

The Little Clown and the Linden Leaf

Hi everyone! Would you like to hear about my recent adventure? I really want to tell you because it was so unusual. Well....how do I best start? Maybe with breakfast? Yes!

So, I, the Little Clown, had an egg for breakfast. It got me thinking about clucking hens. I thought how nice it would be if people outside would be clucking a bit more often! Too many people always look so grumpy. It can really be a bit scary: you could catch it and get stuck with such a grumpy-face. One of those with oyster-sized grey shadows around the eyes and the corners of the mouth dragged down to your knees.

Therefore, I preferred to stay safe and snug at home. I practised making faces and falling over my toes. Just like you do as a clown. However, I would have loved to go outside and entertain people with my tricks and jokes. That's what I practised for, wasn't it?

While I was sitting there pondering, the sun came out to tease me. It was shining ever so gently through the window and tickled my big red nose.

"Aaahh-Tishoo!" I sneezed heartily. "How warm and lovely the sun is", I thought. Maybe I could at least put one foot outside very briefly. Just for a second!

I got up, went to my front door and opened it veery slooowly, only a little crack. Whoosh, a gust of wind blew away all my caution. This sneaky wind tore my door wide open. The shock made me stand still like a pole and close my eyes as hard as I could.

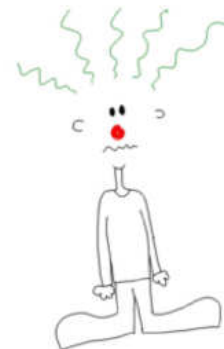
After a while, I opened one eye just a tad and with great hesitation. Right away, I noticed the blurry outlines of something dancing in front of me. Huh? What was that? I was frightened, but I was also curious. Now I had to open my eyes completely.

What I saw in front of me was totally unexpected and fully caught my attention:

It was a large and beautiful and lusciously green linden leaf. It looked like a heart and it was dancing in the wind! It went up and down in swirls, did pirouettes, and floated in slow waves from right to left and back again. I couldn't get enough of that fascinating sight.

Then the wind blew the linden leaf away. I didn't think twice and bravely started chasing it. It carried me down the street, past my neighbour who always complains. I always held my mouth shut with both hands because I didn't want to talk to him. Past the fish shop with the funny smell that made me hold my nose because I don't like fish. Past the church with it's annoying loud bell where I had to plug my ears to stop my head from ringing.

After all this I arrived at a park. Here, the leaf tumbled down in the middle of the lawn and seemed to wave at me. I didn't need a second invitation and hopped towards it, carefree like a young rabbit. When I got there, I admired the elegant movements of the leaf again and tried to copy them. Together we were dancing in the wind.



Of course this wasn't all that easy with my huge clown shoes. I stumbled over my own shoe and landed face down in the grass. When I pulled a funny face, the wind blew through the leaves of a poplar tree nearby and made them wiggle. It sounded like clapping hands. "Wow, such an applause! Thank you! I can do even better things!", I shouted towards the tree.

I got up and made some more grimaces when I discovered two squirrels who were watching me. Suddenly, they jumped wildly along the branches and squeaked cheerfully.

Shortly after, a jaybird croaked along with the laughter of the jolly crowd.

Now, I really got going and pulled faces and stunts that I had never tried before.

If I hadn't been sure that I am a professional, I would have been scared that my face could fall apart. My eyes peered to one side, the tip of my nose touched my forehead and I was even able to chew on my ear lobes.



By the end, the whole park was laughing about me — the trees, the bushes and the animals. From all sides I heard gargling and rustling, chirping and squeaking, whooshing and whispering, humming and buzzing. From the ground and from the air above.

Like in the morning, there came a sudden gust of wind.

It carried the linden leaf up and up into the sky. I followed the leaf with my eyes and shouted after it: "Sorry, I cannot follow you up there, my friend. I'm so glad we met. You really made my day, you beautiful heart!"

Then I wanted to go home. Of course, I first bowed to the left and to the right to my great audience. I bowed so far down that my hair brushed the grass. I was jumping and whistling all the way back home. I was in such high spirit that the people around me couldn't help themselves: they simply had to start smiling and giggling as well. Finally!

Here you are, that was my story. I'm still so happy about it because now I have something to tell others. And if I ever get bored or sad, I can always remember how happy I was on that exciting day.

Now it's your turn to go out and explore!

