

10. every circus has a clown

fawm 2021

it wasn't the plan.

it wasn't something he set out to do.

it wasn't something that anybody would set out to do.

nobody would put so much effort and so much investment into something scheduled to disappear and leave no record except the mental and visceral scar tissue which was most of what was promised to begin with. there was always a shelf-life. there was always the very bad outcome of becoming addicted to something with a shelf-life. there was the fact that nobody could predict the addiction, and the prognostication that whatever withdrawal was gonna happen would be strong and prolonged and wouldn't make for very good songs...

*i hear screams like roller coasters every time the deal goes down...
and every circus has a clown.*

it was never the plan to even play that game.

it wasn't the plan to play any games. it wasn't necessarily the plan to even BE there, and when he ended up there, mostly by chance, there were plenty of other things to do besides play games. it took a while to even get there – and then to scope out the place – it was 30 acres, but they trucked so much in that they used almost 5 acres just for the truck, and everywhere else was just so busy and full that it was tough to even see everything in one night – and then to really think about what he might really want to spend any money on – since he was trying to save up for the big trip he kept telling everybody about.

*like all those rides that roll on tracks, everything comes around...
and every circus has a clown.*

but he ended up playing the game, like many people do. not many people play that particular game the same way that he did, though. some do. his story isn't unique. that's the whole point of the song: other people have the exact same story. the EXACT same story. but not many. everybody else has stories that are just barely similar enough that given some circumstance and some odd choice and maybe some random external factor and a little extra wind from a butterfly wing... and maybe some alcohol... everybody else can relate to the circumstance and the choice... it's just everybody else made the normal choice – basically the definition of "normal". and sure, he along with everybody else likes to talk road-less-travelled stuff, but some of those less-travelled roads... there's good reason.

*like every carnival chicken is greasy and cooked to a golden brown...
and every circus has a clown.*