

From: **"Chris Waldrop" <Waldrop@LIBRARY.Vanderbilt.edu>**
Organization: **Vanderbilt University**
To: **"Sharon Wagoner" <Wagoner@LIBRARY.Vanderbilt.edu>**
Date sent: **Wed, 16 Aug 2000 09:58:46 -0500**
Subject: **Re: By the way..**
Priority: **normal**

I hope he likes it, but the important thing to remember is that I don't expect him and Scott to change the script just because of this. This is merely a tool for me to give some depth to the character. I want him to be a real person in my mind so that, hopefully, I'll be able to portray him as a real person to the audience. When, in the script, he says, "Have you ever walked into a 7-11 at 3am with a Slim Jim in one hand and a .357 magnum in the other?" I can tell this is a guy who is fiercely, even defiantly, individualistic. There's a lot of dark stuff lurking behind the greasepaint, so to speak. Obviously this is a guy who's been beaten down so much his only defense is to live through the only thing in his entire life that's ever really made him happy.

On 16 Aug 2000, at 9:49, Sharon Wagoner wrote:

>
> priceless...I'm copying this for Chip
>
> On 16 Aug 2000, at 9:45, Chris Waldrop wrote:
>
> From now on, my character should not be referred to as "Psychotic
> Clown". His name is Mel Greenberg. He was born in Revere,
> Connecticut
> to second generation Polish parents in 1954. His favorite childhood
> memories are of going to the circus and visiting his grandparents
> who
> lived near Coney Island. Mel's grandfather did a vaudeville act in a
> Coney Island sideshow, and his grandmother supplemented the
> family
> income by making doll clothes and "gypsy" potions. His mother
> was a
> housewife, while his father worked in a machine shop. Mel was
> deferred
> from serving in the Vietnam War when he was 18 because of a
> lower
> lumbar problem. He dropped out of school and took a job driving

> trucks, but problems with alcohol and addiction to amyl nitrate
> "poppers" caused him to go through a string of jobs. Finally in 1993
> he joined AA, but left in 1996 because he was tired of what he saw
> as
> a false and cloying community that didn't respect individual
> expression. While in counseling, Mel realized that performing as a
> circus clown was all he'd ever wanted to do, although even on the
> "carny" circuit it was hard to get a job because of his history. He
> managed to just get by doing kids' parties and department store
> promotions, but when we meet Mel he's just been fired again. As he so
> bluntly puts it, "I lost my job because I couldn't control my bladder.
> Know what my job is? I make kids happy. And they thought it was a
> riot!"
>
>
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> "But the truth is you can't buy cool and you can't
> create it with a label. Wearing the right things
> only takes money, while wearing the wrong things
> takes initiative. And what, I should like to know,
> is so great about being cool anyway?" -Ben Elton

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