

Falling

Written by

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Simply Scripts - '23 September Quickie Challenge

FADE IN

EXT. EARLY EVENING - SUN JUST SETTING

A seedy carnival. It feels like fifty years ago the way people are dressed. Somewhere in the South judging by drawl of the accent of the carnival barker as he invites the crowd to come behind the entrance of a special attraction under the Big Top.

The headline splashed across elaborate SIGN outside says:

Lota & Benny **The Amazing Daredevil Ventriloquist**

CARNIVAL BARKER (V.O.)

Don't walk by! Come and see the
Amazing Daredevil Ventriloquist
fly, so high, through the sky!

(Beat)

Having performed before the Queen
of England, the King of Siam, and
most recently, the most Honorable
Mayor Cow Dung!

(Beat)

This performance is so sassy, so
salacious, so sexy, no children
allowed! Don't you wish now that
you left the kiddies at home!

Calliope music bounces through the air. You can almost smell the pop corn, taste the cotton candy and occasionally, get the tainted whiff of elephant poop.

Men and women of all kinds, from town dandies to farmers in tattered overalls crowd inside.

INT. UNDER THE BIG TOP - NIGHT

A half-moon of seating wraps around a raised platform. With one chair on it. Toward the back of the platform is a rag tag duo of a ba-da-boom drummer and a musician at a slightly out of tune upright honky tonk piano.

Behind the platform itself rises a ladder to almost the tippy-top of the tent with an old fashioned bed positioned at the base.

In the chair sits Lola with little Benny on her knee. Her blonde pixie cut hairstyle flatters her pretty face frozen in a sweet smile. Her red and white calico country style dress accentuate her innocent wholesomeness.

Benny's facial features are exaggerated with very dark eyebrow pencil, red lips and artificial freckles on apple cheeks.

They both sit motionless. Stone-like.

The musicians strike up a peppy tune almost harmonizing with the calliope music filtering in from outside.

The audience is settled in. Tent lights dim. A glaring spot light blasts on Benny and Lola.

DRUM ROLL!

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen! Tonight we are ending our world tour of Lola & Benny right here in your town!

(Beat)

Until tomorrow, when we move on to another shit hole!

(Beat)

Tonight you will be shocked. You will be surprised! You will be amazed!

(Another beat)

Ladies and gentlemen I give you Lola!!!

The spot light narrows tightly on Lola's face, leaving Benny in the shadows.

Lola remains motionless. A long uncomfortable moment.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen I give you Lola!!!

Still nothing happens. The audience shifts in their seats. Uncomfortable. Whispers here and there.

From the shadows.

BENNY

Oh, for Christ's sake, she's the dummy. Or maybe I am for putting her name first!

Benny jumps off her lap. He's a little person. Very little. The spot light follows Benny, stage front.

LOLA

I didn't want to steal your spot light, how little there is of it.

BENNY

Ouch! That wasn't very nice, Lola. I would appreciate an apology.

LOLA

Okay, I'm sorry you're so little.

DRUM: BA-DA-BOOM!

Benny returns to Lola's lap. Tent lights return.

BENNY

You seem kind of cranky tonight, you OK?

LOLA

You should know!

DRUM: BA-DA-BOOM!

BENNY

Somebody kill that drummer.

LOLA

Your act is already doing that.

BENNY

"Ba-da-boom."

LOLA

Oh, and now you're trying to commit suicide with that crack?

(Beat)

I can see the audience is!

BENNY

You should be more polite, sweet heart. Didn't you read my book?

LOLA

You mean, "Ventriloquism For Dummies?"

BENNY

Yeah.

LOLA
OK, so now who's the dummy?

BENNY
You know I love you, Lola.
Especially when you talk dirty to
me during sex.

LOLA
Like when I called you from that
motel?

BENNY
Oh, baby, you're so funny.

LOLA
Yes you are!

BENNY
You want me to prove how much I
love you? I will jump off the top
of that ladder into your arms.

LOLA
How could I stop you?

Benny carries Lola and places her on the bed beneath the
ladder, opening her arms ready to embrace him...

...and scurries up to the towering top of the ladder.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Ladies and gentlemen, not just a
ventriloquist, not just a joker,
but a flying daredevil soaring
through the air fifty feet into the
arms of the love of his life -- so
to speak!

BENNY
Maestro, music please!

The off key duo begin playing the Roy Orbison version of
"Falling."

Benny picks up the melody and starts to sing.

BENNY (CONT'D)
Faaaallllliinnng!

The audiences joins in the song.

He leaps with tremendous energy, soars in an upward arc, and
plunges toward to bed like a rocket.

The audience gasps and holds their breath.

Benny misses the bed with Lola's arms open wide, and smashes with a bone crushing, skull busting THUD in the dirt just a short distance from the bed!

The musicians play on. The audience is stunned, silent, then bursts into screams and scatters in all directions trying to escape the scene.

DRUM: BA-DA-BOOM!

DRUMMER

Fuck!

PIANO PLAYER

I guess this really is the end of
our world tour.

DRUMMER

I guess his theme song should have
been "Dying For You."