

Steven Bogart
from *Pigcat*

(Freddy sits in the middle of the yard, he stares at the moon. He takes out his magnifier and holds it in front of his face. He moves the light around his face, opens his mouth, moves the light to his eyes, all over his body.)

FREDDY: Moonlight burns cold. Burns cold your sockets out. They become deep wells. Nothin' at the bottom. If you drop a stone you couldn't hear it with sonar. If I had to, I'd jump down. I'd take this bit of light with me. I'd find somethin' at the bottom. Somethin' good. Better than now. It was good when Jane was here. Even with the beatings. It was better. If she comes back, I'm gonna save her from Vic. I'm gonna... *(Talking into the earth.)* Jane. Moonlight doesn't burn the good cards. Vic's always passed out at night. We could sneak away, runaway. He'd never know till mornin' then we'd be long gone. But not California. We can't go to California cause that's where Bobby's goin'. We could go somewhere else. Where there's snow and mountains and cold air to breathe. Some place better. Better than now. Can you hear me? Jane.

(Silence. Freddy puts the magnifier away. He walks to the boarhide, takes it off the line, lays it down on the ground, lies in the middle of it, wraps it around his body. He rolls around the ground, squealing and snorting. He stops for a moment, then continues for a little more. Then stops. He remains motionless.)

SCENE 3

(Lights shift. A Willyboar walks into the yard with a carefully folded cloth in his hand and a half mask resting on the cloth. He looks at the moon, then at Freddy.)

WILLYBOAR: Come on in, folks. Welcome to Freddy's Fantastic Freak Show Extravaganza where half human, half animal entertain in ways never thought possible by the mind of the human brain. Welcome all.

(Freddy sits up.)

FREDDY: Woah!

WILLYBOAR: *(whispers to Freddy)* Stand up, Son.

FREDDY: You're a Willyboar, aren't you? Jane told me about you.

WILLYBOAR: Stand up, the show's bout to start.

FREDDY: What?

WILLYBOAR: Don't be an idiot. There are people out there waitin' for you.

FREDDY: What people?

WILLYBOAR: Them. See. They're all here for the Pigcat.

FREDDY: How do you know about Pigcat. I never told no one.

WILLYBOAR: I know cause you're the Pigcat.

FREDDY: I don't play at no freak show for people.

WILLYBOAR: You better do somethin' soon if you know what's good for you.

FREDDY: They can't hurt me. I'm not afraid of any Willyboar.

WILLYBOAR: Don't be anybody's fool. Take the mask. People are waiting. They're here for some entertainment. They like you, and they'll love the Pigcat.

FREDDY: It's just Pigcat. Not the Pigcat.

(Willyboar offers the mask. Freddy Hesitates)

WILLYBOAR: Go on.

(Freddy takes it. The Willyboar opens the cloth and covers Freddy.)

WILLYBOAR: Presenting Pigcat.

(Lights shift emphasizing Freddy. Willyboar plays all this for the audience.)

WILLYBOAR: A half pig, half cat boy. The freaks' freak. The freak that the freaks go to see when they want to see a freak. Watch him turn steel into water, burn fire-red-ash in his pink mouth, dig up dead bodies with his great Pigcat snout. *(He pulls at Pigcat's whiskers)* Come closer. Don't be afraid. Look. There. See the rage in his eyes.

FREDDY: *(Feels, screams.)* Ahhhhhhhh! *(Stops.)*

WILLYBOAR: I know what you're thinking, folks. The man in the red suit, yes you, Sir. You're thinking, "This is a horror show." And you, Ma'am, you the pretty mother with the little boy, don't turn away, come back. Yes, I know, I know it's a terrible thing. Is Pigcat a poor boy? Is he an abandoned pet? Don't you want to see? Come closer everyone. Yes...Ladies and Gentlemen, for a dollar you can see Pigcat, a poor motherless beast

of a boy perform a fantastic tale about how Pigcat came to be. The freaks' freak. Come closer and look on his poor self.

(He pulls the cloak off Pigcat and feigns an expression of horror. The mask is on Freddy and he is now Pigcat. He snorts and squeals, pawing the earth with his feet, charges toward the audience.)

PIGCAT: See my pearly white tusks and Pigcat eyes. I see in the dark and read a man's heart, like my father the Willyboar who was once as great as me. My mother was Whitecat. Whitecat, Whitecat, Whitecat pure as the first snow of Winter. Diamond eyes that cry ten colors of blood. Teeth sharp as a gutting knife, with her painted cloven claws. Black. *(pause. snorts, etc.)* Whitecat and Willyboar were happy. Then the Pigcat was born with his great snout turned up. *(snort. snort.)* Mow. *(Pigcat runs around again, snorting, making Pigcat sounds, and building to a terrifying scream.)* See his pink hairy skin and powerful hammy hocks, his gray acid tongue and swollen Pigcat eyes. They lived in the Gray Forest protected by the quicksand swamp and spirits of gassy phosphery. One day early in Pigcat's life, the Willyboar didn't come home for days and weeks. Pigcat and Whitecat searched the Gray Forest and the dangerous swamp until they gave up. Then Pigcat found Willyboar's hide drying on a rack in the backyard of Vic the great angry hunter. Vic set a trap for Pigcat and Whitecat, and made them his family. He made Whitecat lick his dirty boots until she ran away, leaving Pigcat alone with Vic. Vic, Vic, Vic, Vic, Vic. Sometimes Pigcat wrapped himself in Willyboar's hide. It helped him sleep and have comforting Pigcat dreams. See his pink hairy skin and hammy hocks, his gray acid tongue and swollen Pigcat eyes.

(He runs around squealing until he collapses. The Willyboar places a letter in Freddy's hand and exits. Lights shift. Freddy wakes. He doesn't realize he has the mask on. He hangs the boar hide on the line. Looks at the envelope.)

FREDDY: Jane.