

CHAPTER VIII -The circus boys on the flying Rings

In Chapter VIII of "The Circus Boys on the Flying Rings," an astonishing encounter unfolds as young Phil Forrest experiences a moment of sheer awe and a touch of fear when suddenly encircled and lifted by Emperor, the elephant. This unexpected interaction takes place just as the elephants are heading to join the grand entry, leaving Phil with no time to react to Emperor's sudden affectionate gesture. Recognizing Phil as his new friend, Emperor carefully hoists him into the air, demonstrating a scene of gentle camaraderie that captivates Phil's heart and ignites a thrilling adventure.

Phil is whisked away to participate in the performance, sitting atop Emperor, holding onto the head harness for dear life. His unintended debut as a circus performer catches the eye of Mr. Sparling, the circus owner, who sees the spectacle as a potential crowd-puller. The excitement among the spectators, particularly Phil's school friends, is palpable as they witness this unexpected act, merging fear, exhilaration, and a sense of pride in Phil.

The narrative peaks as Emperor, with Phil on him, engages in a waltz, moving in perfect harmony with the music. The trainer's guidance offers Phil a semblance of security, as he prepares for an even more daring feat — standing on Emperor's head. The endeavor is successful, sparking a wave of applause and admiration from the crowd, marking the moment as a stellar highlight of the show.

As the act concludes, Emperor exhibits a moment of reluctance to part with Phil but eventually complies with the trainer's command. The episode concludes with a dramatic flair when Emperor, prompted by an insatiable bond, momentarily breaks free, racing towards Phil. This act, mirroring a blend of wild impulse and deep-seated

affection, adds a dramatic ending to Phil's unexpected adventure in the sawdust arena, leaving the audience in awe of the deep connection formed between boy and elephant.

