

CLOWNS

Written by

Liz Zhang

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Host is walking through a poorly maintained trail in a forest. As he's stepping over ledges and walking past rotting, fallen, trees, he's narrating to the audience.

HOST

Their populations used to span all of North America. You'd be just as likely seeing them in the suburbs of Los Angeles as the farms of Iowa as in the middle of New York City.

Host pauses in the middle of the trail and kneels down, inspecting a footprint. The footprint is that of a size 20 shoe, its proportions comically exaggerated.

HOST (CONT'D)

Clowns. They were a mainstay of American entertainment merely 60 years ago. But as technology advanced, clowns were left behind. To the point where now... they're on the verge of extinction.

Montage of wild animals, nature, and geysers.

HOST (V.O.)

Today on Planet Earth, we'll be exploring Yellowstone National Park, looking for the last of the wild clown population.

Title card "Planet Earth - In Search of Joy"

EXT. FIELD - DAY

A camera crew is gathered with their equipment. Many of them are in various states of undress and they are changing into new clothes.

HOST (V.O.)

While the domesticated clown seeks out humans, perhaps to the disdain of some, the wild clown is shy and elusive. They have excellent vision and will flee from anything they perceive as a threat.

One of the camera operators is buttoning up a short sleeved white dress shirt. He's already wearing black slacks and he has a black tie draped around his neck. A stack of bibles can be seen on the ground nearby.

CAMERA OPERATOR
So... we're dressing up as Mormon missionaries.

He finishes up buttoning his shirt and starts tying his tie.

CAMERA OPERATOR (CONT'D)
We've found that most humans will subconsciously try to avoid eye contact with Mormon missionaries, which should make us... nearly invisible. Even if they do notice us, most of the time, they will continue on their way because they don't want to seem rude. Either way, it lets us get close.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The edge of the forest is quiet, except for the babbling of the nearby stream. Suddenly, a quiet rustle can be heard. The rustling grows louder until a man emerges from the forest thicket. The man is wearing a long sleeved, light blue dress shirt, khaki pants, and a brown belt with brown penny loafers. He's looking around apprehensively, taking quick nibbles of leaves between suspicious glances.

HOST (V.O.)
The accountant. A common sight here in Yellowstone.

The accountant slowly walks over to the stream, still maintaining his watch.

HOST (V.O.)
This is an older accountant and that has just finished balancing a large account. Prime prey for the clown, who seeks tired and bored adults to entertain in order to sustain itself.

The accountant crouches down to take a sip of water from the stream. A branch breaking can be heard from the forest. The accountant looks up.

HOST (V.O.)
Danger.

A jacked man wearing slacks, a tight fitting Underarmor tshirt, and sports sunglasses bursts through the forest.

HOST (V.O.)

A used car salesman.

The accountant runs through the stream, stumbling out of the other side before taking off into the field next to the forest. The salesman leaps over the stream in a single bound and gives pursuit. After a short chase, the salesman catches up to accountant and tackles him. With the accountant pinned to the ground, the salesman produces a stack of papers and a pen, forcing the accountant to sign.

HOST (V.O.)

The sale has been made.

The accountant gets up, brushes himself off, grabs the stack of papers and dejectedly meanders back into the woods.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A man is sitting on a rock, marking through a stack of papers. Behind him is a 8ft tall cliff face with chalk writings indicating a math lesson was just taught here.

HOST (V.O.)

A teacher, alone and distracted by grading.

A faint and slow honking noise can be heard. The teacher looks up for a moment as the honking stops. The teacher goes back to grading and the honking starts again. The honking gets louder and louder, now accompanied by squeaking. A clown appears on the top of the cliff face.

HOST (V.O.)

The clown makes their move!

The clown tumbles down the cliff face, limbs flailing, until they collapse in front of the teacher before quickly bouncing back on their feet. The teacher, startled, falls back from the rock, papers flying through the air.

HOST (V.O.)

The teacher, knowing there's no fleeing from this predator, puts up a desperate struggle for survival.

The teacher sits back down on the rock only to shoot back up again. He grabs the whoopie cushion that was quietly placed on the rock and throws it to the ground.

HOST (V.O.)

A grievous injury.

The teacher starts yelling something at the clown.

HOST (V.O.)
With no other option, the teacher
tells the clown that they'll never
achieve anything in life.

The clown throws a paper airplane at the teacher.

HOST (V.O.)
And thus, the circle of life ends
for this teacher.

BLACKOUT