Brandon Terry

“Create-A-Story”: artist, a circus, during a family reunion, driving down a dirt road, character has an alter ego, “pinch”

**A Circus Affair**

 He was in a pinch. Years of pulling off this double-life all seem to be for nothing. Why did he have to be the one to host the family reunion? Anyone’s name could have been drawn on that bitter-sweet Christmas Eve; but it was the call: “Leonardo” that made his world crumble before him. What a name that was; when you are named after a great Renaissance artist, you’d better believe you are an artist yourself. Almost funny how the title is inherited. Yes, Leonardo was an artist in a pinch.

 He would have company within the hour, company that was coming awfully close to discovering one of his deepest secrets. He drove currently towards his estate, down the long and winding dirt road that separated his lives from each other.

 His circus life was not once that he wanted exposed; it was uncivilized, unrefined, and barbaric. He became a different person there, if he could call himself a person at all. He loved it there for the same reason he hated it at home, it kept him coming back.

 In a pinch, Leonardo came to the end of the dirt road; he had only minutes to assume his regular character, his usual clothes.

 Before he has quite finished, there was a knock at the door. He shouted for his visitors to wait a moment, but it was too late. His grandfather, a traditional man, entered first to see the lobster claws covering Leonardo’s hands. He scoffed, “You seem to be in quite a pinch.”