

★ ★ ★ CARNIVAL ^{OF} ★ ★ ★
DARK WONDERS

Charlottesville, Virginia

September 17th

To my dearest showgirl,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that your flawless audition on the 1st of September left me wanting more. To satiate myself, I must insist you accept my offer of employment and become a showgirl with my traveling carnival immediately.

I know by now you must have heard the disturbing rumors about the fates of my former showgirls. These allegations are slander and falsehood. The Carnival is a dying art form and there are those in this country who would see us shut down permanently.

I am told that it is distasteful for a show of the 1950s to have too many "real freaks". The public would prefer to have their entertainments be feats of comfortable showmanship or deft illusion, rather than confrontations with the monstrous, bizarre, or otherworldly. They do not understand as you and I do, my dear.

I have been watching you for some time now and the position of my top billed showgirl will no doubt call upon your many skills, talents, and gifts. It is not an easy position to hold, no doubt.

Beyond that, however, I need you to be my right hand. I need someone who can be a part of this beautiful display of monstrosity, who can embrace it wholeheartedly. Who sees it for the work of art that it is, and is not gripped by mere, simple, stupid fear.

You must see how I need someone I can trust. How much I need you...

Regrettably, I will be away in a neighboring county for your first day of work. Enclosed is my signet ring and a roll of tickets. The other carnies will recognize my authority through these items, grant you access wherever you choose to explore, and come if you should need to call upon them for assistance.

Take this time to investigate the carnival, to see it for its full beauty. I look forward to hearing that you are ready to become a part of this magnificent enterprise.

Yours respectfully,

Bluebeard

Ringmaster of the traveling Carnival of Dark Wonders

P.S. Thank you for the lovely gifts. To begin showing you my gratitude I have ordered you a proper showgirl's costume, but until it arrives please consider wearing that little red number you had on for your audition. And do remember as you explore my establishment that your inquiries should not encroach on my personal character. Do not enter my private tent.