

20. Clowning Around

Topic: Two friends discuss a common problem.

Cast:

JULES: reasonable, likes to tease

EVIE: terrified by clowns

- 1 (*JULES and EVIE sit on a sofa or chairs.*)
 2 JULES: Who's afraid of clowns?
 3 EVIE: Everyone is.
 4 JULES: No, no one is afraid of clowns. They paint clowns on
 5 nursery walls.
 6 EVIE: (*Getting upset just thinking about it*) Yeah, and then, at
 7 night, the demon clowns come alive and scare the little
 8 babies. That's why no one likes clowns.
 9 JULES: You're crazy. All kids like clowns. You're just weird.
 10 EVIE: I'm telling you, if you took a poll, ninety percent of
 11 people are afraid of clowns.
 12 JULES: Then why are they still at every single circus?
 13 EVIE: You go to the circus?
 14 JULES: No. Not since I was five.
 15 EVIE: Why?
 16 JULES: I don't know. My parents don't like the circus.
 17 EVIE: They probably don't like the clowns.
 18 JULES: They don't like the elephant poop.
 19 EVIE: I mean it. You should ask them. I bet they're afraid of
 20 the clowns.
 21 JULES: Look, Evie. Clowns are funny. They fall and throw
 22 pies at each other. They make people laugh. They paint
 23 big smiles on their faces. They're always happy. What in
 24 the world is there to be afraid of clowns for?
 25 EVIE: I can't describe it. They have those evil permanent ink
 26 smiles, like they're smiling but they're planning on

- 1 murdering you in your sleep.
 2 JULES: Where do you get these things?
 3 EVIE: Didn't you ever see that movie? What was the name?
 4 JULES: Raggedy Ann?
 5 EVIE: No, that horror movie with the clown.
 6 JULES: No one made a horror film about a clown. That's
 7 ridiculous.
 8 EVIE: No, no, I'm telling you. It was really creepy. *It*.
 9 JULES: What's it?
 10 EVIE: The movie. It's called *It*.
 11 JULES: There's no movie called *It*.
 12 EVIE: There is too. It's about this evil clown that comes
 13 alive and kills everyone.
 14 JULES: Well, at least I know what I'm going to get you for
 15 your birthday.
 16 EVIE: Don't you dare. I'll never speak to you again.
 17 JULES: (*Sighs.*) I'm tired of this. Let's go to the mall.
 18 EVIE: OK. (*Pause*) Wait. Which mall?
 19 JULES: I don't care. Why?
 20 EVIE: Towson. We have to go to Towson.
 21 JULES: Fine. But maybe we should go to White Marsh.
 22 There's a —
 23 EVIE: *Clown!* There's a clown at White Marsh Mall.
 24 JULES: (*Exasperated*) Oh, good grief.
 25 EVIE: She walks around with this huge bunch of balloons.
 26 She looks nice, but she's not.
 27 JULES: I think you're seriously disturbed. But fine, Towson
 28 is fine.
 29 EVIE: OK, I'll get my jacket. (*Exits.*)
 30 JULES: (*To self*) I guess we should go in the back entrance.
 31 The shoeshine kid at the front might freak her out. But
 32 wait, they have that coin-operated pony at the back
 33 entrance. She probably couldn't handle that, either.
 34 EVIE: (*Enters.*) OK, let's go.
 35 JULES: You're sure you're up to this? There might be toy

- 1 soldiers or rabid hamsters at Towson Mall.
2 EVIE: Oh, ha ha. It's only clowns. There are no clowns at
3 Towson Mall.
4 JULES: What about elves? I think there are elves with
5 Santa.
6 EVIE: *(Not amused)* Just clowns.
7 JULES: OK, just checking. You never know what evil might
8 lurk within the heart of an elf or a Panda Express sales
9 clerk.
10 EVIE: I never thought of that. Let's just stay here and play
11 video games.
12 JULES: *(Sighs.)* Fine. I'll call for pizza.
13 EVIE: No! Didn't you see that movie where the pizza guy —
14 JULES: *Go home!*

21. Misunderstanding

Topic: Friends work through a problem of communication.

Cast:

JOANIE: wants to be the peacekeeper

GABE: bitter, angry at Monica and Marcel

MONICA: nice, unsure of the problem

MARCEL: unaware of Gabe's anger

- 1 *(The scene opens with JOANIE and GABE Stage Left, talking*
2 *so that the kids on the other side of the stage cannot hear*
3 *them. MONICA and MARCEL are sitting with heads together*
4 *working on a list, quietly talking.)*
5 JOANIE: *(Trying to be convincing)* Let's just go over and ask
6 if we can hang with them.
7 GABE: *(Adamant)* No way. Forget it.
8 JOANIE: Come on, Gabe, I'm tired of all this.
9 GABE: Well, you can go. I'm staying right here.
10 JOANIE: You're impossible, you know that? You're so
11 stubborn!
12 GABE: Leave me alone. Go hang with them. I couldn't care
13 less.
14 JOANIE: Fine. *(She walks to MONICA and MARCEL. GABE sits*
15 *and pouts.)*
16 MONICA: *(Upbeat and friendly)* Hi, Joanie! How's it going?
17 JOANIE: *(Hesitantly)* Fine. I guess.
18 MARCEL: You don't sound fine. Something wrong?
19 JOANIE: No. I guess not. What are you doing? *(Keeps*
20 *glancing at GABE, who is sulking.)*
21 MONICA: We're making up the list for the Christmas
22 exchange. How much do you think we should each
23 spend?
24 JOANIE: *(Dull, without interest, and unaware)* I don't know.