

*And now, The Man of a Thousand Faces...*

## **DOUGLAS CREDENZA**

*Also Known as John Bungling*



K, look, first off, you aren't really Douglas Credenza. The real Douglas Credenza is tied to a tree a few miles away. You feel kinda bad about that, but you needed to fit into the circus and you needed to fit in right away. You are a pretty good acrobat and even your older brother, Jack, is impressed by your ability in disguise.

It was never easy growing up in Jack's shadow. Jack was always smarter than you. And while you eventually grew stronger and quicker than him, he could always outthink you. At least the two of you weren't vying for your father's attention. Father always made it clear that Jack was his favorite and you were second best. And when your father is the powerful and influential Senator Hiram Bungling, well that can really sting.

It all changed, though, when Lydia was born. Father loved Lydia right from the start and she quickly replaced Jack as Father's favorite. Jack needed an ally against Lydia, and he took you on and from then on the Bungling Brothers were unstoppable.

Jack grew bored of waiting for Father to die so he could inherit the wealth and power, so he starting his diversions. His latest diversion is the Bungling Brothers Circus.

You wouldn't say that it is the best circus in the world, but it is large and impressive. The two of you have gotten acts from all over the world, mostly from defunct circuses. Most circuses live on the edge of bankruptcy – the owners aren't necessarily the best businessmen – but you and Jack are rich and Jack is smart as a whip.

Of course, circuses don't go out of business every day. That's where you come in. Through the years, you've been learning and mastering the twin arts of disguise and sabotage. You've actually gotten very good at them. Jack would be proud, except he doesn't know.

Oh, he knows that you go in to a circus disguised as someone; that's the plan. But he doesn't know who you are or what you do, and you aren't allowed to tell him. You aren't exactly sure why, but Jack says that it's important that he isn't connected in any way with your sabotage.

So you go from circus to circus, disguising yourself and trying to fit in. Then accidents start happening. You would never seem to be the cause, but sooner or later the circus would have to shut down. Sometimes

people stopped coming. Sometimes the owners ran out of money. And sometimes the frightened performers would flee. But in every case, the Bungling Brothers Circus got the acts it wanted.

And now Jack has set his sights on Colonel Sebastian T. Rawhide's Circus of the Spectacular. There are a number of really talented acts here, both in the center ring and the sideshow. The problem is that they are a very close knit and very successful circus. Some of the acts defy rational explanation, even from jaded carnies. Simple sabotage won't be enough.

So Jack decided to call on assistance. Through years of verbal abuse and neglect, Lydia had grown up with a craving for attention. Recently, she had gotten her entire body tattooed to try to fit in with the circus, to be one of the Bunglings. Jack called upon her and asked her to help with the family business. With the chance for family approval in the making, Lydia could hardly refuse. When Rawhide's Circus left for a tour of Europe several months ago, Lydia the Tattooed Lady was on board.

Lydia did very well, too. By the time the circus left Europe, they had lost two acts to sabotage. Nobody was hurt... Well, nobody was killed. Uma the Unicyclist severely sprained her ankle when she fell, but she's with a doctor in France and is doing well. Unfortunately, the circus gained a number of new acts while in Europe, so it balanced out.

So, Jack has sent you in. You snuck up on Douglas Credenza, one of the world-famous Flying Credenza Brothers, and bopped him on the back of the head. You tied him to a tree a few miles away and came back disguised as Douglas.

Normally, you disguise yourself as a menial laborer and keep a low profile, but time is of the essence. If Colonel Rawhide doesn't make his \$500 bank payment today, the bank will foreclose and Jack can buy out the circus for a song. Besides, you are a fair acrobat and have studied the Credenza's trapeze act. You don't expect any problems.

You have already managed to perform one act of sabotage. You managed to shave the bearded lady's beard off while she was sleeping. Now that is one neat trick. Shaving someone in their sleep, especially a woman, takes talent. You only have a few more things to do.

Jack gave you a packet of drugs for the wild animals. You have nothing against Franklin Winters, but you need his lion taming act to fail. You'll have to wait for a distraction and then slip the drugs in their food

quickly. Maybe you can offer to help feed the animals. You'll work something out.

Another easy act of sabotage would be to steal Señora Mysterioso's snake. You could release it into the wild or something. You wouldn't want to hurt it, or – worse – kill it. You're very proud that nobody has gotten seriously hurt or killed by your sabotage.

That's what makes your last plan so difficult. As one of the Credenza Brothers, you have the perfect opportunity to cause their act to fail. But, they perform a trapeze act, dozens of feet in the air, without a net. How do you damage the act without damaging the Credenza Brothers, or yourself? You're fairly certain that you cannot simply refuse to perform with them. For one thing, they could probably do the act without you. For another, you'd probably be found out. You don't have the costuming or makeup to be another performer, and Jack would get mad at you.

You're actually worried about being found out for another reasons. Oh, you did your homework. You studied the circus as best you could. But you can never substitute for being there. Your plan is to say that you are sick if you make a horrible mistake. The thing that worries you most is the Credenza Brother's ritual. They always disappear into their circus wagon just before they go on. Nobody knows what they do there. If anything will mess you up, that will. Maybe you should try to go back to their circus wagon and look around for some clues.

Well, if things get really bad, you can call upon Jack or Lydia for help. You have to be subtle though; you wouldn't want to get caught. By tomorrow, it won't matter though. Rawhide's circus will be no more and the Bungling Brothers will reign supreme! Yay!

## ROLEPLAYING HINT

You are a true henchman, not too bright, but very capable. You are a decent sort, and while you want your circus to succeed, you don't want to hurt anyone too badly in the process.

## ITEMS

You have a packet of drugs for the animals.

## THE OTHER CHARACTERS:

Colonel Sebastian T. Rawhide: It seem a shame that you have to destroy his circus so that yours will succeed, but he has too many popular acts and your circus needs them.

Daisy Belle: Colonel Rawhide's fiancée. She seems to be a nice person, but you haven't talked to her much.

Jack Bungling: Your older brother. You take orders from him. He doesn't know that you're Douglas Credenza.

The Flying Credenza Brothers: They are, perhaps, the most talented trapeze artists in the world. They tend not toward flashiness, so they aren't noticed by the general public, but the true enthusiast knows their timing and grace are absolutely perfect. You are masquerading as Douglas. The other three brothers are Alexander, Bartholomew, and Clifford. The Credenzas own their own circus car and perform a secret ritual there before they go on for every show.

Binky The Clown: Herman Binkowicz. You love watching Binky's clown act. It always makes you laugh no matter how many times you've seen it. You look forward to actually talking to him in person. You cannot let on that you're a fan though.

Susan Wildes, The Strong Woman: Your research into her doesn't make sense. Apparently she gained great strength in her youth. One day she was normal, the next she was freakishly strong. You wonder what happened.

Franklin Winters, The Lion Tamer: Rumors abound that he is a drunk, but you aren't so sure. You have drugs for the animals to sabotage his act, but maybe you can also tempt him with a bottle of alcohol, if you can find one.

Rupert and Rudolph Townshed: They had an argument recently. Maybe you can fan the flames somehow and with a few innocent remarks cause them to fight again.

Helena Ferez: You shaved off her beard while she slept last night. She didn't even wake up.

Peter Wainwright, the Fire Eater/Sword Swallow: He seems like a nice enough guy. He has a very flashy act, though. You weren't able to find out much about him in your research.

Bobo, the Dog Faced Boy: He joined the circus in Europe. He helps Franklin Winters with the animals.

Zelda the Clown: You haven't been able to find out anything about her except that she doesn't speak. Ever.

Señora Mysterioso: She's creepy. You want to steal her snake and release it into the woods, but she probably can read your mind, so you'll have to be careful.

The Masked Rider: The Masked Rider joined the circus in Europe. You don't even know the Masked Rider's real name, so you couldn't do any research.

The Knife Thrower: The Knife Thrower also joined the circus in Europe. You think that the Knife Thrower is travelling under an alias, but you aren't sure.

Lydia the Tattooed Lady: Your younger sister. Jack is jealous of how close she is to your father, so he treats her poorly. You follow Jack, of course, but don't dislike Lydia that much. You're glad that Jack is better help out with the family business. You hear Lydia was very effective in Europe.

Zimmie the Clown: His evil leering grin frightens you.

The Great Zamboni: He arrived today asking for a job. Colonel Rawhide, having recently lost his magic act in Europe, has decided to give him a try today. Magic acts are easy to sabotage, so perhaps you should just nip him in the bud.

Well Known Characters Not In Game:

Senator Hiram Bungling: Father doesn't care much for you. And with Jack and Lydia courting his favor, you don't worry about it too much.

Uma the Unicyclist: Her act was sabotaged by Lydia and she had to be fired. You don't know the details.

Preston the Prestidigitator: Lydia also managed to sabotage his act while in Europe. You don't know the details.

## ABILITIES

Combat: 12 cards.

My Father Is Hiram Bungling: You have the ear of Hiram Bungling, one of the most influential men in Washington. You can advise him on two issues and

will be given a special card to do so. However, Lydia and Jack can also advise him. Both Lydia and Jack have more influence over Father than you do.

Master of Disguise: If you can get hold of a makeup kit and costuming, you can disguise yourself as anyone, male or female, human or animal. Doing this completely uses up the makeup kit.

Binky the Clown: You find Binky so hilarious that after a few minutes of talking with him (or interacting with him in any way), you must burst into laughter, no matter what the topic of conversation is. You cannot stop laughing until he leaves, and afterwards, you cannot clearly recall what you were talking about (or doing), but – boy – that Binky is funny.

Easily Influenced: The first time someone uses an influence ability on you (it will have a picture of a Ringmaster on the card), it does not count as one of their uses. Just show them this card. Future uses count as normal.

Creative Ignorance: You can reinterpret any influence abilities used upon you. You must still perform them to their letter, but you can determine the spirit of the influence as you see fit. Influence abilities will have a picture of a Ringmaster on the card.

Sabotage: You know the circus well and you know how to sabotage an act so that nobody gets hurt, unless you want them to.

