugs or
3 furniture as they can easily short and cause a fire.
- 4 CINDY: This lamp cord is in bad condition.
- 5 CLANCY: I will pull the plug out of the socket, so if the baby
6 gets the cord in her mouth, she won't get electrocuted.
- 7 CINDY: Would a little, harmless looking piece of wire do that?
- 8 CLANCY: Yes, it would. Nobody should take chances like that!
- 9 CINDY: I guess not! I'll have Daddy get a new cord for the
10 lamp.
- 11 CLANCY: That's a good idea.
- 12 CINDY: Is that all the things that you have to check for safety?
- 13 CLANCY: Oh, no! There's lots of other things to check. Like
14 keeping pot handles turned to the back of the stove so
15 baby won't pull them off on her head. Check the lock on
16 the bathroom door so that baby doesn't lock herself
17 inside. Check . . .
- 18 CINDY: Oh, my! There are so many things to check!
- 19 CLANCY: Yes, there are. And they have to be checked over
20 every day in every home. It is very important to be a
21 Safety Clown.
- 22 CINDY: Oh! Could I be a Safety Clown? I could help a lot in
23 my family.
- 24 CLANCY: Yes, you could. It is work that needs doing in every
25 family to prevent accidents from happening.
- 26 CINDY: Well, if I can be a Safety Clown, can't other children
27 be Safety Clowns, too?
- 28 CLANCY: Of course! All they have to do is to keep their eyes
29 open for things that endanger the safety of others. Your
30 fire chief or even your teacher could give you a list to
31 check the safety of your home.
- 32 CINDY: Come on, everyone. Let's all be Safety Clowns. It will
33 be fun to help prevent accidents.
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A Nostalgic Puppet Play

CHARACTERS: Clancy, Master of Ceremonies.

CLANCY: Hello, folks. I'm glad to be here. But I sure miss Duggan.

M.C.: Who is Duggan?

CLANCY: You mean you don't know who Duggan is?

M.C.: No. I've never had the pleasure of meeting the man.

CLANCY: And you won't either.

M.C.: Well, tell me. Who is Duggan?

CLANCY: He was my twin brother.

M.C.: You mean there were two of you? Was he a clown, too?

CLANCY: Oh, yes. We were both clowns. The only twin clowns in the business.

M.C.: I don't remember him.

CLANCY: That was a long, long time ago. Before your time.

M.C.: It must have been.

CLANCY: Yes. It was during the Depression and work was very scarce. But Duggan and I worked very well together.

M.C.: What kind of work? Clowning?

CLANCY: No. Not clowning. Just any kind of work we could get. Duggan liked to work. So we walked about the country and when we came to a house, Duggan got work to do and I collected the food and the money.

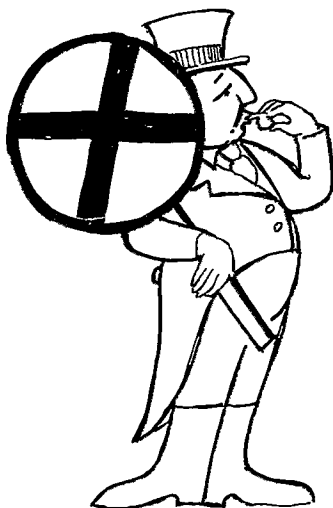
M.C.: That doesn't seem fair.

CLANCY: It was fair to Duggan. He loved to work. He always said he'd rather "wear out than rust out."

M.C.: What happened?

CLANCY: We went all over the country. We were in the north in the summer and south when the weather got cold. We

1 really had it made — until the trouble began.
 2 **M.C.:** What trouble?
 3 **CLANCY:** Well, I got real fat from eating all that good food
 4 the farmers' wives gave me. And poor Duggan wasted
 5 away to a shadow from all the work he did. He never
 6 liked to eat what I did.
 7 **M.C.:** Then what happened?
 8 **CLANCY:** We traded places. I did the work and Duggan did
 9 the eating and collected the money.
 10 **M.C.:** Did that work out all right?
 11 **CLANCY:** Not too good. For one thing, I was too fat to do
 12 much work. So we didn't get as much money. Duggan
 13 couldn't eat because when he wasn't working he wasn't
 14 hungry. So he kept wasting away.
 15 **M.C.:** So what happened?
 16 **CLANCY:** So I lost weight from working and trying to do as
 17 much work as Duggan had done.
 18 **M.C.:** What happened to Duggan?
 19 **CLANCY:** Well, we got to Ashtabula, Ohio, and that was as far
 20 as Duggan could go. He was just all worn out. So I left
 21 him there —
 22 **M.C.:** Then what happened?
 23 **CLANCY:** I had to go on alone. But you know it takes a longer
 24 time to rust out than to wear out.
 25 **M.C.:** I guess it does.
 26 **CLANCY:** I know it does. I'm the one who is rusting out —
 27 and it takes a long time. But I miss Duggan. We were a
 28 good team.
 29 **M.C.:** I guess you would miss him.
 30 **CLANCY:** Well, it's time for this old clown to have his nap.
 31 *(Yawns.)* Good night.
 32 **M.C.:** Good night.
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SAFETY AT THE RAILROAD CROSSING

CHARACTERS: Two Clowns, one Ringmaster.

PROPS: A mock-up of a railroad crossing sign.

(RINGMASTER walks out with red crossarm railroad crossing sign. Two CLOWNS walk by, see it and gesture to it with agreement. One CLOWN stands back and gestures for the other to talk to the RINGMASTER.)

CLOWN 1: Are you the trainmaster here?

RINGMASTER: Yes, I am.

CLOWN 1: My friend wants me to ask you when the next train comes through from the north?

RINGMASTER: At four o'clock this afternoon. *(CLOWN 1 goes back to CLOWN 2 and gestures "four" with his fingers. CLOWN 2 whispers into CLOWN 1's ear. CLOWN 1 nods "OK" and returns to RINGMASTER.)*

CLOWN 1: My friend wants me to ask you when the next train comes from the south?

RINGMASTER: At five o'clock this afternoon. *(Repeat same business with east train and west train at other hours. After all times are settled, CLOWN 2 looks at his watch and speaks.)*

1 **CLOWN 2:** Well then, I do believe we can cross the tracks in
2 **perfect safety.** (*The CLOWNS proceed with great care to make*
3 *the crossing as the RINGMASTER looks on.*)
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CHARACTERS: Two Clowns.

PROPS: A sign, a crayon or marker.

(CLOWN 1 is On-stage as CLOWN 2 enters with a sign that reads "Fresh Fish for Sale Here." A dialog follows.)

CLOWN 2: *(With sad face make-up)* Are you the manager of this fish shop?

CLOWN 1: Yep. Sure am.

CLOWN 2: Well, I'm an advertising expert and I have a sign that will sell lots of fish for you. *(Hesitantly)* I hope.

CLOWN 1: All right. Let me see it. *(CLOWN 2 holds up sign.)* "Fresh Fish for Sale Here." Not too bad, but I think it needs a little improving.

CLOWN 2: It does?

CLOWN 1: Of course! Why do you have the word "fresh"? This is a high-class shop. Do you think I sell rotten fish?

CLOWN 2: *(Sadly)* No.

CLOWN 1: Then scratch that out! *(He does.)* And what about "here"? Naturally I sell fish here — not there on the other side of the street. Scratch that out. *(He does, obligingly.)* And look at this "for sale." Do you think I give them away? *(CLOWN 2, almost in tears, shakes his head.)* Out! Scratch that out! *(He does.)* And fish! How stupid can you get? Anybody can smell that I sell fish! You call that advertising?



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