

Barny the Clown

By

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FADE IN.

INT. CIRCUS TENT - NIGHT

Inside a huge circus tent, flashing lights and colors fill the air. The main ring is filled with wild animals, acrobats, stunt men, and all kinds of other performers. The CIRCUS PERFORMERS display their best tricks. The circus tent is completely sold out. People of all ages are having a great time. The entire crowd is cheering and laughing, their eyes are wide open and they all have amazed looks on their faces as they eat their popcorn and candy. There is loud cheerful music playing as the crowd cheers.

All of a sudden, the music gets softer and the crowd begins to quiet down, the lights dim, everyone in the crowd is now sitting still, but they are very anxious, sitting on the edge of their seats with excitement, as they know what is coming next...

The RING MASTER, A big man, fairly young, wearing a black vest with a large red coat and a top hat appears from the darkness, a spotlight is shining on him from above.

RING MASTER

And now, the moment you have all
been waiting for...
Ladies and gentleman, boys and
girls, please welcome our crowd
favorite, BARNY THE CLOWN!!!

The crowd boosts out of their seats, jumping and cheering even louder than before. BARNY THE CLOWN, a young healthy 23 year old clown, wearing over-sized shoes, a very colorful clown outfit, fuzzy blue hair, and a RED CLOWN NOSE comes running out from behind the curtain. Barny the Clown stops, then begins walking around the perimeter of the ring, looking up with a huge smile on his painted face, waving to all his fans. The crowd goes wild. They continue to jump up and cheer for him. Barny the Clown looks humbled, as his standing ovation continues, the crowd is now chanting his name.

CROWD

Barny the Clown, Barny the Clown,
Barny the Clown, Barny the Clown...

The scene opens up to display the whole circus atmosphere, including both the cheering crowd and Barny the Clown, the cheering and chanting of Barny's name begins to fade out, getting softer. The voice of a YOUNG FEMALE CLERK fades in. Blending the chanting and her voice. The chanting

eventually fades out completely as the female voice fades in and becomes much louder and intense.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE - CHECKOUT - MORNING

CLERK

Next... Sir...? Sir...? Sir?!?!

BARNY, 68, an old out of shape, scruffy faced man, looks up quickly, he is a bit startled by the Clerks voice as he snaps out of his daydream. He loads a couple of items from his shopping cart to the checkout counter. The CLERK, a young, pretty girl, 19, begins ringing him up. Each item makes a beep as they are scanned through; a six pack of Budweiser, Marlboros, eggs, one banana, and dish soap.

CLERK

That will be \$19.45. Paper or plastic?

BARNY

I will pay with credit.

Barney innocently smiles to himself. The clerk is caught off guard by his answer, and curiously looks at him.

CLERK

Um, alright then... May I see some I.D.?

The sound of coins and paper shuffles as Barney reaches down into the deep pockets of his worn out baggy pants, he pulls out his wallet, takes out his I.D. and hands it to the Clerk.

Barney has suspiciously turned around, to do something over his shoulder.

CLERK'S POV

She looks down at the I.D. card, it has a small sticker, a red dot covering his nose in the photo. She looks back up, to see Barney turn back around with a RED CLOWN NOSE on his face.

Clerk looks back down at the I.D., then back up at Barney.

(CONTINUED)

CLERK

Uh... What is this?

The look on her face shows that she is very uncomfortable, almost in shock. She looks at Barney as if he is stupid.

BARNY

Ta-da! That's me! haha

He raises his arms up and out to his sides as if he's preformed a trick, smiling.

CLERK

Oh, ok. You're a Clown. wow...
Thank you sir...

She shakes her head and hands him back his I.D. Not amused.

CLERK

Freakin' Weirdo.

Barney frowns, looks down, and pulls the clown nose off his face and stuffs it back into his pocket, disappointed at her response. Rather than peppiness, there is now sorrow in his voice.

BARNY

Well, I used to be... I guess I'll
just take plastic.

The clerk has already looked away, completely disregarding Barney.

CLERK

Next... Hi mam, how are you
today...

Barney grabs his grocery items off the counter. His head still bowed in embarrassment, he drags his feet as he carries his stuff out of the store, awkwardly cradled in one arm, with no bag.

CUT TO:

EXT.PARKING LOT - BARNY'S TRUCK - DAY

Barney opens the door to his truck; an old rusty 1972 Chevy pickup truck. He dumps his groceries onto the seat, where his DOG sits. SCRUFFY, an old Jack Russell Terrier perks up, looking at Barney.

(CONTINUED)

BARNY

I know, thanks for waiting boy...
Ya, it happened again, for three
years now, same thing everywhere I
go. At least you still think I'm
funny.

Scruffy looks up at Barny, tilting his head with a concerned look.

BARNY

Alright boy, let's head home.

Barny puts his key in the ignition and starts his truck. The loud engine of the truck rumbles, thick black exhaust spits out of the tailpipe, he puts it in gear and begins driving away.

CUT TO:

INT. BARNY AND SCRUFFY DRIVING INSIDE TRUCK - DAY

Inside the truck view of Barny and Scruffy driving down an old country road. Scruffy has his head resting on the edge of the door with his nose hanging out the window, wind blowing on his face.

Barny looks straight ahead. He looks as if he is in a deep thought.

BARNEY (V.O.)

I've always been a clown, why don't
people understand me anymore. I'm a
great clown, well, I was a great
clown...

FADE TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BACK OF THE CIRCUS TENT - NIGHT

A cold, dark, quiet night, a few hours after the circus show is all over and the people are all gone. Barny, at age 65, swings open the door and storms outside the back of the backstage changing room tent, with his head down and his feet dragging along the dirt ground, he carries a duffel bag... The Ring Master comes out after him.

(CONTINUED)

RING MASTER

Hey come on. I didn't want it to
end this way. It wasn't my
choice...

Barney turns around and looks at him from a few yards away,
there is a pause as the two men make eye contact, Barney
looks down again.

RING MASTER

Look, I'm sorry Barney, you made
this your life, you had a good
career with us, but you can't be a
Clown forever.

Barney turns around and gets in his truck.

RING MASTER

Barney!.. Barney!.. Come on don't
leave like this...

Barney drives away, once he's out of the Ring Master's site
he begins crying. Close up on his face, then fades into
identical shot of him, back to current time, day, driving
home from the grocery store, still crying.

FADE TO:

INT. BARNY AND SCRUFFY DRIVING INSIDE TRUCK - DAY

Scruffy is now whimpering and looking up at Barney with
concern. Barney's sorrow has quickly turned into anger.

BARNY

I am a clown! Always have been,
always will be, and that's all I
ever will be!

CUT TO:

MONTAGE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - QUICK CUTS

Barney continues driving. As he gets more upset, he begins
having even more flashbacks. The flashbacks begin slow and
begin getting worse, his anxiety rises as the worst memories
of his life are pacing through his mind.

Barney is in a crowded area in a restaurant, he tries to play
a joke on his WAITRESS.

(CONTINUED)

WAITRESS

You shouldn't do that in here, what
are you some kind of stupid clown,
why don't you grow up old man.

Barny is walking down a his own neighborhood street. There
are some TEENAGERS sitting outside one house as he walks by,
they taunt him.

TEENAGERS

Look at the old stupid clown dude,
haha!

Grocery Store check out.

CLERK

Freakin' Weirdo!

Gas Station pump. A WOMAN walks by and Barny tries to talk
to her.

WOMEN

Get away from me you Clown Freak!

The hurtful names and bad memories are flashing very quickly
through his head, the montage continues cutting back and
forth from him driving to his flashbacks. All the names he
has ever been called are overwhelming his thoughts: Stupid
clown, freak, weirdo, old clown, idiot, creeper clown. These
words and memories are very intense and are flashing through
his thoughts so fast.

CUT TO:

INT. BARNY AND SCRUFFY DRIVING INSIDE TRUCK (DAY)

Barny is so overwhelmed his face has turned red, he is
furious with rage and consumed by sorrow. His emotions have
never been so high. He pulls up to a stop sign on a quiet
neighborhood street and stops.

BARNY

That's enough!!! I'm done! I'm
nothing!

Scruffy whimpers. Barny throws the gear in park, he reaches
into his deep pocket and pulls out his red clown nose. He
throws it out the window. It hits the street, bounces, and
rolls a few feet, then stops.

Shot from behind the truck, with the clown nose laying on the street in the foreground, the truck in the background. Barney puts the truck back in drive and takes off, leaving the red clown nose behind.

FADE OUT:

CUT TO:

Red clown nose sitting in the middle of the street, and Barney's truck is driving away into the distance. A seven year old BOY walks across the street, picks up the nose and puts it on, wearing it on his face. He laughs and giggles, and skips away out of the frame.

FADE OUT.