

# CHAPTER XIV -The circus boys on the flying Rings

In "The Circus Boys on the Flying Rings," Chapter XIV unfolds a day in Phil Forrest's ascending circus career with an audience-packed afternoon performance, indicating his increasing popularity. Phil, a humble but aspiring circus boy, doesn't let his recent fame get to his head, attributing his success to fortunate accidents rather than personal greatness. Despite this, he dreams of achieving something truly notable.

Phil's buoyancy grows as he performs his elephant act with more confidence, riding with ease and contemplating improving his act to include performing on the rings, elevating it beyond the ordinary. Encouraged by Kennedy, Phil ponders the possibilities of enhancing their act, despite initial worries about Mr. Sparling's approval.

The narrative portrays Phil's proactive nature and creativity as he discusses his idea with Kennedy and later with the property and costume departments to bring his vision to life. His suggestion for a novel act receives mixed reactions from Kennedy and Mr. Sparling but ultimately, Phil's determination and clear vision for his act convince Sparling to give it a chance. From consulting the property man and carpenter to Sparling's hesitant consent, Phil exemplifies a blend of youthful exuberance and professional persistence.

Phil and Mr. Kennedy work together on Phil's innovative idea, contributing to both the physical setup and strategic planning, demonstrating Phil's integration into the circus community and his peers' growing respect for him. Phil proposes using humor and surprise to elevate their elephant act, disclosing his plan only partially to Sparling to maintain an element of surprise. The approval from Sparling, albeit hesitant, marked a pivotal moment in Phil's career, allowing him space for creative exploration within the

circus acts.

Their extensive preparation culminates in a successful secret rehearsal, establishing a foundation for their debut. The new act, blending humor with impressive acrobatics, immediately resonates with the audience, showcasing Phil's instinct for performance art and capturing the essence of circus entertainment through innovation and surprise.

Phil's act, a perfect amalgamation of humor, surprise, and skill, showcased during the grand entry, becomes the highlight. Dressed unassumingly, he reveals his presence in a dramatic fashion atop an elephant, transforming from what appears to be a bonnet decoration to a striking figure in red silk tights. This spectacular reveal not only astonishes the audience but also earns Mr. Sparling's approval, indicating Phil's undeniable talent and potential as a circus performer. Phil's journey from an ordinary boy with a dream to a circus sensation captures the essence of dedication, creativity, and the relentless pursuit of excellence.