

BECOMING SLENDER

Written by

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INT. DARK OFFICE - DAY

A dark and sketchy office with walls full of mounted animal heads.

SLNDERMOTHER, an ageless shadow entity, sits behind a large desk, stroking a taxidermized cat.

SLNDERMAN, another ageless shadow entity, runs into the office, slamming the door behind him. He frantically bolts the locks.

SLNDERMAN

He's dead! Ratsputin's dead! Who's going to give me feedback on my comedy routines now??

Slendermother rolls her eyes.

SLNDERMOTHER

Where's the cat?

SLNDERMAN

She killed Ratsputin!

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. GARDEN - DAY - TWENTY MINUTES PRIOR

The shadow of a cat threateningly grows upon a white picket fence.

Slenderman frantically shakes his head in denial.

SLNDERMAN

Run, Ratsputin, run! Use your tiny but nimble rat feet!

The cat shadow is now holding a rat in the air, preparing to consume it.

SLNDERMAN (CONT'D)

Oh god!

Slenderman shields his eyes, terrified.

A second later, he lowers his hands to peek.

PETUNIA, a small white cat with a pink bow atop her head, sits in the middle of a patch of flowers.

SLNDERMAN (CONT'D)

Ratsputin?

Petunia blinks innocently.

Petunia coughs up an assortment of tiny rodent bones as a dark cloud overtakes the sky.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)  
RATSPUTIN!!! NOOOOO!

Petunia villainously hisses.

Sad violin music begins, as Slenderman shakes his head in disbelief.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Slenderman practices jokes for RATSPUTIN, a small, but tough looking rat in a suit, on a stakeout.

- Ratsputin surveys his surroundings with binoculars.

SLENDERMAN  
Why did the chicken cross the road?  
To escape the feds!

- Ratsputin nods in approval.

- Ratsputin and Slenderman are now mopping up a bloody crime scene.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)  
What did one bee say to the other  
bee when he pled guilty? It's ok! I  
bee-lieve you!

- Ratsputin nods in approval.

- Ratsputin holds an exasperated nurse at gunpoint in a coma patient's hospital room.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)  
What's it called when you steal  
someone's coffee? A mugging!

NURSE  
Please, I told you, I don't have  
any money. Just stop making me  
listen to these horrible jokes!

- Ratsputin and Slenderman share a look.

- Ratsputin shoots the nurse.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

RETURN TO:

INT. DARK OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT TIME

Slenderman sheds a tear.

SLENDERMOTHER

And?

SLENDERMAN

Why do you need the Mayor's cat  
anyways? She's a monster!

SLENDERMOTHER

I need Petunia so I can blackmail  
Mayor Kennedy to stop looking into  
my tax returns.

Slendermother takes a sip from the glass of orange soda on  
her desk.

SLENDERMAN

But mother, I don't want to be a  
cat burglar. I want to be a  
comedian.

Slendermother leaps up from her chair and hurls the glass  
across the room, where it hits a wall and shatters.

SLENDERMOTHER

For the thousandth time, you cannot  
be a comedian!

She composes herself and sits down.

SLENDERMOTHER (CONT'D)

Clean that up.

Slenderman takes a mop from the side of the room and begins  
attempting to mop up the glass shards.

Slendermother chuckles to herself.

SLENDERMOTHER (CONT'D)

Comedy. Huh. No son of mine does  
comedy. Do you understand? No son  
of mine does comedy. So... you'll  
bring me the cat, *right?*

SLENDERMAN

But I... Of course, mother.

SLENDERMOTHER

Good. I would hate to see you be  
forced to renounce the Slender  
family name.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Slenderman approaches Mayor Kennedy's house, a sunny yellow  
cottage with a luscious flower patch. Petunia is sleeping  
amidst a mass of dandelions.

Slenderman shudders.

He takes a deep breath and begins to tip toe towards the cat  
VERY CAUTIOUSLY.

He hears a rustle and freezes, frantically surveying his  
surroundings.

Petunia is still asleep.

Slenderman calms himself down.

SLENDERMAN

Mother needs this.

He resumes his slow approach.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)

It's just a cat....

SUDDENLY, Slenderman trips and plummets to the ground,  
emitting a shriek.

He notices what he has tripped over: an assortment of small  
rodent bones.

Petunia awakens from her slumber, yawning to show off her  
POINTED FANGS.

Slenderman screams and leaps to his feet, backing up.

Petunia hisses at Slenderman, sharpening her claws on a  
decorative rock as dark cloud fills the sky.

THEN:

MAYOR KENNEDY, 70s, a slightly insane, dapper old man in  
suspenders, sticks his head out of a second story window of  
the house.

The dark cloud vanishes.

MAYOR KENNEDY

Is everything okay, Petunia? Are  
the kids down the street stealing  
our flowers again?

Petunia, now a very small and innocent cat, lets out a  
bashful meow.

Mayor Kennedy notices Slenderman.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)

Slenderman? What are you doing  
here?

Slenderman and Petunia look at each other, then back to the  
mayor.

SLENDERMAN

(pointing in the opposite  
direction)

What's that over there???

Mayor Kennedy completely falls for it and turns to look as  
Slenderman grabs Petunia and bolts.

MAYOR KENNEDY

There's nothing-

He sees that Slenderman and Petunia are gone.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)

Sweet mother of bees! That hoodlum  
snatched my darling Petunia! Hold  
on, precious! Daddy's coming to  
save you!!

EXT. STREET BY ALLEY - EVENING

Slenderman is cautiously carrying Petunia down the street,  
arms fully outstretched in front of him, Lion King style.

Petunia does not struggle but is clearly not happy about  
this.

SLENDERMAN

I've just got to get you back to  
mother.

THEN

He notices a flashy poster beside a brick-lined alleyway.

The poster reads: COMEDY SHOW! OPEN MIC! IN THIS SKETCHY ALLEY, HERE AND NOW!!!

Slenderman pauses to consider this.

Petunia flails her paws about.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)  
One quick detour never hurt...

Petunia hisses.

Slenderman edges towards the alley, becoming more excited as he approaches.

Petunia begins to struggle, releasing an onslaught of agonized mews.

When they reach the brick wall, she desperately claws at it, failing to get away, but leaving scratches on the brick.

The two fade into the sketchy alleyway.

EXT. SKETCHY ALLEY - EVENING

A generous crowd of FIVE WHOLE CIVILIANS is dispersed around an intense game of cards on the pavement.

An empty stage lies across from them.

A microphone on a stand is perched on the stage in front of an empty stool.

Still holding Petunia like she is an unstable nuclear weapon, Slenderman haphazardly makes his way up to the microphone.

He clears his throat.

The civilians halfheartedly look up at him, then resume their game.

SLENDERMAN  
Oh, um, sorry.

Slenderman awkwardly places Petunia on the stool.

He clears his throat again, preparing his best comedic delivery.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)  
Driving at night has some benefits  
and some drawbacks.  
(MORE)

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)

You can always tell if a car is  
coming because it has lights.

...

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)

But children don't come with  
lights.

Crickets.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)

So, um, if I ever need glasses one  
day I'm going to go up to the  
counter to pay for them and when  
they tell me the price, I'll say  
"Woah, I didn't SEE that one  
coming!"

Petunia emits a screech of a meow at the microphone.

The civilians all stop dead in their tracks and look up.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm so sorry, I-

A crowd of laughter erupts from the civilians.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)

No! No, don't laugh at the cat!  
She's not a part of this!

He is met with an indignant meow.

The civilians laugh.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)

I can be just as funny as that!  
Hey, look, listen to this!  
Halloween parties are extra scary  
because you can never be sure if  
they're giving you candy... or  
drugs!

The civilians boo and start throwing playing cards at  
Slenderman.

SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)

Ow. Wow, ok, those hurt.

Petunia meows, enjoying herself.

The civilians laugh and applaud.



SLENDERMAN (CONT'D)

Yay, laughter! Now, uh, here's something else to laugh at: If I were a calendar, I'd be scared... Because my days would be numbered!

Slenderman is battered with several playing cards and someone's shoe.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET BY ALLEY - NIGHT

Mayor Kennedy scampers down the street.

MAYOR KENNEDY

Petunia, my darling, where has that no good cat snatcher taken you!?

A faint meow followed by a cacophony of laughter comes from the alley.

Mayor Kennedy freezes in his tracks, high alert.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)

Petunia?

He sees the scratches on the wall.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)

PETUNIA!

CUT TO:

EXT. SKETCHY ALLEY - NIGHT

Petunia has taken center stage, telling jokes to a now packed and fully engaged audience.

Slenderman sulks in a corner.

Mayor Kennedy pushes his way through the crowd and onto the stage.

MAYOR KENNEDY

PETUNIA!!!! My darling! Oh, thank the heavens you're okay!

He goes to pick up Petunia, but is met with an aggressively booing audience and a couple of playing cards.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)  
Sweet heavens, those are sharp!

Petunia meows.

The audience cheers and laughs.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)  
Why...what is this? Do you want to  
be a comedian or something?

Petunia bats her delicate eyelashes.

Pause.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)  
Well I think that's just  
spectacular!! Whatever makes you  
happy sugar plum!

Petunia turns to Slenderman, drawing attention to him.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)  
Holy chrysanthemums! What audacity  
you have to show your face here  
Slenderman, on the day of my cat's  
comedy debut, after snatching her  
from my perfectly manicured lawn.

Slenderman doesn't know what to say to this.

Petunia meows.

The audience laughs.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)  
Well naturally, there are going to  
be consequences for a clearly  
indisputable cat larceny in a  
respectable town like this.

Slenderman begins to panic.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)  
We'll need to start with a VERY  
public trial, then of course...

SLNDERMAN  
(pointing)  
WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?!!

MAYOR KENNEDY  
What? Where?

When Mayor Kennedy looks back, Slenderman is gone.

MAYOR KENNEDY (CONT'D)  
Fiddlesticks! I've been hoodwinked  
again!  
(to the audience)  
Well, I suppose we'd best divide  
and conquer. Go! Get on with you  
all! Start the search party to find  
that criminal!

INT. DARK OFFICE - NIGHT

Slendermother sits at her desk, sipping orange soda.

Slenderman runs in, panting as he bolts the door behind him.

SLENDERMAN  
I ran as fast as I could. I don't  
think they saw me.

SLENDERMOTHER  
And I suppose the cat couldn't keep  
up?

SLENDERMAN  
Oh, um. Well, I had to leave her  
behind at the comedy night but-

Slendermother spits out her orange soda.

SLENDERMOTHER  
Comedy night?!

SLENDERMAN  
Well, um, yes. I got a bit  
sidetracked, but don't worry! Once  
the search party calms down I can-

Slendermother throws the glass across the room.

SLENDERMOTHER  
Search Party!!????!

Slenderman goes for the mop.

SLENDERMOTHER (CONT'D)  
No. Don't clean that up. Get out.

SLENDERMAN  
But mother, I-

SLNDERMOTHER

You've got the feds onto us.  
There's no more space for you in  
this family or this business.

SLNDERMAN

(desperate)

I could work it off! I could earn  
some money doing standup and pay  
off your tax returns and then you  
don't have to worry about the feds!

SLNDERMOTHER

For the thousandth time. Standup  
comedy is for failures and clowns.  
You're a disgrace to the Slender  
name.

SLNDERMAN

But, mother.

SLNDERMOTHER

I have no son anymore.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Slenderman walks down the street, wearing a pinstripe fedora  
and black trench coat. It begins to rain.

An angry search party can be heard a distance away.

Slenderman runs into an alleyway to hide from them.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

He watches from around the corner as the search party passes  
by, overlooking him.

He turns to catch his breath, then sees an enormous and  
threatening cat shadow.

He jumps backwards in shock.

It is Petunia, small and bashful. She sits in the alley next  
to a Segway.

PETUNIA

(in a series of meows;  
subtitled)

I want to thank you for introducing  
me to the world of comedy. It's  
like I've found a whole new start  
with what I want to do with my  
life. You deserve to have a chance  
at it too.

(she looks at the Segway)

This is for you. Take it and run.  
Start over.

Slenderman hesitantly approaches her to give her a handshake,  
but doesn't know how. He settles for an awkward head pat.

SLENDERMAN

Thank you.

He takes the Segway and rides off into the darkness.

**THE END**