

THE COMEDIAN

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. COMEDY STORE STAIRWELL - NIGHT/DAY

A stairway leads upwards and is lighted by a different neon sign that reads "The Belly Room".

INT. COMEDY STORE HALLWAY - NIGHT/DAY

A neon sign glows in the darkness. A long hallway is faintly illuminated.

INT. COMEDY STORE HALLWAY - NIGHT/DAY

A figure enters the hall in the distance. The figure begins to walk and continues to draw closer.

The mysterious figure walks the duration of the hall and steps into the neon light. The figure is a young man.

The young man looks up into the light. This is THE COMEDIAN (21), a contemplative individual.

The comedian walks through the doorway.

INT. COMEDY STORE MAIN STAGE - NIGHT/DAY

The comedian enters the massive main performance room.

Various tables and chairs are scattered around. A circular stage rests in the middle of the room.

A large neon sign coats the room in a red glow.

The comedian takes the stage and grabs a microphone. He faces the empty crowd.

The room lies eerily still and quiet in its emptiness.

THE COMEDIAN

Don't you hate it when you think someone is talking to you when they're really not? Someone will ask "Hey, how are you?" And I'll be standing at the pisser and I'll get all excited and reply "Great! How are you doing?" And then the guy will say "Hold on a second the idiot next to me thinks I'm talking to him." Well screw me right.

The comedian waits for the laughter that doesn't come. He Exudes a feeling of loneliness, it creeps into his tone of voice.

The comedian paces back and forth as if a full crowd is there.

THE COMEDIAN (CONT'D)
Can I get a laugh? Is anybody out there?

Silence resonates through the room.

The comedian takes a seat at the stool on the stage.

He scans the empty crowd.

THE COMEDIAN (CONT'D)
Boy talk about a dead crowd.

The comedian stands up. The sound of loud laughter and applause fills the room. The seats remain empty.

THE COMEDIAN (CONT'D)
What a night.

He scans the empty crowd. Voices accompany the room.

THE COMEDIAN (CONT'D)
Such a beautiful night. Just like this guy.

The comedian points to a chair in the room.

THE COMEDIAN (CONT'D)
Take a look at the size of that gut.

Loud laughter follows. The comedian smiles from the phantom encouragement.

THE COMEDIAN (CONT'D)
But I just wanted to thank you all for coming.

Applause and enthusiastic cheers follow. The comedian bows.

INT. COMEDY STORE HALLWAY - NIGHT/DAY

The lonely hallway glimmers in the neon. The comedian emerges from the doorway and walks down the long hallway until he disappears from view.

FADE OUT.