

UNCANNY COUNTY

"The Clowning"

Episode 213

By: Todd Faulkner

Intro:

SOUND: THEME MUSIC

NARRATOR: You're riding alone on a moonlit, but starless night.
You just missed your exit, and now there's only one
way back home. So sit back, open your ears and hold
on tight – because you're about to take a quick
detour... through *Uncanny County*...

Scene 1:

MUSIC: (on radio) No Accidents by Ned Massey

SOUND: Voice on speaker "10-22, disregard the call"

SOUND: typing

SOUND: Door opens. Boots on the floor.

ROWLAND: Evening, Lloyd. How's our guest?

LLOYD: She's fine. Oughtta charge her rent.

SOUND: Door closes.

ROWLAND: Ain't funny Lloyd. Woman's been through a lot.

LLOYD: Sorry, Sheriff. Her boy's at that new day care - the one that volunteers for the county, but they close in an hour. I know you said not to call the CPS, but -

ROWLAND: But nothing. Sit tight till I talk to her.

SOUND: Boots on concrete, DOOR OPENS, CLOSES

MUSIC STOPS WITH DOOR CLOSE

SOUND: Footsteps

ROWLAND: Well. Fancy seeing you here.

SUSAN: Hi Sheriff. Is he ok?

ROWLAND: Boy's fine, Susan. He's over at -

SUSAN: I know he is, Sheriff. I meant - the - the -

ROWLAND: Mr. Giggles is fine. Just shook up. He tried to convince folks that your assault qualified as some sort of hate crime, but nobody listened because - well, for one thing he was still wearing his greasepaint.

SUSAN: Oh lord -

ROWLAND: I need you to tell me what happened.

SUSAN: I was at the station, Tyler was supposed to be in the daycare, but Jessa called in sick so they shuffled the kids off to the audience of the morning show, but nobody told me! I came for snacktime, no one's there - I ran in the studio, saw him sitting on the lap of a -

ROWLAND: Go on.

SUSAN: Next thing I knew, Mr. Giggles was out cold, and the kids were all screaming. (beat) I assume he's pressing charges?

ROWLAND: Surprisingly, no. I may have said something about extenuating circumstances. (beat) But you are gonna have to find a new job. (beat) Receptionist, Real estate agent, Cocktail waitress, heck, you even got yourself fired from the Foto Cabana.

SUSAN: Ms. Haney took a lot of pictures at that circus.

ROWLAND: May I make a suggestion? (beat) I think might be time for you step back into your big shoes.

SUSAN: No.

ROWLAND: Susan, you were the best birthday clown in the whole state -

SUSAN: No. No more clowning. I'll find something. I'm fine.

SOUND: HONK

SUSAN: Wait - what was?.

SOUND: HONK – Susan struggles with the bars

SUSAN: WHERE IS IT?!?! SHERIFF, LET ME OUT SO WE CAN -

ROWLAND: Bicycle horn. \$2.79 at the S-Mart. (beat, then firmly) Those things are gone. Get back to your roots. Face your fears -

SUSAN: (A bit of a dig.) I am facing them. Head on. (beat) We need to tell folks what happened -

ROWLAND: They know enough. Officially, the Clown Motel was blown up by a leaky gas main -

SUSAN: - while we were fighting off an invasion of clown-things from another dimension -

ROWLAND: That part's classified.

SUSAN: Folks need to know -

ROWLAND: Shoot, they'll lock us both up. Hell, I've fought them off twice and even I can hardly believe-

SUSAN: Threes! Threes, don't you see? Bad things happen in threes - funny things too, and those creatures are both!

ROWLAND: Bad things only happen in threes, if you stop counting once you get to three. (beat) Bad things happen every day, Susan, terrible things. You lived through a doozy. But it's time to move on. Now I'll probably regret this -

SOUND: KEYS JINGLE

ROWLAND: but I believe that boy of yours is waiting on his mama.

SOUND: JAIL DOOR OPENS

ROWLAND: Get looking for that job. I'll update my letter of recommendation. How you set for rent?

SUSAN: We're good for a month or two.

ROWLAND: I pulled some strings and got Tyler set up for a free month at the new day care. I hope it helps, 'cause I am running out of strings to pull.

SUSAN: I don't deserve your kindness.

ROWLAND: Well, then try harder. Get settled, keep it together, and your ex will have to let you see your other boys again. It'd be good for Tyler to see more of his brothers, and it'd be good for you, too. But if that's gonna happen, you have got to knock off this funny business. Got it?

SOUND: Pause, then HONK

SUSAN: (takes a moment) I got it, Sheriff. And I do thank you.

SOUND: springs creak as she rises from the jail cell cot

SUSAN: But you and I both know there ain't nothing funny
 about it.

MUSIC: CALLIOPE MUSIC

NARRATOR: Susan Pasternak's five year old son Tyler was conceived the night she and Sheriff Rowland fought of an invasion of clown-like creatures from another dimension. During the attack Tyler's father, Ted Crider, was murdered by the white-faced monsters. And now Susan's about to find out that monsters can take many forms, and they often appear where you least expect them. Especially... in Uncanny County.

Scene 2:

SOUND: Jangling door

MARGARET: Welcome to HappyTime Daycare -
SUSAN: Hi. I'm *(gasps)* OH GOD IT'S A - picture.
MARGARET: Of a Clown.
SUSAN: Nice. Looks real nice and- big. *(beat)* I'm Susan,
Susan Pasternak. Here to pick up Tyler.
MARGARET: Pasternak... Hmm. I don't see you on the sign-in
sheet.

SOUND: Jangling door

MARGARET: Hello Ms. Wilbanks.
DANA: Hi, Margaret. Sophie have a good day?
MARGARET: She always does. Just a sec *(reading list)* Hmm.
Pasternak.
SUSAN: I didn't sign him in. Sheriff Rowland told me -
MARGARET: Oh! You're the one. Silly me. *(to intercom)*
Constance, can you send out Sophie and Tyler?
(beat) I hear you'll be with us the whole week. That
should be interestin'.

SOUND: BUZZER, door opens, tiny footsteps

CONSTANCE: Here's the little jokers!
TYLER: MAMA!
SUSAN: Hi, monkey!
DANA: Hey, little monster!
SOPHIE: Tyler's mom was in jail!
TYLER: You were, right? Like, jail jail?
SUSAN: That's not really a story for here, hon.

TYLER: But Sheriff Jane said -

MARGARET: We know all about it.

CONSTANCE: Besides - I'll bet you can't keep secrets from this one - you don't miss a trick, do you Mister Funnypants? *(to Susan - stage whisper)* He is magical.

SUSAN: I try my best.

MARGARET: *(condescending)* I'm sure you do.

DANA: Hold on - Margaret, what is that supposed to mean?

MARGARET: I'm sure I don't know what you -

DANA: That condescending tone. Why don't you just say "bless your heart" or "I think you're a terrible mother"?

CONSTANCE: She said nothing wrong, Ms. Wilbanks. Tyler's a wonderful child. Clearly she's doing something right.

DANA: See, now you did it, Constance. Backhanded compliment. If you say she's doing "something" right, what you really mean is, you think she's doing almost everything wrong.

MARGARET: Tyler is here because of an incident this morning.

DANA: I know all about the "incident." Who cares? Some clown got his butt kicked. Is this because she's a single mother? I'm a single mother.

CONSTANCE: I just meant he's precocious. Funny.

SUSAN: Funny? Funny how? *(too harsh)* What do you mean funny?

TYLER: Mama...?

CONSTANCE: Just funny, you know. Funny. *(silly voice)* He's a little sillypants.

SOPHIE: And he's a dinosaur! Show 'em!

TYLER: *(Makes dinosaur noise)*

SOUND: THE KIDS LAUGH

SUSAN: I guess that is funny. *(it's ok)* It's funny.

DANA: Hi. Dana Wilbanks.

SUSAN: Susan. Susan Pasternak.

DANA: You had a bad day. You're entitled. Everyone's entitled. Right Margaret?

MARGARET: Yes. I am sorry.

SUSAN: No, I'm sorry. We got off on the wrong foot. I am grateful you'll be watching my boy while I look for a new job.

MARGARET: New job? Well, isn't that a coincidence?

CONSTANCE: Patsy's old job. In the church office!

MARGARET: They've been looking for a while.

SUSAN: What church?

DANA: The one that runs Happytime.

CONSTANCE: The Domo de la Lasta Rido.

DANA: Don't worry. I hear they're really progressive.

SUSAN: I'm sure they are, but I - I have a record.

MARGARET: The Domo de la Lasta Rido believes very strongly in second chances.

MUSIC: _____ Transitional music

Scene 3:

SOUND: Small town ambience, footsteps

ALAN: (on phone) Well, congratulations.

SUSAN: Thank you, Alan. It's a good job. I just finished my first week. Everyone's great. Preacher has no sense of humor, but that's not a negative for me. And as an employee, Tyler gets to go to the daycare for free! Right next door! I'm surprising him for lunch.

ALAN: (on phone) That sounds good. I'm glad he's liking it.

SUSAN: He loves it. He's made friends, and I - well, I've made one myself. Name's Dana. Our kids get along - it's like one long play date. For all of us.

ALAN: (on phone) Well, good. That all sounds very positive.

SUSAN: It is. (beat) So?

ALAN: (on phone) So, I guess - keep after it?

SUSAN: Alan -

ALAN: (on phone) Susan, you've been there a week. When was it you attacked that - Mr. Giggles?

SUSAN: That's not the point. Marty and Duncan are his brothers.

ALAN: (on phone) Half-brothers. I get it, they're family.

SUSAN: His birthday's on Saturday. I sent you the evite.

ALAN: (on phone) Did you?

SUSAN: I'll send it again.

ALAN: (on phone) All right.

SUSAN: We'll see you there - ?

ALAN: (on phone) I'd imagine. Assuming you don't have another --

SOUND: HONKING HORN IN DISTANCE

ALAN: (on phone) What was that?

FEMALE CLOWN¹: (silly voice, in distance) Sayonara from Sissy
Sillypants - have a super-silly day!!! (Silly laugh)

SUSAN: I gotta call you back.

ALAN: (on phone) Susan - Susan?

SOUND: CALL ends

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS as Susan runs towards the clown

SUSAN: Hey. HEY!

FEMALE CLOWN: WHADDAYA MEAN HAY? HAY IS FOR HORSES!

SOUND: Clown knocks on window, kids laugh

CLOWN/DANA: (normal voice, scared) Susan? Are you O-

SUSAN: Da-Da-Dana? Y-y-you're a cl-

DANA: Yeah. It's me - the kids don't know...

SUSAN: You never said - (trying to control herself) I'm sorry
this is a lot to -

DANA: (clown voice) I KNOW! Let's go to a SCHMANCY
restaurant. (normal voice, through her teeth) and I can
take off my makeup and we can talk where the kids
can't see us. (clown voice) OKEY DOKEY?

SUSAN: Okey - OK.

SOUND: Muffled children's laughter

MUSIC: Transitional music

¹ The clown is Dana.

Scene 4:

SOUND: Casual restaurant ambience - Dana pulls out a chair, sits

DANA: There, that's better. Did I get it all?

SUSAN: Yeah. So - you're a clown.

DANA: Birthday clown. Corporate stuff pays the best but there's not much of that in these parts. I do shows at HappyTime every so often. That's how I can afford it.

SUSAN: Oh.

DANA: Kids love clowns. *(beat)* You ok? *(making light)* You looked like you wanted to *(clown voice)* rip my face off earlier.

SUSAN: Yeah. No. I - I have issues with clowning.

DANA: *(normal voice)* Well of course you do. You're Susan Pasternak.

SUSAN: What do you -?

DANA: I know all about you. I should have told you before -

SUSAN: You don't. You can't possibly...

DANA: The best birthday clown in the state? County clown of the year six years running?

SUSAN: Oh, that.

DANA: Sorry for cyber-stalking you. You were kind of my idol.

SUSAN: Thanks.

DANA: I was sorry to read about your fiancé. The explosion.

SUSAN: Yeah, the - gas main.

DANA: Is that why you walked away? Left it all behind? I'm sorry. It's none of my -

SUSAN: More or less. Let's just say leaving was a decision I did not make lightly.

DANA: You could come back. I know, losing someone like that, it must feel like there's no joy left in the world - but when you hear those kids start to laugh-

SUSAN: I, I. No. That's over for me.

DANA: I don't mean to push. But this world could use a clown like you.

SUSAN: Former clown. I am - definitely - a former.

DANA: You may be, but that son of yours - he's the future.

SUSAN; What do you mean?

DANA: Have you seen his pratfalls? Clowning must be in your DNA. It's sure as hell in his. *(beat)* He's funny.

MUSIC: TRANSITIONAL MUSIC

Scene 5:

SOUND: Lullaby from a music box

SUSAN: Did you brush your teeth and go potty?

TYLER: Mmm hmm.

SUSAN: Then it's time for bed. Let me tuck you in.

SOUND: bedsheets being pulled up, patted.

SUSAN: So. What happened at daycare?

TYLER: Oh, I don't know. Played games. Learned stuff.

SUSAN: What kind of stuff?

TYLER: You know, stuff. Things. How many more days till my birthday?

SUSAN: Nine. (*cautiously*) I heard there was a clown.

TYLER: SISSY SILLYPANTS was so FUNNY!

SUSAN; That's nice. (*beat*) You know some folks think clowns are scary.

TYLER: What? That's silly - OH! I made up a joke! Knock, knock.

SUSAN: Who's there?

TYLER: Interrupting Clown.

SUSAN: Interrupting Clo-

SOUND: CLOWN HORN HONKS - then SILENCE

SUSAN: Tyler, how did you do that?

TYLER: Do what? This?

SOUND: CLOWN HORN HONKS

SUSAN: Yes, that! How do you make that -

SOUND: CLOWN HORN HONKS THREE TIMES

SUSAN: Stop it!

TYLER: What?

SUSAN: How do you do that?

TYLER: I don't know, it's like the dinosaur.

SOUND: DINOSAUR SOUND

SUSAN: *(lying)* Of course. Of course it is, baby. It's just like that! It's fine - it's fine!

MUSIC: TRANSITIONAL MUSIC

Scene 6:

SOUND: HONK (on speaker)

SUSAN: (on speaker) Do it again.

SOUND: HONK (on speakers)

SUSAN: (on speaker) Once more.

SOUND: HONK (on speakers)

SUSAN: (on speaker) Thank you baby.

SOUND: CLICK

SUSAN: Well?

ROWLAND: (on phone) I'm not gonna lie, it is peculiar, but it's just a noise. Kids make noises.

SUSAN: I'm concerned. (afraid to say it) He was conceived that night. In that place. What if that place somehow -

ROWLAND: (on phone) Shut her down. That is no line of thinking for you to be pursuing. Now I am right proud of you for not clocking that clown yesterday, especially since she turned out to be your new bestie. But this is your son.

SUSAN: He's obsessed. Suddenly it's all clowns - all he talks about - and he won't stop making that noise.

ROWLAND: (on phone) Didn't your other boys get obsessed with things?

SUSAN: Video games. Pokemon. Normal things.

ROWLAND: (on phone) I'm gonna hazard a guess your boy has hardly ever seen a clown in his life. Am I correct?

SUSAN: Not until Mr. Giggles. And Happytime

ROWLAND: (on phone) There you go. It's new. He'll move on to something else. (beat) Maybe I should put in a call to Happytime. See if they can make it a clown free zone for a while.

SUSAN: No. No. It wouldn't be fair to Dana. Or Tyler. it's my problem, not his. It's just a phase. He's fine. (*trying to convince herself*) He's fine.

MUSIC: Transitional music

Scene 7:

SOUND: Jangling door

MARGARET: Well hello, Susan! Wait - Tyler's got a little surprise for you! *(into intercom)* Constance?

SOUND: DOOR BUZZ

CONSTANCE: Ta-da!

TYLER: Mama!

SOUND: Floppy footsteps

TYLER: See? See? Look!

SUSAN: Why, you're a- you're a

CONSTANCE: He's a clown.

SUSAN: *(in shock)* Uh huh.

MARGARET: It is facepaint Friday - and - show her honey!

TYLER: Look, mama!

SOUND: Floppy footsteps

SUSAN: I see - your shoes are enormous.

TYLER: I learned how to tie my shoes - so I get to be the clown of the week.

CONSTANCE: Little game we play.

MARGARET: Games are the BEST way to give them guidance.

SUSAN: *(trying to maintain)* That's great. I'm proud of you, darlin, but we need to take off the shoes and go -

TYLER: They said I could keep them ALL WEEKEND!

SOUND: Floppy footsteps up the wall and then THUMP, Thump, Thump

TYLER: Ta da!

SUSAN: He just a flipped - off the wall?

MARGARET: Into a cartwheel!

SUSAN: How did you do that?!?!

TYLER: I don't know - it just - happened.

CONSTANCE: We are SO proud of you Mister Funnypants!

SUSAN: His name's Tyler. We gotta go.

MUSIC: Transitional music

Scene 8:

SOUND: Interior, car driving. Otherwise - silence.

TYLER: Mama? Are you mad at me?

SUSAN: No. No honey, I'm fine.

TYLER: Really?

SUSAN: No, sug. I'm not.

SOUND: Car pulls over, parks.

SUSAN: I know. I know you are just being a kid. And I am so damn proud of you -

TYLER: Language.

SUSAN: But - it's hard for me to see you like this.

TYLER: Like what?

SUSAN: Like a clown, sweetheart. *(beat)* You know, I used to be a clown.

TYLER: You were a clown?

SUSAN: I was good at it. Da- darned good at it. Then I met your daddy and - well, you know how I told you some folks were afraid of clowns.

TYLER: Uh huh.

SUSAN: Well, that was your daddy. And it turned out - well, I tried to help him get over his fears and I really shouldn't have.

TYLER: Why not? Clowns are just silly.

SUSAN: Some. Some are. But others -

TYLER: Why was he afraid of clowns?

SUSAN: That - that doesn't matter.

TYLER: Why are you afraid of clowns?

SUSAN: I just need you to trust me.
TYLER: Why? Why won't you tell me?
SUSAN: (losing it) Because!
TYLER: BECAUSE IS NOT AN ANSWER!
SUSAN: I KNOW BUT IT'S THE ONLY ONE I HAVE RIGHT-

SOUND: CELL PHONE RINGS.

SUSAN: God DAMN it! (to Tyler) I know, language.
(into phone) Hey Alan.
ALAN: (on phone) Hey Susan. I got your e-vite for Tyler's party, and I'm sorry but it's - It's not gonna happen.
SUSAN: What's not gonna happen?
ALAN: (on phone) Marty and Duncan. I'm sorry, but I gotta go out to Fort Donner to check the site, and I'm not comfortable leaving them -
SUSAN: Oh for God's sake.
ALAN: (on phone) According to the court, I have a responsibility. (beat) Now, I'll take them all out next week to Cheezy Chesters. My treat, but I can't in good conscience -
SUSAN: It's his birthday.
ALAN: (on phone) We'll get him something good. I gotta go.

SOUND: Call ends.

SUSAN: Go? Go? Why don't you just go STRAIGHT TO HELL!

SOUND: Silence.

SUSAN: I know, language.
TYLER: They're not coming?
SUSAN: No baby. I'm sorry.
TYLER: You promised.

SUSAN: I know. I thought they -

TYLER: YOU PROMISED!

SUSAN: Tyler - I'm sorry. And I will make it up to you. What do you want me to do?

TYLER: I want my party at HappyTime.

SUSAN: The daycare? OK. Maybe we can make that -

TYLER: And Sissy Sillypants!

SUSAN: That's - the clown you met there. OK.

TYLER: And I want everyone to dress like a clown.

SOUND: Long pause.

SUSAN: (*weakly*) OK.

Scene 9:

SOUND: Kids playing, laughing.

MARGARET: Are you all right?

SUSAN: Yeah. Sure. It's a lot of clo- a lot of kids.

MARGARET: He's very popular. Those little clowns are all so precious...

CONSTANCE: I just want to EAT THEM ALL UP!

SUSAN: This is a lot of people.

MARGARET: Reverend Walker wanted the whole congregation to welcome you. Didn't you?

REVEREND: It's true. That's why we set up the party in our main building – plenty of room for our whole church family. Not to mention the trampoline, the bouncy house...

SUSAN: And the ball pit. You really went all out.

REVEREND: Well, he's a funny little guy.

SUSAN: Yes. Yes, and thank you. It - it means a lot to him. A lot to me. *(gasps in fear)*

SOUND: Kids run by screaming Tyler HONKING.

REVEREND: If there's a more beautiful sound, I don't know what it is.

SUSAN: Right. Where the hell - I'm sorry, I mean, I wonder where Dana is.

CONSTANCE: I believe you referring to "Sissy Sillypants."

SUSAN: Yes. She's late. She was supposed to be here by - *(woozy)* Whoa.

MARGARET: Are you sure you're all right?

SUSAN: I'm just - hyperventilating - a little. Whooo...

MARGARET: You are pale.

CONSTANCE: And it's not just the greasepaint.

MARGARET: You should go outside. Get some fresh air..

SUSAN: No. It's his birthday. I should (*woozy*) pass out,
or - NO. I mean - OK. Just for a minute.

MARGARET: Here, right this way.

SOUND: Footsteps.

CONSTANCE: Right through there.

SUSAN: Thank you. I'll just be a minute.

SOUND: Heavy door opens and shuts.

MARGARET: Right then.

SOUND: LOCK CLICKS

CONSTANCE: Shall we?

Scene 10:

SUSAN: *(on voice mail)* This is Susan. Please leave a message.

SOUND: BEEP.

ROWLAND: *(to phone)* Susan, this is Jane Rowland. Reckon you're out of range, or busy with the party. You tell Tyler that I am running late, but I will be there. Guaranteed. My clown makeup will be minimal for reasons which I'm sure you will understand, but I will be there. See you soon.

SOUND: Hangs up handset

ROWLAND: Lloyd, what's the number for that church in Lansdale - the one with the daycare. I want to see if I can get through to Susan. La Lost-a Rider. Something.

LLOYD: Is that Spanish?

ROWLAND: I don't think so. Look up Happy Time Daycare.

SOUND: Typing and a hard return

LLOYD: Here it is. Huh. Wow, they just opened up.

ROWLAND: How long?

LLOYD: Couple months. 'Bout the time they started giving free daycare to county employees.

ROWLAND: Click on the church. Domo de la Lasta Rido.

LLOYD: Also very new *(beat)* hang on - Lasta Rido... That ain't Spanish, that's Esperanto.

ROWLAND: Esperanto?

LLOYD: Invented in 1887, supposed to be a universal language.

ROWLAND: I'm familiar with Esperanto. Wait - you speak it?

LLOYD: Kind of, I'm a little rusty.

ROWLAND: What's it mean? The name of the church.

LLOYD: Let's run it through the google

SOUND: Typing and a hard return

LLOYD: Home of the Last Laugh...

ROWLAND: Christ on a Cruise Ship...

SOUND: ROWLAND RACES THROUGH & OUT OF THE OFFICE

MUSIC: INTENSE TRANSITIONAL MUSIC

Scene 11:

MUSIC CONTINUES:

SOUND: POUNDING ON DOOR.

SUSAN: HELLO!!! *(beat)* God damn it. CAN'T YOU HEAR ME? I CAN HEAR - wait

SOUND: MUFFLED: A CROWD OF ADULTS CHANTING IN ESPERANTO

SOUND: MUFFLED: CHILDREN LAUGH

CULT VOICES: *(muffled)* Kial la besto transiri la vojon?
Por ricevi al la alia flanko.² *(repeats)*

SUSAN: *(to herself)* What is that? What are they - Oh lord, Tyler!

SOUND: Footsteps echo through a hallway

SOUND: Susan crashes through the front doors.

SUSAN: *(to herself)* No, no, no

SOUND: Susan runs across the lawn into bushes

SOUND: Chanting grows louder, but still muffled through glass

DANA: Hey. Hey - what are you doing out -

SOUND: SMACK

MUSIC ENDS:

DANA: Ow!

SUSAN: Dana? God damn it - I trusted you! You and your god-damned CLOWN cult!

DANA: What are you talking about? I'm running late, saw you skulking around the windows - wait - why are there bars on the -

SUSAN: LOOK!

² Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the other side.

DANA: What the hell?

SUSAN: If anything happens to him, I will -

DANA: I didn't know - I didn't know! Sophie is in there! *(beat)*
Lord, that must be the whole congregation -

SUSAN: Your congregation.

DANA: We went like twice! We're not religious about it!

SUSAN: Where are the kids?!?

SOUND: Chanting

DANA: They're in the bouncy house. *(beat)* Except -

SUSAN: Tyler... Look – up by the ceiling!

DANA: How is he - doing that? Is he floating?

SUSAN: Tyler...

SOUND: RUMBLE, SPARKS (muffled)

MARGARET: *(muffled)* It's working, it's working - KEEP
CHANTING!!

TYLER: *(muffled)* I'm scared - all done. All done!

CONSTANCE: *(muffled)* You're fine Mister Funnypants - just
remember everything we taught you!

DANA: What are they doing?

SUSAN: They're opening a portal to the - to the -

ROWLAND: Clown dimension.

SOUND: They scream and muffle themselves. Chanting continues

ROWLAND: Sorry ladies, I figured the situation called for a
stealthy approach.

DANA: Clown dimension?

ROWLAND: Long story, no time.

SUSAN: Portal's unstable - it's flashing - flickering in and out.

ROWLAND: They're probably mispronouncing the Esperanto.

SUSAN: THAT's what that is.

ROWLAND: Reckon I owe you an apology - looks like Happytime only existed to rope you and Tyler into their clutches.

SUSAN: You mean?

ROWLAND: Clown worshipers. These weirdos in the greasepaint - no offense -

DANA: None taken.

ROWLAND: - want to turn those monsters loose - and Tyler - or whatever residual energy is attached to him - seems to be key.

SUSAN: That ain't all.

ROWLAND: Hit me -

SUSAN: I think he's their next boss clown. They been teaching him things. Showing him all about clowning - advanced stuff.

ROWLAND: Grooming him.

SUSAN: We gotta get him out of there.

ROWLAND: First we've gotta find a way in before that portal opens for good.

DANA: But how?

ROWLAND: Hang on - I've got an idea...

MUSIC: TRANSITIONAL MUSIC/CHANTING

Scene 12:

SOUND: Wind. Chanting continues. A church bell in the distance.

ROWLAND: I jump through the skylight, slide off the bouncy house and land right behind 'em. While they're distracted...

SUSAN: We slide down the firehose, Dana rescues the kids and I get Tyler down from where he's --floating up there -somehow...

ROWLAND: Easy as pie. Just don't laugh

SUSAN: You neither.

SOUND: Chanting escalates

ROWLAND: Let's rock and roll

SOUND: SUSAN and DANA strain, METAL GROANS,

SOUND: SKYLIGHT breaks free

SOUND: ROWLAND JUMPS!

SOUND: impact on bouncy house – as she slides – impact on ground

ROWLAND: STOP IN THE NAME OF THE LAW - HANDS IN THE AIR - NO FUNNY –

SOUND: CHANTING STOPS

SUSAN: All right let's go.

SOUND: SUSAN SLIDES IN HITS THE GROUND (during the following)

ROWLAND: Back up! All of y'all. You have NO IDEA what you're about to unleash...

MARGARET: Laughter, Sheriff. We're just filling the world with laughter.

SUSAN: *(stage whisper)* Dana - come on....!

ROWLAND: It pains me to say this, but the joke is on you -

SOUND: DANA CLIMBING SOUNDS

SOUND: Book opens, page turns!

REVEREND: I hope so... *(clears throat and reads)* Kaj ne por la punĉo... *(KAI NAY POUR LA POONCSHO)*

SOUND: RUMBLE, WEIRD LAUGHTER

ROWLAND: Aw, hell no.

SOUND: PORTAL FLICKERS!

SUSAN: *(stage whisper)* HURRY UP....!

SOUND: PORTAL OPENS

SOUND: THE DEMENTED LAUGHTER OF INFINITE CLOWNS

DANA: What the - where did that hole come from?

SUSAN: The portal. It's open –

TYLER: I'm scared! I Wanna go home!

SUSAN: *(stage whisper)* Dana, get down here!

SOUND: She jumps and falls - hard

DANA: OW! Oh God, I think I broke my knee...

SUSAN: Dana, I can't do this alone – you gotta those kids out of here. Go!

SOUND: Sounds of pain as DANA scrambles off.

ROWLAND: FOLKS, GET OUT OF HERE – and whatever you do -don't laugh at them. DO. NOT. LAUGH.

REVEREND: Aww. Look at those little fellas...

SOUND: Scrambling, growling clowns climb out of the portal.

ROWLAND: Ma'am. Step away from the tiny Harlequins.

MARGARET: Oh... These don't look like the clowns on the teevee.

SOUND: CLOWN hisses and grabs her. Crunching noises.

SOUND: Margaret SCREAMS, the crowd starts to panic

REVEREND: How. Is that. Funny?

ROWLAND: Don't do it miss - don't laugh!

CONSTANCE: But I - I've always KIND OF - HATED HER!!!... *(starts to laugh)*

REVEREND: Oh no – no, miss Constance, don't *(screams)*

SOUND: CONSTANCE TRANSFORMS AND EATS THE REVEREND

ROWLAND: *(from a distance, to the crowd)* And THAT'S why you don't laugh...

SOUND: CHAOS - crowd SCREAMS and scrambles to escape the clown-things

SUSAN: God, he's so far up there – how am I gonna -

ROWLAND: Susan! Get him down! It may close the dang - AGH!

SOUND: SOMETHING HITS ROWLAND AND KNOCKS HER DOWN

ROWLAND: Come on. Come on you stupid miserable un-funny -

CONSTANCE: *(now a Clown Thing)* Oh. We're funny. We're the FUNNIEST things you've EVER SEEN!!!

ROWLAND: Agree to disagree.

SOUND: KICK – CONSTANCE LAUGHS and FALLS THROUGH THE PORTAL

SOUND: GROWL of a HUGE CLOWN

ROWLAND: Oh, you too? You want some of this? BRING IT!

SOUND: FIST FIGHT (in the background)

SUSAN: *(to herself)* THINK!

SOUND: A CLOWN GRABS HER,

SOUND: SUSAN GASPS, then PUNCHES HIM

SUSAN: OH, GET THE HELL BACK. YOU'RE NOT EVEN A REAL CLOWN!

SOUND: SUSAN PUNCHES AND KICKS HIM – He groans and falls.

SUSAN: A REAL CLOWN WOULD BE FUNNY! A REAL CLOWN WOULD BE *(beat, realizing)* using the trampoline, the bouncy house and the... *(beat, then intense, to herself)* Hang on baby, mama's coming to get you...

SOUND: EVERYTHING GOES SLOW MOTION

MUSIC: DRAMATIC - OMEN/CHURCHY-like action music

SOUND: SUSAN RUNS AND JUMPS

SUSAN: *(slow mo)* TRAMPOLINE...

SOUND: SPROING

SUSAN: *(slow-mo)* BOUNCY HOUSE!!!

SOUND: Impact on a bouncy house – she runs -THUMP THUMP THUMP

SOUND: SUSAN STRAINS AS SHE REACHES FOR TYLER

SOUND: BACK TO NORMAL SPEED

TYLER: Mama ?

SUSAN: *(to Tyler)* Hang on, baby. We're going in the ball pit.

SOUND: CRASH OF PLASTIC BALLS

SOUND: Background Chaos continues

SUSAN: Baby... Baby?

TYLER: I'm fine, mama.

SUSAN: Your skin... it's so pale...

TYLER: I'm the Clown of the Week. Clown of the Year.
CLOWN OF FOREVER.

SUSAN: Sheriff, sheriff! There's something wrong with him -

ROWLAND: *(from a distance)* I CAN'T HELP YOU – THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM!

SUSAN: Oh god SHERIFF – THE PORTAL – IT'S RIGHT BEHIND YOU –

ROWLAND: Susan - Tyler - Tyler's the key! Don't let him turn, you gotta get him out of (*she falls*) heeeeeeeeere!

SOUND: Clown laughter continues. With occasional zaps

SUSAN: She's gone. Holy crap, she's gone.

SOUND: Clowns laugh harder

SOUND: Clown things laugh and growl.

SUSAN: All right, now darlin' we've got to get out of –

TYLER: NO! I get to be the boss now- Watch what I can do.
(*to clowns*) CLOWNS! JUMP UP AND DOWN

SOUND: Clowns THUMP, jumping in rhythm.

SUSAN: That's great, baby, we should -

TYLER: On one leg -

SOUND: Clowns THUMP, hopping in a faster rhythm (continuing).

SUSAN: We have to -

TYLER: STOP!

SOUND: Thumping stops. Replaced by snapping and growling.

SUSAN: Tyler, make the clowns move away.

TYLER: I don't want to.

SUSAN: Tyler-

TYLER: I DON'T WANT TO! YOU'RE RUINING MY BIRTHDAY - YOU RUIN EVERYTHING!

SOUND: A struggle.

SUSAN: Tyler - (*yelps in fear*) Let go of me - Tyler make them let go of me!

TYLER: NO!

SUSAN: Tyler, please. I love you. I know I'm a terrible mother and you deserve better and I screw everything up but I'm trying. I'm trying to be a good mom. You're just so smart and kind and funny - and I love you.

TYLER: You don't like clowns. I'm a clown now.

SUSAN: I love you. No matter what. And no matter what happens to me I will always love you. You are good and perfect exactly the way you are! I love you baby - Mama loves you!

TYLER: *(beat. Then)* Let. Go. Of My. MAMA!!!

SOUND: Silence. Then.

TYLER: YOU HEARD ME!!! Now hit yourself.

SOUND: A series of muffled "smacks" and "ows"

TYLER: HIT YOURSELF HARDER!

SOUND: More smacks. Louder

TYLER: Now you GO AWAY BAD CLOWNS!!!

SOUND: ENERGY BUILDS

TYLER: YOU GO STRAIGHT TO HELL!!!!

SOUND: flashes of things disappearing in fire.

SOUND: PORTAL CLOSSES WITH A BANG

SOUND: The building creaks and groans

TYLER: Mama?

SUSAN: I'm ok, I'm ok baby.

SOUND: Awkward footsteps as Dana shuffles up

SUSAN: Dana!

DANA: I really hurt my knee. but the kids are over in the S-Mart. Where are those things?

SUSAN: Tyler sent them all to hell.

SOUND: Building creaks.

DANA: Come on - this whole place is coming down.

SUSAN: I swear. The building codes in this county - Come on
let's MOVE!!!

SOUND: Thunderous crash as the building collapses and implodes.

Scene 13:

SOUND: Night ambience, firehose sprays, voice on fire engine radio "Patches of fire all around"

TYLER: Is Sheriff Jane OK?

SUSAN: No baby, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

TYLER: *(whimpers)*

SUSAN: But I know that she'd be so happy that you're ok. She loved you - she loved you a lot. And darlin - You did it. You stopped them. You stopped them all.

TYLER: Yeah. I'm tired of clowns. They're kinda stupid. No offense.

DANA: None taken. *(coughs)* You throw one hell of a birthday party.

SUSAN: *(laughs)*

DANA: Sorry, Tyler - Language.

SUSAN: He seems to know "hell," That's where he sent them all. *(beat)* Honey, where did you learn that?

TYLER: From you. You say it a lot.

SUSAN: I'll work on that, baby. I promise...

NARRATOR: Tyler knows his mom's got issues, but he also knows his mom loves him. With that knowledge, he can feel free to grow into whoever he turns out to be. A doctor, a scientist, and yes - maybe even a clown. But with the love his mom has for him, you can bet he'll turn out to be one of the good ones. And there never does seem to be enough laughter, especially in Uncanny County...

Scene 14: (bonus scene)

SOUND: Crickets

SOUND: After a beat, a crash of rubble

SOUND: another crash, someone struggling to break through

ROWLAND: (*coughs*) All righty then. That wasn't so hard now, was it? Come on. Gonna need your help, there son. Come on. Car's right over there.

SOUND: Two pairs of footsteps.

DILLARD: Where...where am I?

ROWLAND: You're back home, son. Must say, I'm right pleased to see you. Figured you was a goner. Guess they must of thought it was funnier, keeping you alive all this time.

SOUND: Footsteps stop. Car door opens.

DILLARD: W-w-w-haddaya mean, it's just been one day... One reallllly long day...

ROWLAND: Huh. Well, congratulations son - guess that means you made it through your first -

SOUND: SQUAWK from a police radio

LLOYD: (on radio) Sheriff, Sheriff Rowland?

SOUND: Sheriff sits in the car.

ROWLAND: (to radio) Copy, Lloyd.

SOUND: MUFFLED devastation under the following.

LLOYD: (on radio) Some sort of giant meteor - or something - just fell out of the sky and now, well - I guess you'd say we're looking at some sort of a - kaijuu situation?

SOUND: MUFFLED Godzilla ROAR

ROWLAND: (to Dillard) I may have spoken a mite too soon.
(to radio) Roger that. On it.

SOUND: Car door closes. Rowland buckles up, starts the car.

ROWLAND: Well son, guess it's time for you to get back on that horse.

SOUND: Door opens, Dillard sits, door closes.

DILLARD: I-I don't ride - what's a Kaijuu?

SOUND: Distant Devastation. Heavy footsteps (in the FAR distance).

ROWLAND: I'll tell you on the way over.

SOUND: Rowland switches on the radio – No Accidents by Ned Massey

ROWLAND: You'd best buckle up.

SOUND: Car drives away. Siren up, fading into the distance.

SOUND: Distant Godzilla-type roaring