

BRINGING Color to a Black Existence

Exterior: The theater lights go down. Everyone is quiet. While the curtain is still closed. The first sound the audience hears, is the sound of a pop top can and then someone taking a big gulp from that can. Next, a voice from behind the curtain speaks: "There you are, my only friends, yep, Bud, it's just you and me and your eleven brothers, just sitting here by ourselves chilling. You on ice, me in destitute." Then the curtain opens. Interior: A man dressed all in black. His face is painted white. Tears run down both sides of his cheeks, making the make up smear. He is sitting on a park bench with a cooler filled with beer. Behind him there are images of dead, rotting trees. In front of him, brown grass and dead leaves on the ground.

Sky is fine with dark clouds
 The man speaks: "Oh, how sad is my life. I am twenty-four years old. My parents just died. I've lost my job, and I have no wife. My sister has turned me away. I have no friends, not a place to stay. A miserable wretch, that is I. There is no place to run, nowhere to hide. I would take my own life, but I am afraid to die. (Then): the man pauses to finish his beer. He holds the empty can up to his face. With a slight smile, he says: "Damn, you are good, I'm awfully glad you are here. You're the only thing that brings me a little satisfaction, thank you my dear." (Next): He throws the can on the ground in front of him. With his foot, he crushed the can. In an angry voice, he shouts: "You see what I mean. You're just like everything else in my life. Every-friggin' time I start to believe that I've ^{found} something to make me happy... 'Pop' it's gone." (Then): He pounds his fist on his forehead while saying: "Stupid, stupid, stupid, what the heck is wrong with me." (He then): opens up the cooler, grabs another beer. Then says, to the beer: "I am so, so, sorry, I didn't mean that."

Please forgive me. (with his hand) the lavishly cradles the can. (as he speaks) there now, it's going to be okay baby, I promise. (he puts the can) up to his mouth and kisses it. (then in a voice) like the creature in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, he gently strokes the can and says, "My precious (and opens that can and takes a drink) (he speaks again) I do so believe, that I, have become a cliché of sorts. One that is spoken of, in a multitude of songs, let us see. Well, I most certainly fit the character, of being, a "nowhere man", living in his nowhere land. Of course, I am, "no more mister nice guy." (as though) to prove that point (a voice from off stage) is calling out, "damn it Reginald come back hear. (then comes) the sound of a large dog barking (the barking) get⁵ louder, as a German Shepherd is racing towards the man. His leash is behind him (followed by) a woman a few of steps behind (the dog) is in front of the man growling. (the man yells) "You got the hell away from me you mangy mutt." (the man then) throw his beer can at the dog and hits him on the side of the head. (the dog yelps), the man laughs hysterically (as the woman gets there). She looks at (her dog) who is now whimpering. (She turns her gaze on the man and says, rather, angrily. "Hey mister, what the fuck is wrong with you? You had no right to hurt my dog. He wasn't going to harm you." (the man) says, "Yeah, right, I am sure that no gentle dog acts like that. (the lady) picks up the leash and to the dog she speaks. "It okay Reginald, I won't let that mean man hurt you again". (The man) says to her. "You better get that demon-dog out of here, before I make him my dinner." (He continues to laugh) (she can't help but laugh) (she says) "stupid bitch" (he continues) "stupid bitch, her and her stupid dog, somebody should shoot them both." (He continues) "Speaking about eating. I really should go scrounge

(He) stops laughing,

(she can't help but laugh) (she says) "stupid bitch"

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For left overs, from the ground or the garbage! I can't believe that this is what's become of me. As if it isn't bad enough, that mutt, ^(sarcastically) Reg-i-nall' made me waste a beer. Well, it is a good thing that I have some more, or I would have made ^(again sarcastically) that l-a-d-y buy me another one. I think I'll have another one before lunch. ^{(He reaches down to grab} another beer and stops to bury his face in his hands and begins to cry. ^(He) looks up towards the sky. "I'm so pathetic, this is definitely not the way I pictured my life to be. For Christ's sake, even dogs are afraid of me. (I used to love dogs. (When I was ten) my parents had bought me the cutest little puppy. A Golden retriever. I name her "Sparkles" she) was my best friend. That was before she got run-over chasing a badly thrown tennis ball. I blamed myself for years. That was when I changed, I went from being a care-free little boy, to a hard-hearted, cynical young man. I pushed all my friends away. Put my parents through hell, with my rage, and emotionally abused them and my older sister. I started drinking, stealing, and fighting when I was fourteen. Was in and out of therapy and rehab until I was seventeen. Then all the sudden, it had dawned on me, that's enough. I got tired of fighting, tired of hurting my family, tired of making my mom cry. All for what? Because my dog died. I remember telling my counselor, "I'm done. I no longer want to live this way. Please help me." I called home that night and was shocked that my mom answered. The first thing I said to her was, "mommy please don't hang up." She didn't. I told her how sorry I was that I hurt her, dad, and my sister. I then told her what I told the counselor. Even though she was skeptical at first, but before the call ended... she told me she believed me. I had finally put myself together. I was sober, living back at home, work... (sighing)

trucks for a major retail store. I had even started doing one of the girls from the receiving department. Then last year, my parents died in a plane crash and that's how I ended up here. (He goes) back to the bench and sits down. He slouches and drops his head down. (Then) He speaks, his voice is low but audible: "If there was only a way to be happy again. (The wind) starts to blow. (The man) shivers, he wraps his arms around himself. (Not only) is he cold, he is also hungry. (His) stomach starts gurgling. (He seeks) isn't this great, what's next, maybe I get lucky and one of those trees will fall on me and kill me. (He) lies down on the bench and curls up in the fetal position. (Suddenly) there come a family walking towards him. (A) Dad, mom, and two girls (a teen) (they) are carrying blankets, an ice chest and a brown paper sack. (They) stop in front of the shivering man on the bench. (The Dad) says, "Excuse us sir" (the man) looks up at them. (The Dad) continues speaking. "We don't mean to disturb you, but you see that my family and I had planned to come here to the park and have a picnic. But, as you can see, the weather is not favorable to do that. So, we were hoping, that you would like to have a blanket and the food we brought. (The man) sits up and looks at them. (one of the girls) says, "We have fried-chicken and Mataroni Salad, my mom made it today, it is so good. (the other girl) then says, "we also have some rolls and potato chips, and grapes as well. (the man) says, you would really give that stuff to me? (Now) the mom speaks, "why of course sweetie unless you don't want it, besides, the girls would be very upset if you don't take it. (Right) girls, yes we would (said the one). Please sir", (said the other). We really do want you to have it. (A big smile) spread across the young man's

face, (so he said), well, if you insist. Besides, how could I turn down two such beautiful girls? (The dad) Good, we are so glad you accepted our offer. Here, take some to eat the bag over here while you grab the blanket. (The man) starts crying again and he says to them, "I don't know what to say, you folks don't even know how grateful I am to you. Thank you so much. (The mom) says, "You're quite welcome honey, you enjoy your food, okay." (The) responds, "Yes ma'am", I sure will. Thank you all for your kindness. (The) waves as that family gets into their car and drives away. (After) they left, the sun starts to break through the clouds. (The) of the white make up is gone and the black shirt he's wearing is now red. (He) wraps the blanket around him and takes out the plastic container with the chicken in it. (The) takes the lid off the container, sets it down next to him and takes out the biggest piece. (He) takes a big bite and crumbs fall on his shirt. He says, "This is some good-tasting chicken. (As he) is eating, he doesn't notice that the clouds are clearing up and the trees behind him are no longer dead. (In the) distance he see some boys playing kickball. Their laughing and yelling, having fun. The boy who is up, kicks the ball and it rolls up to the man and stops by his feet. (Another boy) runs up close to where the man is sitting. (He) says to the man, "Pardon me mister, can you please throw me the ball?" (The man) says, sure thing kid. (The) reaches in the bag and pulls out a napkin. Then he wipes his hands before bending down to pick up the ball. "He says, "Here you go. (He) throws the ball to the boy. (The) boy catches it, says to the man, "Thanks". (The) die boys take a run around and runs back with the ball. (The) rest of the make up is gone and now the grass is now green.

(The man) is smiling, (he) says, "Wow, I feel so good, I think I try that macaroni salad." (He) takes the container with the macaroni salad, out along with a plastic fork and digs in. (His pants) are now blue. (While) he's eating the salad. (He) says, "All this food is so wonderful, I really need to drink something. But, I don't want to drink anymore beer. It would ruin the flavor of the food. What shall I do?" (Right) then, a guy comes walking by, with a cooler in one hand and a soda in the other. (The man) hollers to the guy walking by. "Excuse me man would you be interested in trading me a soda for a beer." (The) guy stops, looks at the man and he says to him. "Hell yeah dude, do you just want one, I got like five more." (The) man replies, "I'll make you a deal, I have eight beers left, if you want I'll trade you all eight for your five sodas." (The) guy says, "Seriously" (Man) seriously. (GUY) "You've got yourself a deal dude." But just out of curiosity, (Man) says, "Well, it's like this, I brought a twelve pack because a friend of mine was planning to come with me. Unfortunately, he got called into work and had to cancel. So, I've already had four and I just rather drink soda instead." (GUY) "That's cool." (Then) they make the trade. The man sits back down, pulls the collis, chips, and grapes and starts chowing down. (When) his mouth stopped chewing (he) says, "What a miraculous day this has been. There is only one thing in this world that could make it better. I think perhaps, that bridge has been burned." (Then) he closes his eyes and another woman is standing there. (She) says, "Hello Charlie." (Charlie) opens his eyes and sees his sister. (She) reaches for his hand and says, "Come on brother, it's time to go home!"