

CIRCUS AVENGERS

THE NIGHT OF RECKONING



STRANGE GOINGS ON AT AN OTHERWISE PEACEFUL CIRCUS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...

THE CIRCUS STAFF AND PERFORMERS HAD NOTICED OF LATE AN UNUSUALLY HIGH TURNOVER RATE AMONGST THE TROUPE. ALMOST EVERY DAY, ANOTHER PLAYER TURNED UP MISSING... WHILE A STEADY STREAM OF NEW, AND INCREASINGLY ODDER FREAKS SEEMED TO JOIN THEIR RANKS.

THE NEW RECRUITS SEEMED TO BE UNFORTUNATE CREATURES, DAZED AND CONFUSED AND UNABLE TO RECALL MUCH OF THEIR PREVIOUS EXISTENCES. THE TROUPE TOOK THEM IN WITHOUT QUESTION, AS CIRCUS PEOPLE HAVE A TENDENCY TO DO, BUT QUESTIONS WERE BEGINNING TO ARISE AND THEY ALL FELT A LITTLE UNSETTLED BY THE CHANGES...

I'M JUST THRILLED WITH THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT!
WE'VE NEVER HAD SO MANY TO EXPERIMENT ON!

I AGREE. I WASN'T SURE WHEN IT WAS SUGGESTED,
BUT I DO THINK WE'VE FOUND A HOME!

NOW, I THINK THIS ONE WOULD MAKE A LOVELY
FELINE HYBRID. HOLD STILL, MY DEAR, THIS WILL
ONLY HURT FOR A WHILE...

EEEEEEEEEEK!

THERE NOW... THAT'S AN IMPROVEMENT,
DON'T YOU THINK?

PERFECTION!!!

**AT THE CIRCUS THAT DAY, A WONDERFUL SHOW IS BEING PRESENTED...
WITH HOOP DANCING! AND FIRE EATING!**



A LION TAMER! WITH A LION GIRL!!



**AND THE CROWN OF THE EVENING, LANA THE
ELEPHANT RIDER, AND HER TRAINER TARA!**



IN THE AUDIENCE, THE EVIL DOCTORS TAKE NOTE OF PROMISING CANDIDATES FOR THEIR 'PROCEDURES'...

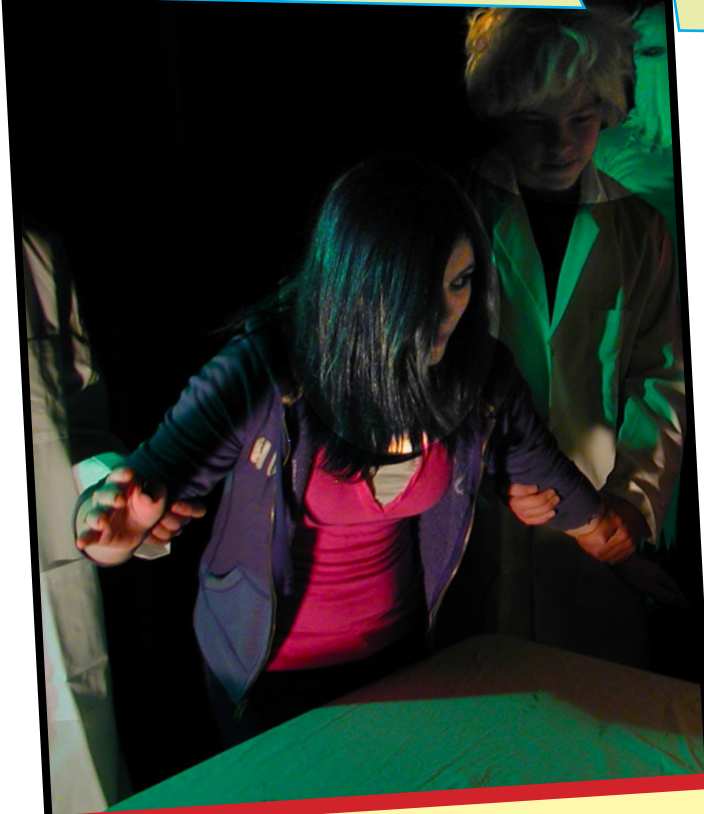


JUGGLING COMES SO NATURALLY TO SOME... INDEED, TO BE A JUGGLER THE HAND TO EYE COORDINATION NEEDS TO BE EXCELLENT! A HELPFUL TRAIT IN A HYBRID...



AND OTHER DOCTORS APPROACH ADDITIONAL WORTHY CANDIDATES IN HOPES OF LURING THEM TO THE LAB...
INSIDIOUS!!

LATER, ANOTHER SUBJECT IS BROUGHT TO THE ALTAR OF SCIENCE...



AND ANOTHER! FRIGHTENED AS THEY ARE, BOTH ARE TOO DRUGGED TO FIGHT THE FATE THAT AWAITS THEM!



... BUT SAM, THE SAVVY FIRE EATER, STUMBLES UPON THE LAB AND SEES THE EXPERIMENT UNDERWAY!



THIS IS UNHOLY!

STUNNED BY WHAT SHE'S SEEN, SAM REJOINS THE OTHERS
AT THE CAMPFIRE, UNSURE IF IT'S ALL TO BE BELIEVED...



WHEN WANDERING UP TO THE FIRE CAME... NOT JUST ONE,
BUT TWO SETS OF CONJOINED TWINS... AND A CAT GIRL!!

AT FIRST, SOME ARE SUSPICIOUS...



GRANDMA IS SURE THERE'S
SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT
THEM...



THE RINGMASTER APPEARED, WITH A DOUR AND HARSH LOOK ON HIS FACE AND THE SHADOWY PRESENCE THAT ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE AT HIS SIDE. HE INTRODUCED THE NEWCOMERS AS NEWLY ARRIVED FEATURE FREAKS WHO WOULD SURELY BRING MORE FOLKS TO THE CIRCUS.



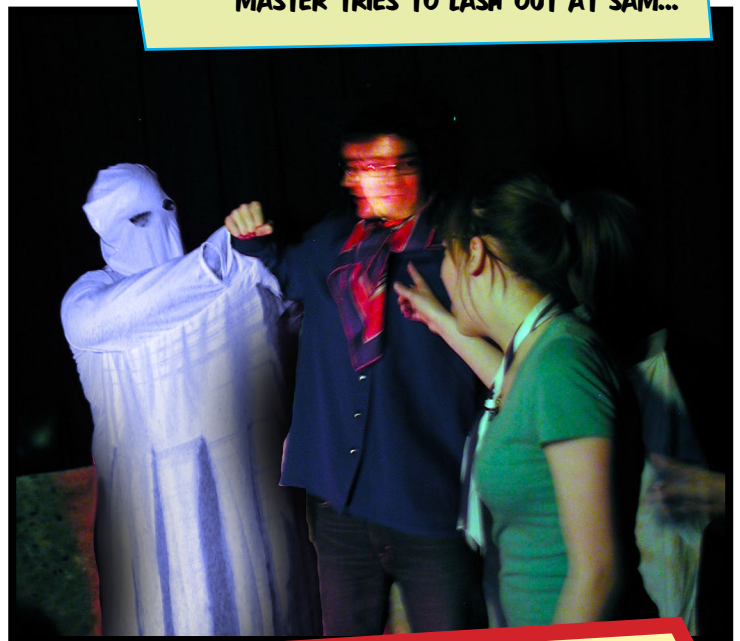
SAM ROSE TO HER FEET, HAVING REALIZED WHAT HAD BEEN HAPPENING...

IT WAS **YOU!** YOU'VE BEEN SENDING PEOPLE AWAY TO BE... 'WORKED ON' BY THOSE INSANE SCIENTISTS!!

AND WHEN THEY COME BACK, AS **FREAKS** WHO DON'T REMEMBER WHO THEY ARE, YOU ADD THEM TO THE SHOW AS NEW ATTRACTIONS!!



REALIZING HE'S BEEN FOUND OUT, THE RING MASTER TRIES TO LASH OUT AT SAM...



ONLY TO FIND HIS FIST RESTRAINED... BY THE BLUE GHOST!



... THE GHOST CLUNG TO THE RINGMASTERS FIST AND WOULD NOT ALLOW ANY HARM TO COME TO SAM... A PERSONAL VENDETTA PAID.

FOR THE GHOST WAS THE RINGMASTER'S BROTHER, A MAN OF PRINCIPLE WHO HAD ONCE RUN THE CIRCUS ALONGSIDE HIS BROTHER, BUT WHO HAD BEEN KILLED WHEN HE TRIED TO STOP THE DOCTORS' PLAN TO EXPERIMENT ON THE CIRCUS PERFORMERS.

EVER SINCE, HIS SPIRIT HAD BEEN YEARNING TO FINALLY PUT THINGS RIGHT!

NOW WE SEE WHO YOU REALLY ARE!
HOW COULD YOU?

WHY DO THIS?

WHY?

THEY JUST OFFERED ME TOO MUCH MONEY...
I COULDN'T REFUSE!



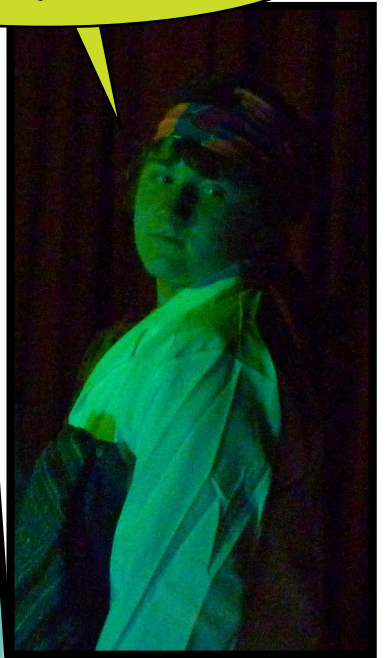
THEY'RE THAT WAY! TO THE LAB...
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!!!



THIS JUGGLER'S HAND TO EYE COORDINATION WILL
ENABLE HER TO ADAPT QUICKLY TO HER NEW
MONKEY TAIL AND EXTRA LIMBS.

I THOUGHT WE WERE DOING THE
SPIDER THING THIS TIME...

WAIT, DID YOU HEAR
SOMETHING...?



A PASSING SUPERHERO, THE MIGHTY LAVENDER,
WHO ALWAYS ENJOYED A GOOD CIRCUS,
HAD COME ACROSS THE MOB OF PERFORMERS
DESPERATELY TRYING TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE
LABORATORY. AFTER HEARING THEIR TALE,
SHE GLADLY OFFERED HER SERVICES AND MADE
QUICK WORK OF THE SECURE DOORS.

RUMBLE!



BUCKLE UP, BOYS AND GIRLS... THESE FOLKS ARE
BOUND TO GIVE YOU A GOOD SIZE WHOOPIN'

AND IT WAS VERY MUCH ON...
(VERY MUCH WHOOPIN' AND THUMPIN')



IN THE END, JUSTICE WAS SERVED, THOUGH MANY LIVES WERE ALTERED FOREVER. THE DOCTORS AND THE RINGMASTER WERE CONVICTED OF THEIR UNSPEAKABLE CRIMES. AND THE CIRCUS CARRIED ON, WITH THE PERFORMERS IN CHARGE... AND A COUPLE OF NIFTY NEW ACTS... **GHOST BOY** AND **THE MIGHTY LAVENDER!!!**

CIRCUS AVENGERS

THE NIGHT OF RECKONING



CIRCUS AVENGERS: THE NIGHT OF RECKONING...

THIS "LIVING GRAPHIC NOVEL" WAS CREATED BY STUDENTS IN MRS. HALL'S 8TH GRADE ART CLASS AT GREENFIELD CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, GREENFIELD, INDIANA IN FEBRUARY 2012, THROUGH A COLLABORATION BETWEEN CIVIC THEATRE OF GREATER LAFAYETTE, PURDUE UNIVERSITY GALLERIES AND WORDS ON THE GO.

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LAYOUT BY CRAIG MARTIN

