

VICTOR
Very well. Could you direct me to
the circus manager, then?

HUNCHBACK
Well Master Barnaby is in the red
trailer, but-

Victor turns and immediately heads off.

HUNCHBACK (CONT'D)
Wait! Wait!

INT. BARNABY'S TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER

Barnaby's trailer is a cluttered mess of papers and
equipment; Barnaby sits behind a desk, with a sexy young
gymnast crawling all over him.

Victor enters and sits down on a chair opposite the desk.
Both the slutty gymnast and Barnaby are baffled.

VICTOR
Take your time.

START

EXT. BARNABY'S TRAILER - SECONDS LATER

The Hunchback is slowly approaching the trailer, when the
slutty gymnast bursts out, storming off. The Hunchback
retreats, then, doing his best attempt at stealth, he creeps
up to the window, looking in.

Victor's curt, speedy style of speech clashes harshly with
Barnaby's uneasy huckster sleaze.

BARNABY
-course he can't leave. He's got
no money, no possessions-

VICTOR
As I said he would come to stay
with me.

BARNABY
Yes but- no, but- he's not a
bonified **person**, you know? He's
just a-

VICTOR
Not a person, yes, by that do you
mean "not human-"

BARNABY
No, well- don't be *clever, awright?*
I just mean there's nothing there
to salvage, he doesn't- I mean he
doesn't even have a name.

VICTOR
Seems a bit of an oversight.

BARNABY
He's travelled with the circus
since he was a boy-

VICTOR
And he's been your doctor this
whole time-

BARNABY
Well he's not a real doctor, after
all-

VICTOR
And yet you've just said that he
has been effective in healing the
sick and injured, both animal and
human-

BARNABY
Those are just his tricks, he's
under contract as a clown-

VICTOR
How exactly does one have a
contract without a name I wonder.

BARNABY
He owes the circus everything. We
feed him, put clothes on his back-
The doctor bollocks was just a
fantasy for him, one that I
dispelled last night, I think-

VICTOR
Yes, I noticed a pile of burnt
books on my way in-

BARNABY
Aye, but that was just a bit of a
row, me getting my frustrations
out'n'whatnot-

VICTOR
When you're frustrated you burn
books, fascinating, fascinating,
listen, you're a bit of a bastard,
aren't you?

BARNABY
'Scuse me?

VICTOR
 Ignorant selfish cruel bastard,
 yes, I rather think you don't know
 what kind of genius you have on
 hand and though you've been content
 to abuse him freely for a good long
 time you'll have to accept that
 that's coming to an end, and
 acquaint yourself-

BARNABY
Listen you posh ass-

VICTOR
 -with the reality of the
 Hunchback's departure-

Barnaby stands, slamming his hands on his desk.

BARNABY
You shut your mouth-

VICTOR
 -and find yourself a new doctor
 willing to work for free and
 tolerate random wanton violence-

Barnaby goes around the desk and *grabs Victor by the collar, yanking him to his feet.*

BARNABY
SHUT UP!

VICTOR
 Sir, unhand me immediately.
 (beat)
 Are you deaf. I said *UNHAND ME IM-*

EXT. BARNABY'S TRAILER - SECONDS LATER

Victor is **HURLED out of the trailer, landing hard in the mud.**

BARNABY
 (red-faced, spitting)
*Listen you impudent rich twat,
 you're not getting the bloody
 Hunchback, and if you show your
 face here again, if I so much as
 sniff you, we'll slit your bloody
 throat and feed you to the bloody
 horses!*

VICTOR
 What compelling imagery.

Barnaby stares at Victor, who seems completely unafraid.
 This creeps Barnaby out, rightly so, and he slams the door.

The Hunchback watches as Victor, not bothering to straighten himself at all, stalks off the fairground. The Hunchback tries to call out, but he's *suddenly grabbed by Barnaby.*

END

EXT. THE ANIMAL CAGES - MOMENTS LATER

The Hunchback is roughly tossed into a cage by Barnaby, the door slammed behind him.

BARNABY

You are going *nowhere*. Enjoy your new quarters.

The Hunchback turns and sees his new roommate; a mangy, moth-eaten Bengal tiger. The Hunchback presses himself against the bars, scared.

NIGHT FALLS...

The circus is almost entirely cleaned up. The Hunchback is sitting in his cage when Rafferty walks by.

HUNCHBACK

Rafferty! Rafferty!

RAFFERTY

What's this, a talking tiger, impossible!

HUNCHBACK

Do you know what's happened to Lorelei?

RAFFERTY

Aw, romanticisicizing are we? She's probably dead, mate, you know that. These city doctors and their dirty hospitals and whatnot.

Rafferty picks up a rock and chucks it at the tiger; it immediately stands, bristling and snarling, and the Hunchback pulls back, terrified.

RAFFERTY (CONT'D)

Pleasant dreams.

Rafferty heads off, and the Hunchback tries to stay perfectly still, pressed hard against the door.

It's no good. The tiger, enraged, has begun slowly creeping towards him, hunkered down in an attack position, growling, eyes filled with bloodlust.

Tension builds as the tiger creeps closer and closer...

There's a series of clicks, and the door behind the Hunchback opens, sending the Hunchback toppling down to the dirt.

He looks up, startled and confused, to see Victor slam the cage shut.