

*MAKE 'EM LAUGH!*

By  
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OVER LOGO:

We begin with the sounds of clapping.

FADE IN:

INT. MARCO'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

WE OPEN to MARCO, 19, a young comedian, holding a notebook filled with several jokes. Standing in his room pretending to be on stage and using a plastic coke bottle as a mic.

MARCO

Thank you everyone for coming. My name is Marco but you can call me polo.

Marco mimics a fake sitcom laughter.

MARCO

(Reading)

I took the train here tonight. But when I tried boarding, the STM guy tore up my ticket! Naturally, I was furious, so I apologize if this show's a little off the rails.

We hear the sitcom laughter.

MARCO

You know, after he tore it up, I...

Marco blanks out as he tries to find a good punchline. He looks at the notebook but the sentence is incomplete.

MARCO

(muttering)

After he...

Marco thinks about the next line to write but is unsure as loud mumble can be heard and the room turns dark.

CUT TO:

OVER BLACK:

The screen turns black as we hear the voices of the audience.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1 (V.O)

*Get off the stage!*

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2 (V.O)

*What a joke.*

AUDIENCE MEMBER #3 (V.O)  
Come on, let's get out of here...

CUT BACK:

INT. MARCO'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

We cut back to Marco, who looks in distress, constantly hearing the voices of failure. He looks at the calendar and the time when his gig starts. He takes a deep breath and continues writing the jokes.

He continues writing the jokes but we hear a ringing noise and voices of self doubt.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2 (V.O)  
That wasn't funny.

Marco continues getting anxious, almost sweating as the voices control his head and we hear loud noises of protest.

We can't hear clearly what the voices are saying but they are making him doubt himself.

We see Marco becoming angry as he tears up pages of his notebook and the voices in his head taunt him.

Marco grunts frustratedly as silence emerges and he lies down on the bed.

We briefly see a clown nose on the desk before Marco picks it up, looking fondly at it.

Marco reflects on his first standup experience.

EXT. PRUD'HOMME PARK - FLASHBACK

A young Marco wearing the clown nose performs a standup to his friends on a park bench.

MARCO  
...and when the teacher tore up my  
report, I taped the pieces to my forehead  
and walked to the front of the class.  
Like this!

We hear laughter and joy as young Marco struts around in front of his friends with confident humility.

INT. MARCO'S ROOM - EVENING

Marco looks at the clown's nose and sees the teared-up paper. He throws the paper in the recycling bin, no longer feeling reliant on notes to define him, and smiles at the mirror, tossing the clown nose in his hand as he walks out the door.

FADE OUT:

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