



**BEING A CLOWN IS NO
LAUGHING MATTER**

A FIASCO PLAYSET BY DANIEL HODGES

DHOI ZANY TOWN

CREDITS

Written by Daniel Hodges

Cover art by Daniel Hodges

Thanks to Jason Morningstar

BOILERPLATE

This playset is an accessory for the Fiasco role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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“When you play, play *hard*.” - Theodore Roosevelt

THE SCORE

BEING A CLOWN IS NO LAUGHING MATTER

An amusement park is a place of happiness, a carefree escape from the daily grind. But if your life is spent making sure other people have fun, then having fun is the daily grind.

Along with a grind like that imagine doing it in pancake makeup or as the back end of a horse and you'll see why the laughter of children gets old pretty fast.

Now top all that off with a boss who doesn't give a rat's ass for the craft of clowning and zero job security, because sure as shit, if an investigation into *that* incident doesn't close the park, then any day now some developer's going bulldoze it to make way for 500 self-storage units so a group of assholes can delay the inconvenience of having to throw away their fucking beany baby collections.

It's bad enough being a clown without being a cliché too, but sometimes you just can't hold in the tears, and to a little punk, the only thing funnier than your tears of impotent rage is the look on your face after they've just punched you in the balls.

MOVIE NIGHT

Vulgar, The Prestige, Shakes the Clown, Baskets (TV Series).

SPECIAL TREATMENT

Every clown needs a name and a unique makeup style. In fact, once a clown has chosen a name and makeup these are registered in a clown registry by painting it onto an egg. When inspiration strikes you, give your character a name and draw their makeup on a copy of the template at the end of the playset.

Clown troops have a natural pecking order with the Whiteface clown the leader of the troop. He or she is portrayed as smart and competent (for a clown) in contrast to the Auguste who is the hapless buffoon. This relationship doesn't necessarily stop when the curtain comes down...

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 PROFESSIONAL

- Blackmailer and mark
- Professional rivals
- Collaborators on something big
- Whiteface and Auguste (the sensible stern clown and the buffoon)
- Mentor and apprentice
- Rebel and establishment

2 UNPROFESSIONAL

- Personal rivals
- Daddy issues
- Irrational hatred
- Irrational affection
- Hero worship
- Leaders of rival factions

3 ROMANTIC

- Agonizing sexual tension
- Forbidden love
- Broken trust
- Infatuation
- Ill-advised one-time fling
- Unapologetic lovers

4 UGLY

- Racism
- Homophobia
- Sexism
- Religious intolerance
- Sexual jealousy
- Rageaholic

5 FRIENDS

- Fast Friends
- Irritating buddies
- Social adversaries
- Friends with benefits
- A pair of rebels
- Manipulator and dupe

6 SOULFUL

- Two-of-a-kind misanthropes
- Poet and muse
- Shared cultural identity
- Shared faith
- Shared terrible secret
- Shared sexual preference

...IN A RUNDOWN AMUSEMENT PARK

NEEDS...

1 TO GET OUT

- ...of sight and finish what you started
- ...from under Mr. Whiteface
- ...of this relationship
- ...of your turn in the horse suit
- ...of the “chorus line”
- ...clean this time

2 TO GET EVEN WITH

- ...the owners of Zany Town
- ...the White-face
- ...the clown that stole my character
- ...the entertainment reporter
- ...the establishment
- ...that two-faced liar

3 TO GET OVER

- ...an unrealistic dream
- ...paralyzing indecision
- ...the squeamishness about what needs to be done
- ...the final hurdle before they find out
- ...this paranoia
- ...this obsession

4 TO OWN

- ...a pony
- ...these fools
- ...an authentic clown union card
- ...the whole shooting match
- ...a real “non-clown” car
- ...your negative feelings

5 TO GET THE TRUTH

- ...so I can make them pay
- ...about the incident
- ...about the park’s future
- ...about the meeting
- ...about the White Face
- ...about those shredded blue prints

6 TO GET MY HANDS ON

- ...the day’s take
- ...the master key
- ...the schedule first this time
- ...the PA system
- ...my missing medication, like NOW!
- ...the real clown register

...IN A RUNDOWN AMUSEMENT PARK

LOCATIONS...

1 ZANY TOWN AMUSEMENT PARK

- The hall of mirrors
- The shooting gallery
- Inside the two-piece horse costume
- Hole four of the clown-putt mini golf course
- The Journey of Terror ride
- The Deep Fried Den

2 EMPLOYEES ONLY

- The service tunnels
- The utility shack
- The manager's office after closing time
- The closed non-PC attraction
- The Ferris wheel gear room
- The makeup room

3 CLOWN BUSINESS

- The clown egg museum (clowns register their unique makeup on an egg)
- The union hall
- Prop store
- Clown bar
- Psychiatrists office
- Clown tailor

4 PRIVATE PARTY

- Bouncy castle
- Clown van
- Master bedroom
- Garden shed
- Swimming pool
- Act two

5 GREENER PASTURES CLOWN PONY SANCTUARY

- The Hall of Memories
- The rose garden
- The Discerning Pooch cannery
- The tack room
- The stables
- The kill room

6 THE DORMS

- The floor condemned by the health department
- Bunkroom four
- The showers
- The roof
- The rec room
- The basement laundry room

...IN A RUNDOWN AMUSEMENT PARK

OBJECTS...

1 TOOLS OF THE TRADE

- A squirty flower not filled with water...
- Buttons the incontinent terrier
- Big red shoes held together with duct tape
- A pie
- A prop knife with a real blade
- A squeaky hammer

2 DELICATE

- Whiteface's egg
- Photographs
- A taped up letter
- CCTV footage
- Minutes of the closed meeting
- Underpants

3 DANGEROUS

- A line of knotted handkerchiefs
- A bolt gun
- Stage makeup laced with DMSO and Arsenic
- The keys to the clown car
- Pony tranquilizers
- Mr. Sunshine

4 DEMENTED

- A stolen bottle of antipsychotics
- A dropper full of LSD
- That elephant
- A wooden sledgehammer
- Oversized gloves filled with bullet ants
- TV's Rico "The Manhunter" Sanchez

5 DOLEFUL

- Too many sedatives
- Divorce papers
- A terminal diagnosis
- An accordion
- An IUD
- Their suicide note

6 DIFFICULT

- An oversized plastic telephone
- A previously unknown illegitimate child
- The reporter's micro-recorder
- Oversized stilts
- Arabic for the Traveller
- A tiny bicycle

...IN A RUNDOWN AMUSEMENT PARK

MASK TEMPLATE

NAME:

