

CLOWN IN THE WOODS

Written by

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Based on a true story.

Address
Phone Number

EXT. VIRGINIA WOODS - DAY

A chilly November morning. Vegetation is ill. A red and yellow carpet of leaves surrounds the trees. *

A rabbit runs across the leafy terrain. It stops then stands on its hind legs. Its ears wiggle while its nose twitches. *

An arrow speeds past the rabbit, causing it to run. *

LANDRU, 10, runs after it. *

LANDRU
You missed!

AIDEN, 8, with a bow and quiver, trails behind him.

AIDEN
Yeah, no shit!

They give chase. Landru shoots his slingshot. He misses. *

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Nice shot.

Aiden falls behind. He stumbles and drops the bow. Landru stops then turns around. *

LANDRU
Hey, watch it!

He walks past Aiden. Landru grabs the bow to inspect it. *

LANDRU (CONT'D)
Dad just made this. *

Aiden gets to his feet and brushes himself off.

AIDEN
Yeah, whatever. You missed too. *

Aiden stomps to Landru. He reaches for the bow but misses.

LANDRU
You're too slow.

AIDEN
No, I'm not. I know how to shoot.

LANDRU
Yeah right. We would be eating fried bunny by now if you did. *

AIDEN

Whatever.

Aiden snatches the bow from Landru. *

LANDRU

You never listen.

Landru walks away.

AIDEN

That's because you think you know
everything.

Aiden crosses his arms. His face blushes beet red. *

LANDRU

Because I do, now come on. *

Landru tugs on Aiden's jacket, but he refuses to move.

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Move, Aiden! *

AIDEN

No.

Landru tugs Aiden hard. He falls to the ground, but Landru
still drags him. *

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Let me go! *

Landru releases Aiden. *

LANDRU

Fine, suit yourself.

Landru walks away, leaving Aiden behind. Landru backtracks
his steps and finds the arrow. *

He picks it up. A flock of birds startles him. He looks
overhead and hears the crows' caws. The wind carries leaves
and crow feathers. *

Landru steps forward. He hears a faint scream. He freezes. *

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Aiden?

He walks back. *

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Aiden!

Landru sees no sight of him. He spins around.

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Aiden! Where are you? Answer me!

He runs ahead and finds Aiden in a clearing. *

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Aiden, what are you doing?

Aiden's petrified. Landru approaches him. The leaves crackle. *

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Quit playing pranks, you brat! *

Aiden quivers as he stares into the distance. Landru looks toward the source of Aiden's fear and finds it. *

Far away, hidden behind a tree, THE CLOWN, 50, smudged finger-painted makeup, frizzy blue hair, a tattered red business suit with a rotten flower in his chest pocket. *

He peeks out from the side of a tree. He doesn't blink. His gaze consumes the brothers. *

Landru tugs on his Aiden's jacket. *

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Aiden... we have to go. Aiden! *

Landru taps Aiden with the arrow. *

The Clown encroaches on them. His face expressionless. His eyes razor focused. *

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Take up your bow.

Aiden raises his bow.

The Clown's pace quickens.

Landru hands Aiden an arrow. Aiden takes the arrow and positions it on the bowstring with his right hand. His left hand secures the bow.

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Keep your elbow in line with the arrow. Keep your eyes on him.

Aiden draws the bowstring back.

AIDEN

Okay.

LANDRU

Use the bowstring as your guide.
Keep steady.

The bow vibrates as Aiden's hand shakes uncontrollably. *

LANDRU (CONT'D) *

Keep steady. Breathe. *

Aidens takes a breath. His shaking stops. His eyes focus. *

The Clown runs in full stride. His oversized shoes scuffle
across the ground, kicking up leaves and debris. *

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Steady.

The Clown nears. *

Aiden releases the arrow. Landru yanks him forward.

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Run!

They run away. *

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Come on, Aiden!

The forest becomes a blur. The wind howls as the boys sprint
for their lives, refusing to look back. *

LANDRU (CONT'D)

Don't stop! Keep going.

EXT. WILSON HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

Toys and yard tools are sprinkled across the ground. Aiden
and Landru run past them as they reach the backdoor. *

INT. WILSON HOME - KITCHEN - DAY *

MARK, 44, sits at the table reading a newspaper. His foot
touches... *

PAM, 36, sits across Mark, eating a bagel. *

The boys burst into the room. *

LANDRU

Mom! Dad! A clown almost
killed us! He's out there!

*

*
*

AIDEN

There's a clown! A clown in
the woods!

*

*
*

Mark gets up from his chair. Pam kneels and holds Aiden's face. Landru hugs Mark. *

MARK *

Woah! What's going on? *

PAM *

What happened? *

AIDEN *

We told you already. There's a clown in the woods. *

PAM *

Honey, slow down. You're okay. *

MARK *

Landru, you saw a clown? *

Landru nods. Mark and Pam look at each other. *

MARK (CONT'D) *

I'm going out there. *

AIDEN *

Dad no! Don't. *

LANDRU *

We're telling you the truth! *

Mark leaves the room. Pam holds Landru and Aiden. *

PAM *

Hey, you two. Whatever this is, we're going to take care of it. *

Mark reappears armed, wearing his holster. *

MARK *

I'll be back. *

INT. WILSON HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Aiden watches television. He shakes his feet in agitation. Landru looks out the window into the woods.

AIDEN *

Do you think I hit him? *

LANDRY *

I'm not sure. He should've caught us, so I guess you did. *

EXT. WILSON HOME - BACKYARD - DAY *

Mark returns from the woods with the bow. Pam walks to him. *
He shakes his head. *

INT. WILSON HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY *

Landru observes his parents. *

EXT. WILSON HOME - NIGHT

No neighbors. No community. A home not isolated but in the *
company of the woods and darkness. *

INT. WILSON HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT *

In her robe, Pam, enters. She looks concerned as she preps a *
kettle on the stove. The sound of a door creaking catches her *
attention. She sees the door is open. *

PAM *

What the hell? *

She closes the door. *

INT. WILSON HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT *

Pam walks to the window. She looks into the woods. The kettle *
boiling becomes louder. *

EXT. WILSON HOME - BACKYARD - NIGHT *

There's movement in the bushes. *

INT. WILSON HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT *

Pam narrows her eyes, searching for answers. *

EXT. WILSON HOME - BACKYARD - NIGHT *

A small herd of deer emerges from the shadows. The teapot *
whistle is blaring. *

INT. WILSON HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT *

Pam takes off the kettle from the stove. *

INT. WILSON HOME - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Pam walks by the boy's shared room, holding a mug of tea. *
Their door is open. She overhears Mark. She steps on *
something. It's an arrow. *

MARK (O.S.)
There wasn't anything out there.

LANDRU (O.S.)
But Dad, there was something. A
clown. I know what I saw.

Pam grabs the arrow then walks into the room.

INT. WILSON HOME - BOY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Superhero posters are plastered throughout Aiden's side of
the room, while athlete posters are on Landru's.

Pam enters, grabbing everyone's attention. In his bed on the
opposite side of the room, Aiden watches Mark and Landru.

AIDEN
He was scary.

Pam places the arrow and her mug on their desk. She comforts
Aiden.

PAM
Honey, there's nothing out there.
You're safe now. Okay?

MARK
How are you going to eat at Mickey
Dee's if Ronald McDonald scares ya?

Mark combs Landru's hair with his hand.

Pam kisses Aiden on the forehead. Landru and Aiden are tucked
in bed. Mark and Pam leave.

MARK (CONT'D)
Good night, boys.

AIDEN
Good night Dad.

LANDRU
Good night Dad.

INT. WILSON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pam lays on a king-size bed, tucked halfway into the covers.
She watches TV while going over notes.

INT. WILSON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Mark brushes his teeth in front of the mirror.

PAM (O.S.)
Mark!

MARK

What is it?

PAM (O.S.)

Come here now.

INT. WILSON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mark barges in.

MARK

What's going on?

Pam turns the volume up on the TV.

NEWS ANCHOR

In recent news, there have been an alarming amount of clown sightings nationwide.

PAM

Are you hearing this?

Mark gives no response.

NEWS ANCHOR

Some are believed to be hoaxes, while others seem to be accurate. We'll now check in with a first account witness.

Mark takes the controller from Pam. He turns the TV off.

PAM

Oh my God. What are we gonna do?

MARK

Don't tell the boys. Tomorrow, I'll get a security system for the house and double-check with the police.

PAM

I know our boys. They can be troublemakers, but this. I mean--

MARK

I know that's why we're going to take double precautions. I don't want them panicking.

Mark sits beside Pam and comforts her.

MARK (CONT'D) *

And I don't want us panicking. *
Okay? *

PAM *

Okay.

MARK *

Tomorrow, I'll handle everything.
Promise.

Mark turns off the night light. He cuddles Pam from behind. *

INT. WILSON HOME - BOY'S ROOM - NIGHT *

Aiden tosses and turns in his bed. Landru lays awake, staring
at the ceiling. *

AIDEN *

You think he's dead? *

LANDRU *

I'm not so sure. *

Aiden raises himself. He looks towards Landru. *

AIDEN *

Hey. I thought you knew everything. *

Landru turns away from Aiden. *

LANDRU *

I wish I did. *

Aiden covers himself with his blanket. *

EXT. WILSON HOME - BACKYARD - NIGHT *

The forest animals announce their presence with their voices. *

INT. WILSON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT *

Electronics hum. Nothing moves. Pam and Mark lay comfortably
asleep. *

The Clown awaits beneath their bed. *

THE END *