

The Girl In The Tutu

By

Alistair Canlin

6 McGrigor Road
Milngavie
Glasgow
G62 7LD

alcanlin@aol.com
twitter.com/alcanlin

EXT. CIRCUS, DAY

Two clowns sit on deckchairs outside a caravan at the back of a circus. The YOUNG CLOWN looks sad, the OLD CLOWN offers him a cigarette, the YOUNG CLOWN shakes his head. The OLD CLOWN puts a cigarette in his mouth and lights it. The cigarette glows red as he inhales deeply, engulfing himself in a cloud of silver smoke when he exhales. The YOUNG CLOWN still looks sad. The OLD CLOWN produces a hip flask, he offers it to the YOUNG CLOWN, the YOUNG CLOWN shakes his head. The OLD CLOWN takes a sip from the hip flask, his eyes open wide and he coughs and splutters. A dwarf couple walk past hand in hand, the female dwarf holds a helium balloon that says 'Happy Valentine's Day!' on it. The OLD CLOWN leans across and bursts the balloon with his cigarette, the OLD CLOWN laughs. The YOUNG CLOWN still looks sad. The OLD CLOWN reaches across to the YOUNG CLOWN and using his fingers tries to push his face into a smile. The moment he removes his fingers the YOUNG CLOWN's face returns to looking sad. The OLD CLOWN tries again, the same thing happens. The OLD CLOWN shrugs. The YOUNG CLOWN puts his hands over his heart, he mimes it beating faster and faster until it breaks, then he points. We follow where he's pointing, we see a GIRL IN A TUTU doing stretching exercises. Looking over her is the circus STRONGMAN, with his curly moustache and leopardskin outfit. The OLD CLOWN sighs, then reaches inside his jacket and produces a wallet. He theatrically lets the wallet unfold, revealing a collection of photographs. The OLD CLOWN points to each picture in turn, a young clown couple looking happy, a young clown couple at a party with lots of other clowns, a clown wedding, a young clown couple on honeymoon, a clown baby, another clown baby, a clown family. The OLD CLOWN's message is that clowns are only truly happy with other clowns. The YOUNG CLOWN still looks sad, he looks back at the GIRL IN THE TUTU, as he watches her the STRONGMAN makes his move and starts talking to the GIRL IN THE TUTU, the YOUNG CLOWN looks even sadder. The OLD CLOWN starts mimicking kissing. The YOUNG CLOWN looks back towards the GIRL IN THE TUTU, she seems backed into a corner, the STRONGMAN inching closer, leering at her. Suddenly the GIRL IN THE TUTU slaps the STRONGMAN across the face, he reacts quickly, pinning the GIRL IN THE TUTU to the wall, almost lifting her off the ground. The YOUNG CLOWN looks across at the OLD CLOWN, who is still making his kissy face. The YOUNG CLOWN jumps out of his deckchair and races over. He stands next to the STRONGMAN, who doesn't notice him, he moves to the other side, still the STRONGMAN doesn't see him. The YOUNG CLOWN moves behind the STRONGMAN and taps him on the shoulder. Nothing. The YOUNG CLOWN taps him on the shoulder again. The STRONGMAN growls, he lets go of the GIRL IN THE TUTU and turns around, the GIRL IN THE TUTU darts round to stand behind the YOUNG CLOWN. The STRONGMAN bears down on them,

(CONTINUED)

the YOUNG CLOWN calmly stands his ground. The STRONGMAN lumbers closer, the YOUNG CLOWN squirts the STRONGMAN in the face with water from a flower on the lapel of his jacket. The STRONGMAN staggers backwards, holding his hands to his face, the YOUNG CLOWN quickly grabs a bucket, that was lying on the ground, and forces it onto the STRONGMAN's head. The STRONGMAN staggers around, continually bumping into things until eventually he falls to the ground. The GIRL IN THE TUTU finally comes out from behind the YOUNG CLOWN. The YOUNG CLOWN suddenly looks awkward and nervous. The GIRL IN THE TUTU leans towards him and kisses him gently on the cheek. The YOUNG CLOWN has the biggest smile on his face that you've ever seen.