

CHAPTER XXIII -The circus boys on the flying Rings

In Chapter XXIII of "The Circus Boys on the Flying Rings," titled "The Mystery Solved," the narrative begins with Phil Forrest's dramatic return to the circus on Emperor, an elephant, startling the townspeople and circus crew. Amidst this chaos, Phil alerts everyone that they are being pursued, which propels Mr. Sparling and the circus folk into action to prevent the capture of Phil and Emperor by a vindictive posse claiming ownership of the elephant. A confrontation ensues until Mr. Sparling assertively handles the situation, promising legal settlement for any legitimate grievances while firmly refusing to surrender Phil or Emperor.

The matter is quickly resolved, with the threat of legal action convincing the posse to back down and instead attend the circus as spectators, albeit at a charge. Following this, Mr. Sparling, acknowledging the efforts and troubles brought upon by Phil—though not directly his fault—agrees to cover the costs incurred from the damages, appreciative of Phil's initiative and bravery which inadvertently boosted the circus's success.

Phil grapples with feelings of guilt and concern over potentially tarnishing his budding circus career through his well-meant actions. Yet, Mr. Sparling reassures him, crediting Phil with their success and hinting at a promising future with the circus.

As Phil prepares for an afternoon practice with Teddy Tucker, discussions and advice hint at underlying jealousy and possible sabotage within their ranks, particularly aimed at Phil. This culminates in a dramatic event during a performance in Canton, Ohio, where a storm disrupts the show, leading to a dangerous situation involving the aerial acts. This incident injures Signor Navaro, a key performer, who subsequently admits to

Phil his jealousy-driven sabotage attempt, seeking forgiveness.

Phil, understanding and compassionate, assures Navaro of his forgiveness, choosing to keep the matter private. This chapter closes with Phil not only solving the mystery behind the sabotage but also showcasing his maturity, kindness, and leadership qualities, becoming a pivotal figure within the circus community.

