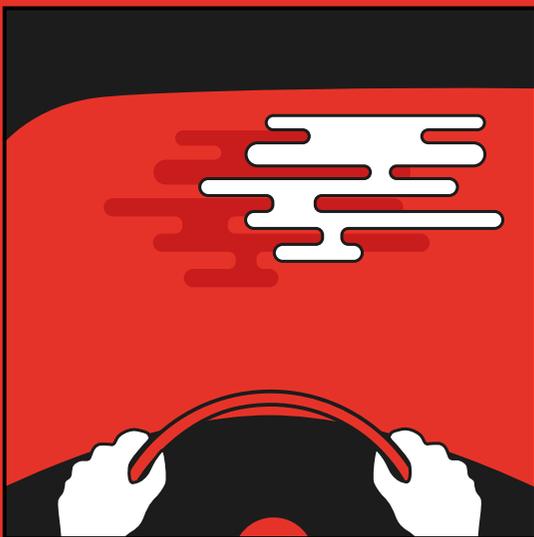


PRIZE POLAR EN SÉRIES 2021



CLOWN À TUER Eldiablo (script) et Niro (drawing) (Dupuis, 2020)

(A CLOWN TO KILL)

If it were a film:

Barton Fink, Joel et Ethan Coen
La Valse des pantins, Martin Scorsese

If it were a movie:

Fargo, Noah Hawley
Spotless, Ed McCardie et Corinne Marrinan
Mad Dogs, Cris Cole

Format:

Miniseries:



Jérémy is in his thirties and has two children. He is having a difficult time to make ends meet: as a trained actor, his career never really took off. To earn a living, he is forced to dress up as a clown for birthday parties in front of horrible young audiences.

When he is about to give up on this life he had never planned to be living, his agent asks him to play the clown one more time for a rich client in an isolated nursing home in the mountains. He grudgingly agrees. One last time cannot hurt. Perhaps he should have trusted his instinct...

After a sloppy performance, he is ready to head back home. But an unfortunate accident that kills one of the residents, will force him to stay. Jérémy is not responsible in any way but the landlord, Etienne, needs a scapegoat. In order to keep him to stay, the residence employees encourage Jérémy to get drunk, but he manages to escape. Unfortunately for him, not a single neighbour will believe the crazy story of a drunken clown and as he finally convinces the police force to visit the nursing home, the body has disappeared...

A RED NOSE ON A NOIR NOVEL

Jérémy is one of those protagonists who, despite themselves, get trapped in the most dangerous and incongruous situations. His clown costume does not go unnoticed and it certainly does not help. This man, who goes from one failure to the other and who is on the verge of losing his mind, inspires sympathy. We can easily imagine how hard it must be for an aspiring actor to be stuck inside a clown costume in front of an audience of careless kids.

Here, Jérémy reverses the archetype of the evil clown, a recurring character of many horror stories. Obviously, he might be a bit edgy but the trap that has been set for him makes him appear as the mischievous one. This tragi-comic hero promises to be a delightful role of a very touching clown, a victim despite himself.

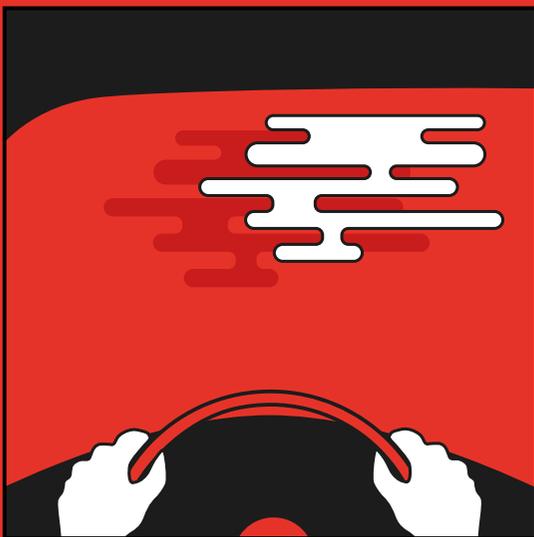
A CAUSTIC INTRIGUE

The intrigue's strength is to constantly surprise the reader with twists and turns or unexpected changes of direction. To witness Jérémy sink down his own misfortune offers a toxic joy, a Schadenfreude. The intrigue is both stressful, as the character's situation seems hopeless, and cheerful, as we bounce from one surprise to the next.

Finally, despite a growing concern, the desire to see how far the situation can go prevails over the pity which inspires the character and we are fully rejoiced.

A series adaptation of *Clown à tuer* is an opportunity for many twists, blending both dark humour and cruel irony.

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SHORTER IS BETTER

A *clown to kill* is a webtoon, a comic book published in short episodes – like chapters – on the web. Webtoons are conceived to be read on smart phones or tablets, thanks to their vertical format. From the start, this story has been imagined as a series, with episodes. This is why it is punctuated by many cliff-hangers, marking the end of each episode. This webtoon also distinguishes itself through its visual choices. The illustrator uses cold and desaturated colours, except for the red colour that we find on Jérémy's costume and when blood is pictured. It gives the webtoon a distinctive aesthetic which skilfully embodies the feverish atmosphere of the story and reflects the author's street art influences.

A FEW LINES FROM THE WEBTOON:

« Hey what do you think? That I'm here for pleasure? Do you really think that it's easy to play the dork disguised as a clown, in the ass-end of nowhere; just to distract a bunch of old farts? Do you really think that I'm having the time of my life? Do you? »

THE BOOK, THE AUTHOR:

Coming from hip hop and graffiti culture, Eldiablo is a hybrid artist between the worlds of cinema, comic books and painting. He has written many comic books, and created the animated TV series *Lascars*, broadcasted from 2000 to 2008 and adapted for the big screen in 2009. He also participated in the writing of the animated web series *Les Kassos*, coproduced by Canal +. *Clown à tuer* is a webtoon, a comic book published on the web.

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