

# CHAPTER XX -The circus boys on the flying Rings

Chapter XX of "The Circus Boys on the Flying Rings" reveals a riveting continuation of Teddy and Phil's adventures within the circus world. After a tumultuous performance involving a mule act orchestrated by Teddy, he finds himself suddenly recognized and rewarded by James Sparling, the circus owner, who offers to double Teddy's salary for repeating his accidental stunt in future shows. Elevating from his humble beginnings, Teddy transitions from working in the cook tent to becoming a highlighted performer alongside an educated mule, making the duo an instant hit among the circus attendees. However, mindful of the potential dangers, Teddy decides against concluding his act with a risky dive.

During this time, Phil Forrest, Teddy's close friend and fellow circus boy, recovers from an accident and returns to the circus, eager to resume his performances. The camaraderie between Teddy and Phil is evident as they discuss financial plans, with Phil advising Teddy to save his earnings. Phil shares his own strategy of sending money home to Mrs. Cahill for safekeeping, subtly showcasing the maturity and foresight he possesses beyond his circus duties.

Their entrepreneurial spirit shines as they contemplate owning their own show one day while also recognizing the importance of education in their future endeavors. Both boys are committed to improving their act and place a special emphasis on preparing physically, with advice from Mr. Miaco, the head clown, suggesting they undertake bending exercises to enhance their flexibility and performance readiness.

Phil's visit to the menagerie tent and his interaction with Emperor, the elephant, adds a layer of personal connection and joy to his circus life, further emphasizing his

multifaceted relationship with both the performers and the animals within the circus.

The chapter takes a surprising turn as Phil seeks to understand the cause of his accident better, leading to a curious discovery of a filed wire and a small file found in his trunk, hinting at potential sabotage. The conversation between Phil and Mr. Sparling about this discovery raises questions about trust, safety, and the competitive nature hidden within the circus's camaraderie.

This chapter not only highlights the themes of friendship, ambition, and resilience but also introduces a mystery element that adds depth to the narrative, leaving readers eager to follow Teddy and Phil's journey in the circus and uncover the truth behind Phil's accident.

