

THE RUNNING CLOWN

Written by

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FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN

SUPER: A FICTITIOUS STORY INSPIRED BY POLISH-JEWISH

VIOLINIST AND COMPOSER,

ARTUR GOLD

EXT. ABANDONED FARM - DAWN

The cool breeze sways the two foot high wheat crops, which descend down the hill to a distant river and walk bridge.

SUPER: POLAND

SUPER: NOVEMBER 1939

A CLOWN, dressed as a hobo, enters the field, running frantically for the bridge, with a Glock pistol in his hand.

FLASHBACK

INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

An extravagant Nazi party in it's closing stages.

DRUNKEN HIGH RANKING OFFICERS, drink and dance, as they flirt with, SCANTILY CLAD YOUNG WOMEN.

In a corner, the clown tinkers away on a grand piano. He has a chain and shackles around his ankles.

BACK FROM FLASHBACK

The clown's make-up drips down his determined face, as he continues to run for the bridge.

FLASHBACK

INT. BARN - MORNING

A dusty room, full of cobwebs, with a dirty small window at one end.

In a corner, on an old mattress, sleeps the clown, with a chain from the wall, running along the floor to his ankle shackles.

In another corner, sits two buckets. One full of water, the other one a makeshift toilet.

The alarming sound of several gunshots, awakes the clown.

He climbs to his feet and looks out the window. He stares out in the distance for a few moments, before bowing his head with sadness.

A small panel opens up and in slides a bowl of watery soup and a piece of bread on a tray.

LATER

The clown, with his back to us, washes his body, face and hair, with the bucket of water.

LATER

The clown, now fully dressed, stands in front of a small mirror, putting on the final touches of his painted face.

EXT. PRIVATE COURTYARD - DAY

German officer, MAJOR WILHELM (43), shares a table with his WIFE (37), their SON (8) and DAUGHTER (6), as they eat lunch and drink tea.

The clown, chained up, sits on a stool at the other end of the yard, playing a violin.

Major Wilhelm, content, pulls out a cigarette packet and offers one to his wife, who accepts, before pulling one out himself.

The family talk and laugh, but we don't hear them.

LATER

Major Wilhelm drops three red balls at the foot of the clown. The clown stops playing.

As Major Wilhelm walks back to his chair, he gives his wife and children a wry smile and wink, before sitting down.

The clown carefully places the violin on the grass and picks up the three balls.

He climbs to his feet and starts juggling, much to the joy of the children, who leave their chairs, run up and sit in front of him.

LATER

The son climbs to his feet and runs back to the table. He grabs the dessert spoons.

Hesitantly, Major Wilhelm allows it, as the son takes them back to the clown.

The clown stops juggling the balls. He looks at Major Wilhelm, who nods his approval.

The son hands the clown the spoons.

The clown starts juggling the spoons, which brings more joy to the children.

German officer, FIRST LIEUTENANT GOBL (36), enters the private garden and walks directly to Major Wilhelm. He leans down and whispers in his ear.

Major Wilhelm jumps up and waves to his family that the party's over.

The officers leave quickly, as the wife collects the children, leaving the clown alone.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

The clown rolls over on the mattress and pulls out a spoon. He sits up, and with a distant light shining through the window, he starts to pick the locks of his ankle shackles.

EXT. CONCENTRATION CAMP - NIGHT

After a long struggle, the clown finally slides through the meal pocket and slowly steps into the shadows. He carefully steps over to a double story house.

TWO YOUNG GERMAN GUARDS, casually walk around the corner, smoking cigarettes, forcing the clown to hide behind a shrub. The clown goes unnoticed as the guards walk by.

The clown steps out and carefully cases the area. He deliberately walks over to a particular gate. He places his hand inside the gate and fiddles around with the inside lock.

The clown steps into the -

PRIVATE COURTYARD

He walks past the table and onto a back porch. He carefully and slowly opens the back door.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He steps inside and closes the door behind him. The refrigerator catches his eye. He opens up and helps himself to some cold meat. He picks up a milk bottle and drinks it quickly. He puts the milk back and slowly leaves the kitchen and into a -

LIVING ROOM

- before heading down a -

HALL

The clown deliberately stops at a particular door. He turns the handle slowly and steps inside. He carefully closes the door.

INT. STUDY - CONTINUOUS

The clown turns on a table light and quickly goes through the side drawers. He pulls out files and quickly skims over them. He puts them back and moves over to a filing cabinet. He pulls out more files.

These files get the full attention of the clown. He takes a page from one, two from another. He grabs more and skims over them.

He steps over to a wall cabinet and freezes. He opens it up and pulls out a Glock pistol. He checks to see if it's loaded.

He stuffs it down his pants. He goes back to the desk and folds the selected pages up and stuffs them in his pocket.

He begins to leave, but stops. A black telephone on the table, catches his eye. He stares at it. He ponders.

He slowly picks up the receiver and puts it to his ear. He takes a deep breath and dials zero.

BACK FROM FLASHBACK

EXT. ABANDONED FARM - DAY

The clown makes it to the halfway point, before a German troop carrier pulls up at the top of the hill.

SIX GERMAN SOLDIERS swiftly climb out of the back of the vehicle and clinically form a line.

A COMMANDING OFFICER, climbs out of the passenger seat and stands next to the formed line.

In a sense of complete power, the commanding officer looks down at the running clown, with a wry grin, before lifting his hand. It causes the German soldiers to bring their rifles up to their shoulders.

The running clown doesn't look back.

Suddenly, EIGHT CLOWNS, with all sorts of guns, emerge from the crops, as the clown runs past them.

The clowns open fire on the surprised Germans, killing all at the top of the hill.

The clowns quickly turn and run for the bridge.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

The clowns, now out of danger, gather underneath a large oak tree.

With a sense of relief, and his make-up a mess, the escaped clown hugs his rescuers.

FADE OUT