

# THE CARNIVAL AT MIDNIGHT

Written By

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INT. THE BROTHER'S KITCHEN - DAY

(CAM LONG SHOT W/ SLOW ZOOM)

AZRAEL is sitting at the table, a bowl of food sitting in front of him. He is quiet and listless. MICHAEL is pacing back and forth behind him while he talks.

MICHAEL

I know how much change bothers you,  
but I think this is a good way for  
us to move forward in our lives.  
You'll still be taken care of, and  
I'll finally get us that white  
picket fence I've always wanted.  
You'll get the help you need.

(beat)

Hey come on little brother, grab  
your entrenching tools and dig in.  
We gotta get you suited up for the  
party tonight.

Azrael stands to attention, and soundlessly screaming,  
pulls out a kitchen knife and stabs Michael in the neck.

He sits down as his brother paints him and the room with  
high velocity arterial spray as Michael fights the entire  
way down.

Azrael continues to eat as Michael painfully dies on the  
kitchen floor.

Michael then sits up and looks at Azrael, more arterial  
spray as he talks.

MICHAEL

Hey! Hey little buddy are you  
listening to me?

Michael snaps his fingers at Azrael, who's sitting at the  
table. Azrael looks up at Michael, who is completely  
unharmd and looking down at him, awakening from his  
fugue-like state.

Azrael smiles at Michael.

CUT TO:

INT. SARAH'S HOME - DAY

SARAH picks up a birthday cake from a table and walks down the hallway with it, heading outside. She reaches JAMIE at a decorated table and places the cake in front of him. He glares at her and down at the cake. The cake reads "Happy Birthday Jamie" in bright bold lettering.

JAMIE

Really mom? I'm not 10 fucking years old.

SARAH

The clown will be here soon. Change the attitude please.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BROTHER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Michael is putting clown make-up on Azrael's face.

MICHAEL

We gotta make sure you're on point tonight little buddy. This'll be the first time Sarah and her family gets to meet you.

(beat)

No worries though, she doesn't know anything about you yet, so this is a fresh chance to make a solid good impression. I think you two will get along really well.

(beat)

And for the record, just because we're putting you in an assisted living housing doesn't mean I won't come see you every single day. You're my brother and I love you.

(beat)

And they can all love you. You're the best.

AZRAEL

If you loved me, you'd take me with you.

MICHAEL

Buddy. I know. It's just that... It's such a small house. You know I want you there, but we can't. You know I love you. I'd do anything for you.

AZRAEL

Anything?

MICHAEL

Anything. We're the only family we have. You know I'd do anything for us.

AZRAEL

Would you even kill for me?

MICHAEL

Come on buddy, you're a happy clown today, not an evil clown? Look in the mirror.

AZRAEL stands up.

AZRAEL

You're leaving me.

MICHAEL

Correction. We are leaving.

(stands and claps)

Happy Clown Azrael! We'll talk about this again tonight, okay? I'm not leaving you, I promise.

Michael's face softens as he stands up in front of Azrael.

MICHAEL

Maybe eight is our lucky number.

He snaps back into his happy face and waves his keys at Azrael.

MICHAEL

Okay buddy, let's get rolling.

CUT TO:

EXT. SARAH'S BACKYARD - DAY

The dialogue between Sarah and Jamie has escalated. Jamie is standing and yelling at her mother. Her mother has a false smile on her face as she's trying to calm him down.

SARAH

He will be here soon. I said calm down.

JAMIE

This party sucks! No one is here, and I didn't get what I want, and I hate clowns! If I wanted a clown I'd ask for dad to be here!

SARAH

(menacing)

If you do not calm down right now, I will shut this party down, take your presents, and put you on restriction for the rest of the week.

JAMIE

Do it I dare you!

SARAH

This is your final warning young man, if you don't-

Jamie pushes the cake off the table, which also causes balloons to untie from the place setting.

CUT TO:

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR - DAY

Michael is driving Azrael to the party. A PHONE rings in the background for a few moments before it is answered off-screen.

SARAH

Eddie, your son is out of control.

EDDIE

Is he stabbing someone?

SARAH

Can you be serious about this?

EDDIE

No. Actually I can be nothing about this. Figure this out on your own.

SARAH

Please! It's his birthday party and I don't want this day to be ruined.

EDDIE

If his day is ruined by his poor behaviour, then he deserves to lose his party. Maybe if you were a little better at disciplining our son, he wouldn't be turning into a little prick.

SARAH

Are you lecturing me?

EDDIE

(laughing)

Oh god I'd never do that.

SARAH

How about instead of you talking about how our son needs discipline, you come here and actually act like a grown adult and a father?

EDDIE

I'm busy.

SARAH

Get here. Now. Or I call the lawyer and I discuss visitation arrangements.

EDDIE

Wow. You're a bitch.

SARAH

Be here now.

EDDIE

Fine. Let me finish up this project in front of me and I'll be right over.

CUT TO:

INT. A BAR - DAY

Eddie is sitting at the bar and drinking. He hangs up the phone.

EDDIE

Little bastard probably isn't even mine.

CUT TO:

EXT. SARAH'S HOME - DAY

Michael and Azrael have arrived at the house. Sarah opens the door and addresses Azrael.

SARAH

Oh hey! So you're the clown huh?

Azrael smiles and honks his nose.

SARAH

So look, my son is actually in trouble with me right now, so if you could give me a few minutes, maybe I can do something. If he doesn't straighten up, I might have to cancel your appearance.

Azrael looks incredibly worried. He starts looking for his brother.

SARAH

Hey look, I'll still pay you for your time. I'm really sorry about this.

Azrael nervously starts making a balloon animal.

SARAH

Okay so let me go take care of this-

Michael joins the discussion, holding the clown bag.

MICHAEL

Sarah!

SARAH

Michael! What a surprise! I wasn't expecting you!