

2009 IATE Poetry and Prose Contest

Poem of Special Merit

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A Night of Fun

Paint, thick and red, drawn in a smile, fake, upward.
The sneering lips open,
Revealing gleaming teeth, sharp, pointed,
Ready to attack when you least expect it.
Hair, striped green, yellow, blue,
Colored to make you laugh.
The patterned outfit, to appear silly.
Polka-dots, striped patches, flower buttons
Hypnotize you,
Distracting you while he pounces,
All the while, pulling you deeper
Into the most horrifying nightmare.
A shrill cackle escapes his smile.
Using jokes to make a fool,
Squeezing the white flower button,
Spraying cool water up your nose,
He grabs you with clammy hands.
You try to escape, but
He throws you down.
Giant, red shoes
Stomp you to the ground.
His laugh, earsplitting, rings again,
Piercing.
Prying giant paws away,
Using fingernails and teeth,
You free from his grasp,
Only to look around,
Seeing more, many more.
Seven crawl from a tiny car,
A green. one, short and fat,
Another dressed in yellow,
Towering over the others.
An older one, dragging along,
Slinking behind the others.
Three juggle flaming torches for children,
The one behind the tent, smoking, sees you,
All start closing in,
Coming towards you, creeping, stalking.
A night of fun
At the circus.