



The Devil and the Clown

One thing is for sure, kids are cruel. And with friend like these, who needs enemies.

My dad started an addition to our house when I was a kid and for reason of time and money, the job was halted. Being that it was part of the house and young boys like camping, my brother and I moved in to the unfinished section of the house.

Basically, this area was about 600 square feet of open space with several windows! Being that we were as close as we were, we put one bed in a corner, used extension cords for power and camped out for, several of the best years of our lives.

The down side to this arrangement was, when friends were over, it got crowded. My cousin Raymond was there often enough that we often forgot he wasn't our brother and there were many other childhood friends.

The biggest opportunity was offered us when someone fell asleep before the rest of us, because of the standard tricks such as 'shaving cream in the hand' or 'Sharpie body art' but we were much crueler than that and much more creative.

One particular night there was four of us, Chris (My Brother), Raymond and a kid from down the road named Bryan. Bryan was the youngest of us by a year or two and was the first to fall asleep on this particular occasion.

The three of us concocted our mischief and put it into play:

Having the ceiling rafters exposed offered the ability for us to drape blankets around this poor boy. Color chosen mostly because they were what was there, but also because we realized red and orange would offer a nice 'dramatic effect.'

We boxed Bryan in on the left and right with the orange and red blankets. At his feet we hung a white sheet leaving us enough room for our devious operations. We placed an old construction lamp behind the white sheet making the sheet glow. With Chris dressed in a Devil mask and Raymond in a Japanese clown mask, we executed the plan.

Raymond squatted down in front of Chris who had a red blanket rapped around him and draping from his arms like 'wings' that he wrapped around Raymond so that until those wings opened left Raymond unseen.

I played the part of DJ! Our opening theme was an Ozzy Osborn song 'War Pigs', Cued to the point that the song says "Satan laughing spreads his wings!" Chris obviously played the motions of opening his 'wings' Raymond in waiting.



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At this point, I stopped one song and started the next; Alice Cooper song 'We're all Crazy' at a point where it says in it's demented sounding chorus 'We're all crazy! CRAZY! CRAZY! CRAZY!'

As Bryan awoke from his slumber to see "Satan" standing in front of him spreading wings to show of this 'Crazy Clown' his eyes nearly popped out of his head. He was obviously stricken with fear but we weren't done. Chris decided to move in closer and this caused Raymond to lose his balance! I imagine from Bryan's perspective this Demon lunged at him as Bryan was screaming "NO! I DON'T WANT TO GO!"

I still laugh about this even as I am writing it. I also wonder what effect this had on Bryan's life as we have lost touch. He never mentioned any of this so I never brought it up. I don't remember who or how we came up with this idea but now that I am older I realize that we were pretty creative for a bunch of kids.

I hope kids still are having this kind of fun!