

**EXT. BOARDING HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

JOHN, an elderly blind man, walks out of the boarding house and makes his way out onto the front porch.

JOHN  
Michael?!

MICHAEL  
Over here, John.

JOHN  
Ah, I didn't see you. Ha!

PREACHER  
John, let Sister June help you.

Preacher looks back at SISTER JUNE, a nun in her early 30's, who immediately scampers over to John's side. She takes John's arm and helps guide the blind man down the stairs.

JOHN  
Sounds like there's quite a  
hullabaloo out here, Sister.

Alfred steps towards John and Sister June.

ALFRED  
And I'm sorry about that, sir. My  
name is Alfred and I, and my  
friends, are part of a traveling  
extravaganza. Unfortunately, the  
traveling part of our show is  
busted up out yonder.

SISTER JUNE  
So you need a place to stay until  
your wagon gets fixed?

JOHN  
Well, I should have space for them.

Standing in the front of the crowd, Preacher grabs The Mayor by his arms.

PREACHER  
Get out there and do something! We  
can't allow them to stay.

The Mayor doesn't take kindly to the Preacher grabbing him but before he can respond Ms. Agnes pokes her nose into the conversation.

MS. AGNES

They have a child with them,  
Preacher! Would forcing them out  
into the night with neither food  
nor transportation really be the  
Christian way?

PREACHER

I have to think of the safety of my  
parishioners.

MS. AGNES

Mark, Chapter 8, Verse 35: For  
whoever only wants to save his own  
soul will lose it.

PREACHER

Proverbs, 2:10. Discretion shall  
preserve thee. It shall--

ALFRED

--Do not judge, or you too will be  
judged.

Preacher, The Sheriff, and Ms. Agnes all look over to Alfred.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

Matthew, 7:12

Ms. Agnes smiles, pleased to hear bible verse from Alfred.

MS. AGNES

You see, they are good God-fearing  
people.

Preacher looks to Sheriff who agrees with Ms. Agnes. He  
looks over to The Mayor who also seems to want the Freaks to  
stay. Preacher relents.

PREACHER

I just pray the rest of the proverb  
isn't relevant.

Preacher WALKS OFF.

Ms. Agnes smiles at the young Adam but Rose grabs his arm and  
pulls him towards her. She stares down Ms. Agnes, who seems  
intimidated by Rose's glacial demeanor.

JOHN

It'll be ten dollars.

EMMETT

Ten dollars!

Alfred glares at Emmett for raising his voice. Unfortunately, Emmett's not alone in his disapproval.

LINDA

Michael assured us that we would be able to find free room and board.

JOHN

Free?! I don't see why I should--

MICHAEL

(to John)

--John, the accident was partly my fault.

THE SHERIFF

How much was partly your fault?

JOHN

Partly the whole thing...

Linda moves closer towards the blind man.

LINDA

(hisses)

If it wasn't for your friend, we wouldn't be here needing shelter! He caused the accident. He brought this upon you.

Alfred steps in front of Linda, hoping to put a stop to the scene she's making.

ALFRED

What's done is done.

The Sheriff watches as Alfred looks back at James, who leans over and takes Linda's arm. She doesn't want to move but finally relents and joins the other Freaks behind Alfred.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

I'm sure there's some way we can work things out.

The Mayor sizes up James and then steps forward to take center stage.

THE MAYOR

I'd like to think so. As Mayor of this town, I think a good compromise would be to let you have free run of the town--

The crowd roars, shocked by The Mayor's suggestion.

THE MAYOR (CONT'D)

Within reason. In return, you donate some time and labor--

LINDA

--We didn't come here to be your servants.

From the middle of the crowd, a voice chimes in.

FRANK

Aw, y'all afraid of a little hard work?

FRANK, your run-of-the-mill town drunk, sticks his chest out, seemingly inviting conflict.

EMMETT

Who said that?!

Emmett and Linda walk towards the crowd, challenging the speaker to show himself. The crowd in front of Frank begins to part, everyone trying to get out of the line of sight of the two freaks. As the opening grows closer to revealing him, Frank's courage quickly dissipates.

The crowd finally opens up to reveal Frank. Now completely afraid of a possible altercation, Frank steps aside hanging a stunned Bianca out to dry.

Bianca watches nervously as Emmett scans her up and down. Bianca is stunned by the development and watches as a devilish smile crosses Emmett's lips. He then licks his incisor tooth with his forked tongue.

ALFRED

(losing temper)  
Emmett, enough!

Bianca sees Alfred shoot an admonishing glare at Emmett, who sneers right back at him.

THE MAYOR

People, people!  
(to the freaks)  
(MORE)

THE MAYOR (CONT'D)

I assure you the work won't be much. The men can help us build our new bank. We won't ask for anything from the ladies.

LINDA

This is completely unacceptable.

Walt and Robert as they giggle at Linda's anger. Their laughter ceases immediately when they notice that Rose is staring them down with an evil look in her eyes.

The Mayor makes his way towards Alfred and the Freaks.

THE MAYOR

I propose that we set you up in your rooms so you can have a night's rest to think over the compromise.

ALFRED

We shall consider--

LINDA

--I don't think--

Alfred stands in front of Linda. He seems almost too eager to accept the offer.

ALFRED

--your very generous proposal.

THE MAYOR

That's all we can ask.

JOHN

Sounds like the least we can ask, to me. God damned locusts are better tenants.

John STORMS OFF.

THE MAYOR

Well then, welcome again to our humble town. Michael and The Sheriff will be glad to help you with your bags.

(to crowd)

Show's over people! I best not see any of the you men here showing up late to work on the bank tomorrow.

The Mayor WALKS OFF and the crowd DISPERSES. Michael heads over to Alfred, who looks around, admiring the town.

MICHAEL

Don't mind Preacher. He's never been one for change. I think you all will have a fine stay here.

ALFRED

Oh, I have no doubt about that.

**INT. ALFRED'S ROOM - 20 MINUTES LATER**

Michael and The Sheriff drop off a couple of bags in Alfred's room.

ALFRED

Thank you very much for helping us, Sheriff.

MICHAEL

Oh, it was nothing.

James WALKS IN carrying a dozen or so bags.

THE SHERIFF

Literally nothing.

The Sheriff watches in awe as James carries the huge bags, sets them down with ease, and EXITS, closing the door behind him.

ALFRED

Well, still... Kindness like that will not go forgotten when the time comes.

Alfred smiles awkwardly. Just then, the door flies open and Linda storms in.

LINDA

I don't know what you think you are doing?! If my brother was still alive--

ALFRED

(nervously)  
--As you can see, I have guests  
Linda.

Michael and The Sheriff stare at Linda.

LINDA

Well what the hell are you looking at?!

MICHAEL

Yeah, we'll get a-moving.

THE SHERIFF

And sir, if you could find the time to think about the offer.

ALFRED

Don't worry. I'll handle everything.

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT**

As soon as Michael and The Sheriff step out of the room, the door SLAMS shut and Linda and Alfred begin yelling at one another. Michael puts his ear against the door and tries to hear what the argument is about.

ALFRED (O.C.)

If you could ever show some patience, Linda.

LINDA (O.C.)

I don't suffer fools--

ALFRED (O.C.)

--This town has exactly what we've been looking for.

Michael and The Sheriff are so busy eavesdropping that they don't notice James and Emmett have walked up right behind them.

JAMES

Can we help you gentlemen?

**EXT. BOARDING HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

George and Walt sneak around a corner to the back of the boarding house. George squeezes through some barrels and starts to climb up the side of the boarding house.

Walt stands back and doesn't join his friend.

WALT

I don't think we should do this, George.

GEORGE

Come on. Don't you want to see if his tail is real?