

CHAPTER IV -The circus boys on the flying Rings

The Sparling Combined Shows arrived in Edmeston in the early morning, with Teddy and Phil watching eagerly from the Widow Cahill's fence. This circus traveled by road, a rarity in their modern times, boasting twenty-five wagons, including a band wagon, a wild west coach, and a calliope. The sight of elephants, assumed lions and tigers, a camel, and a herd of ponies excited the boys immensely.

As the procession moved toward the circus grounds, Teddy and Phil followed, discussing their willingness to be showmen, despite the hard work, longing to witness the spectacle of the tent-raising and dreaming of being part of it themselves. At the grounds, amidst the hustle of workers locating positions for tents, the boys encountered Rodney Palmer, a young performer on the flying rings, who shared insights into circus life and offered tips on how Phil might earn admission to the show.

The narrative unfolds with the boys and Rodney exploring the grounds, revealing a community buzzing with activity and anticipation. The introduction of the circus owner, James Sparling, during a moment of crisis, showcases the boys' quick thinking and bravery. Phil's instinctive action to prevent a lion cage from tipping leverages his keen observation and resourcefulness, earning him and Teddy admiration and free passes to the show from a grateful Sparling. This chapter captures the magical allure of the circus, friendship, and the value of quick wits and courage.