



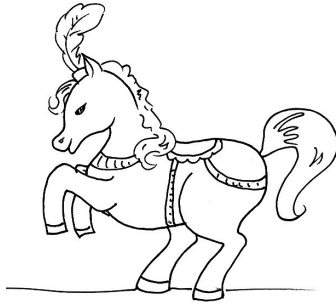
# Adventures of Circus Animals

—Part 1—



Imaginary Story

# Adventures of Circus Animals -Part 1-



Written by:  
Chariane Quille

(September 2020)

[www.nurture-inspire-teach.com](http://www.nurture-inspire-teach.com)



# Chapters:

Chapter 1—Zoozoo

Chapter 2—Happy Birthday

Chapter 3—Lynda the Lioness

Chapter 4—Dancing Bears and Musical Dogs

Chapter 5—Clowns and Flying Bananas

Chapter 6—A Huge Cake

Chapter 7—Paddy the Pony

Chapter 8—Tanny the Tiger Cub

Chapter 9—McNelly and the Popcorn

Chapter 10—The Missing Musical Dogs

Chapter 11—Elsa the Elderly Elephant

Chapter 12—A Humorous Cleaning Clown

Chapter 13—Nancy and Her Hula-hoops

Chapter 14—Appreciation

## Chapter 1—Zoozoo

Zoozoo the tricky, flying circus monkey was dressed and ready to go.

He had on his bowtie, and a special hat strapped on by a strap under his chin. He never performed without these, at least not if he could help it.

Today was McNelly's birthday; the kind old Ring Master.

Today the performing animals would do their very best.

Zoozoo couldn't actually fly, but he sure could jump from way up high and land in all kinds of ways.

Sometimes it was a trampoline that caught him, other times a net. Sometimes he leapt and grabbed on to tree-like structures set up on the circus floor.

He could swing on swings and leap off of them to other swings, holding on with his hands or feet.

He was always eager to get out there and perform, and today was no exception.

However, what he wasn't so good at was waiting for when it was his turn on the program. He didn't really see why they even needed to take turns. He was happy to play and perform for the whole time there was a crowd to watch him.

“The tent is big enough! We can all be there, all at the same time!” Zoozoo would think, when McNelly would say, “You'll need to wait for your turn.”

But Zoozoo did notice that whenever he was out doing his tricks—especially when it was not his turn—all eyes and laughs would often be on him.

Not that he thought that was a bad thing, but sometimes it did make the other animals that were performing feel rather “upstaged”. It didn’t make it so fun for them when hardly anyone was looking at their hard-practiced tricks and show.

Other times it actually made the other performing animal not perform so well, as laughs would suddenly burst out from the onlookers at an odd time in their show.

When they were trying to do something that required focused attention, it didn’t really help them.

Then, afterwards, that animal would be rather discouraged that not only did he get less attention, but he didn’t do his act right either.

“Monkeys are always funnier than me,” the dancing pony said one time

after a show, when he missed a few steps at a show and felt rather embarrassed.

Paddy the Pony didn't notice the time that Zoozoo the monkey had burst in suddenly and started doing all kinds of acrobatic moves. --That is until the roar of laughter burst out, and Paddy the Pony was startled at first and then forgot what he was to do next.

McNelly the Ring Master tried to explain these and other consequences to Zoozoo, and sometimes he seemed to understand.

## Chapter 2—Happy Birthday

Today's circus show started out in a new way. There was a musical band playing "Happy Birthday", while a team of children, who were dressed up really funny, marched all around the ring. They were waving streamers and sprinkling bits of confetti and such things.

It was hard for the animals to wait, as the children's performance looked like a whole lot of fun.

Paddy the Pony wished he could be prancing around with a few children on his back.

Zoozoo the monkey could think of all kinds of things to do, like go and borrow some of the hats the children were wearing, and put them on and off his own head, seeing which ones fit him best.



The team of poodles called, “The Musical Dogs” wanted to run along with the children, barking and jumping on them. They were sure this would be appropriate.

Elsa the elderly Elephant wasn't in the mood for romping around, but she did imagine how the children would enjoy taking turns riding on her.

They could climb up a ladder and get to sit in the riding box that was sometimes placed on her back. They could pose and get pictures taken of them. She would feel very admired and appreciated then.

The Dancing Bears were just hoping for snacks, lots of them. They saw some buckets of some sort of treats out in the circus ring. They excitedly anticipated the fish they hoped were in those buckets.

The sooner they got into the ring, the sooner the snacks would be passed on.

There were treats in those buckets, and they were for dancing performers, but not those of the bear sort. These were filled with gifts for the children. For after the marching and dancing there was to be some games played and then treats given to them.

Little Tanny the tiger cub wasn't sure just what she'd do if she was let out on stage just now during this most unusual performance. But being let out of her usual cage would give her the chance she always wanted to do some extended exploring under the benches where the families in the audience were sitting.

There would be plenty to discover behind the scenes in the large circus

tent as well. She wasn't really aware of all that was going on in the circus show right then, nor of what the crowds most enjoyed. She just liked to learn about anything around, and explore all that she could.

One day after a show she was found curled up under a backstage bench, with a new toy in her mouth. A fluffy something that used to be a winter hat found somewhere around.

Well, maybe Tanny the tiger cub couldn't do the hat tricks nor liked to wear one like Zoozoo the monkey did, but she sure kept the circus crew busy keeping up with her if she ever escaped. Thankfully it didn't happen all that much.

## **Chapter 3—Lynda the Lioness**

At last it was time for the animals to make their appearance on the stage for today's show. The children were finished their lively Birthday presentation and games and were seated.

Up went the netted walls to ensure the animals stayed within the boundaries of the circus ring.

For this show, knowing just how eager Zoozoo the monkey would be to make his appearance, McNelly had planned for both him and Paddy the Pony to do an act together. This worked out nicely, and so neither one had to wait quite so long.

Zoozoo rode on Paddy's back as he pranced and danced all around the ring to some fun riding music.

Meanwhile, getting a fun and rather bumpy ride, Zoozoo had four hats he was holding, one held by each of his hands and feet.

He would take turns putting them on his head and making funny faces to go along with it. At the end of show he tossed each of the hats to the centre of the ring, to be caught by a man holding some type of fishing net with a handle.

It was a game to see if he could make sure each hat landed in it. Three went in but one didn't.

If a hat was missed, then Zoozoo had to leap down off of Paddy the Pony and pick up the hat and place it on the man's head, at the end of the act.

So this time one hat landed on the ground, and Zoozoo leaped down and picked up the hat.

The man then picked up the monkey so he could reach high enough to put the hat on his head.

The crowd cheered when this was completed successfully.

Right about that time, Paddy the Pony stopped and did a special bow, and the crowd clapped for him as well.

Once this act was done, it was time for the next animal performers to come on.

\*\*\*

Lynda the silky Lioness pranced out like she knew she was the queen of the show; the queen of whatever show she happened to be a part of that month.

She wasn't part of this circus team all the time, for she rather seemed to enjoy a variety of performing

opportunities. Since there were other circus teams around, she and her trainer would join different show troupes at different times.

Today she wore a type of crown that was lit up with little white lights.

The lights weren't all that bright so her crown could more easily be seen.

She climbed up on a ramp and perched atop. She looked very much like a very large kitten.

What she actually did wasn't as important as the way that she did it. Even if all she was doing was walking once around the circus ring's edge and then slowly making her way up a ramp with head and tail raised up, she did it in style.

Everyone held their breath when she came out. It wasn't every day you saw

a lion so nearby. Of course the crowd was glad there was a secure fence around. But you never knew what to expect with these usually wild creatures.

When Lynda the Lioness was at last in position on top of the high platform, where all could see her and she could see all, she gave one big mighty roar-like sound. It was just for effect, for the most part.

She liked to see the reactions of the on lookers when she did that. Another reason was that it was her signal to her trainer that she was ready for a snack to be rewarded for her fabulous performance. –Or so she thought.

“Some like to jump and prance about,” she would think, “I need nothing of that sort. That simply is not my style. I like to lie down, and to look,



and to be admired. Why should I have to struggle to be anything new?”

But what Lynda didn't fully realise, if she indeed realised it at all, was that it was precisely this lack of trying to do much of anything—that is anything besides trying to get the applause of others—that made her unable to stick around in a show for too long.

Other animals would work hard on new tricks, and put daily practice time into their show. This kept them fit and skilled, and most of all very, very interesting for the crowds.

They could keep coming back to the show time and again and be sure to see at least something new each time.

However, Lynda was completely predictable. Everyone knew what she was going to do—the same thing she had already done before and the time

before that. She was very interesting to first time attendees, but after a time or two, everyone knew there was nothing more to see in her act.

It's not that her trainer didn't have more and new ideas for her to work on, and this would have made them very welcomed by all show troupes.

However, Lynda was perfectly satisfied with what she could do—being so very self-controlled, and showing off how un-wild she was; how very cultured she was; so calm and domestic—that she saw no need to learn new things.

It was indeed a feat of will-power and self-control to do as she did, and not try to run away or stir up the crowd lumbering through it. But she thought it very impressive to show how she could sit ever so still, and just raise her voice only at the precise time needed and none other.

When she slowly, ever so slowly walked down the ramp to be led off to her large cage again, out of sight, a new team of performers began to enter.

## **Chapter 4—Dancing Bears and Musical Dogs**

The Dancing Bears!

Now these were quite a sight!

One of the younger bears, however first dashed over to peek into the now empty buckets that treats for the children had been put into. Even though she knew there was no fish—as she would have been able to smell them if there had been. But still she was curious and eager for any kind of snack.

After all, the dancing children got a snack from those buckets, why not dancing bears!

The music was playing and the semi-dressed bears pranced around, did summersaults, and even tried to dance while standing on their back two feet.

This brought some cheers and claps.

A game was played where the man leading the team of bears would throw a large ring over to a bear. If they stood up and got the ring over them, then they were tossed a fish to catch as well.

One by one the bears rose and let the ring pass over them, all around them, and then grabbed a fish reward.

A funny dance move they did was to all line up, standing up on their back legs and place one paw on another's shoulder and take some steps as the line moved along.

It looked very clever.

Though they looked like big and fun teddy bears, the children were warned that they were not trained to be cuddly

with children. Though bears, they were not TEDDY bears and would not behave towards them as such. They needed to be treated carefully and wisely and given lots of space to do and be what a bear needs to be.

The costume skirts and vests and other apparel that the funny bears had on was sewn by McNelly's wife, Nancy. She was clever with both the sewing machine, as well as how to come up with patterns and the shapes of things that needed to be sewn. This was one of the many things she was able to contribute to the show.

The Birthday circus show continued and next up was the very special, one and only Elsa the Elderly Elephant.

She strode in and instead of bowing, lifted up her trunk to wave to all the onlookers.

She was to reach down and sniff at a bouquet of flowers that her trainer held, and then pick it up with her truck and toss it into the audience for someone to catch.

This was a fun active way to start her act.

After being led to walk in a circle around, she had a few dance moves to do while the music played.

She could lift this foot and then the other, and even add the sound of a trumpet to the routine—her own personal trumpet.

Once that was done, she got into position to receive some children. It was her favourite part of all the show.

All she had to do was stand there and look admirable. No one was quite as big or even as old as she was.

Children would line up to take turns to climb all the way up and then, with assistance, into the special sitting box that was strapped securely on to Elsa's back.

Of course, not all the children would be able to get a turn right in the middle of the show, but it was a good way to keep the attention of the more wiggling youngsters in the crowd. It gave them a bit of moving and an adventure.

The rest of the older children or those who could happily wait, did so, and got their turn, if desired, at the end of the show when all the guests were making their way out of the tent.

Elsa was usually very quiet and patient, and stood very still so as not to wiggle the little ones too much. But she did have a few things to do in order to keep the attention of the rest of the audience.



Every now and then, when prompted, she'd lift up her trunk and blow out a sound. This sure got everyone's attention.

Another thing she'd do was pick up oranges with her trunk and hand them out to people standing in line with their children. Mama's and Papa's would be pleasantly surprised at this, and it was fun to watch.

The barks of the poodles, or the "The Musical Dogs" as they were called, helped to move the children off the stage after Elsa the Elephant's riding act. They knew it was time for the next part of the show to begin.

Some children might have liked to stay to say hello to the fuzzy little dogs, but usually they'd choose to see the full show and not miss anything while trying to get back into their seats.

At first all would be quiet, once everyone was seated. No music, nor talking, not even the bark of the dogs that were then on stage in their place. This was the first trick--the perfectly still and quiet dogs awaiting their cue.

Then boom! All of a sudden the music comes on and the dogs start leaping off ramps and jumping through hoops, doing spins, rolling on the ground and so many funny things.

They did it all together at the right time as soon as the music played and their trainer indicated to them what trick or move was to come next.

Then, to the surprise of everyone, again, the music went completely silent again, and the dogs held very, very still. But after a moment, boom, it all repeated.

It would seem to the audience that the dogs would only move if there was music playing. And that is what earned them their name, “Musical Dogs.” It seemed they were music-powered.

When their act on this day was over, the music was faded out slowly as they made their way out, following their trainer.

Applause followed their exit. And back stage they were given treats for their most excellent performance.

Now it was time for a show of a different kind. A team of clowns were trying to train Little Tanny the tiger cub—or so the show was made to appear.

They didn’t usually have a lion for their circus, said the clowns, so they had to do their best with this little cub.

## Chapter 5— Clowns and Flying Bananas

The clowns kept the children laughing at the antics while they chased this most curious little tiger cub around, trying to get her interested in jumping through a hoop.

She certainly could jump, and climb—especially on and off of the table the clowns put their as part of their act. But through the hoop? That was what they rarely succeeded in getting her to do.

One time she grabbed a scarf that was wrapped around of the clown's neck while they were trying to get some rest—in the middle of their show of course.

That sure woke up that clown and he had quite a chase, around and

around the circus ring, trying to track down his coloured scarf again!

Then they tried to play a ball game with Tanny, to see if the balls could touch her as they rolled some across the floor. Sort of like “dodge ball”.

Now, of course, the Musical Dogs would have loved to play “Dog’s ball”, with as many small balls as they could get and chase after. And sometimes it was their turn to do such on the stage with these very clowns. But today it was “Touch the Tiger’s tail” game with some very soft balls.

Now Tanny the tiger cub seemed to know what the object of the game was, because she was very good at suddenly jumping here or climbing there, right as a ball nearly touched her tail.

The crowd was divided up for cheering in this game. One half of the audience was to cheer every time a ball touched Tanny. It was a score for the clowns. The other half was to cheer for Tanny every time she missed getting caught. It was a score for her.

On this day, that second team, the Tanny cheering team, were very loud with frequent cheers, as the ball so rarely ever caught her. She was getting good at it.

I guess she would, because whenever she missed it, she was given a treat nibble.

It was a great game and a fun show.

Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

But now the animals were tired, and needed some rest. All, that is, except for Zoozoo the monkey.

He always seemed to be able to pull fun and energy out of a hat, literally. For when he got his show hat put on, zoom he would go out to the ring. He would be climbing up a pole, and hanging off of this and that.

He was a great one to end the show with.

Today's last trick, that Zoozoo was the one to perform, was "catch the flying bananas".

He would be swinging on a trapeze swing, while, one by one, a trainer would toss him up a banana at precisely the right time.

It was more of a trick by the trainer than even for Zoozoo. They had to time it just right so that the banana would be in the air at the right time.

When Zoozoo would catch it, he would either toss it back, or would eat one. He could choose. The crowd was kept wondering just what he would do each time.

Zoozoo then climbed over and slid down a pole, to then take his bow on the circus ring floor. His trainer then ended with picking him up and placing him in a wheelbarrow filled with bananas.

Zoozoo would pick one up in each hand and foot and smile real big as he was wheeled away, while children laughed and clapped.

Sometimes he was put into a little bed to rest after the shows, and today he was placed there as well, with a little blanket on him. But after just a minute or two, he'd had enough rest and was eager to find out just what



was going on with the people in the audience. It seemed that he liked to watch them perhaps even more than they him. So he bounded out of bed the second he heard the final time that “Happy Birthday” was sung, to end the show.

Zoozoo, still with his little blanket over the top of his head, came waddle running out. He looked very funny, and brought many squeals and laughs.

McNelly who was standing in the center of the circus ring, rather than tell him to go back, went over and picked him up and handed him a banana that he kept in his pocket for just such moments of spontaneous fun.

Then, to the tune of the song being sung, Zoozoo took the banana and started to use it as a drum stick on the tall sturdy drum shaped hat being worn by McNelly just then.

McNelly thought that was enough, but rather than end the fun, placed Zoozoo on the ground, and removed his hat also. The hat was placed beside Zoozoo and another banana was quickly given him by a clown standing nearby.

Now Zoozoo could help play the song with a hat drum and banana sticks, in honour of their kind Ring Master.

Everyone clapped in rhythm as the song was sung one last time.

Elsa the Elephant was standing there also, giving turns to the children who hadn't yet sat up in the riding box on her back. When the song ended, she added her own special instrument sound and blew her trunk!

\*\*\*

## Chapter 6—A Huge Cake

Just for fun on this day, Nancy, the ring Master's wife, together with others had baked a very huge cake. Well, it was many cakes all put together on a big table placed by the door to the circus tent.

It was shaped and decorated like a circus tent, all striped and round, and even had a few toy animals to decorate it.

Whoever wanted a piece of this special cake was welcome to enjoy one as they walked to and out the door.

Children were eager to leave, though normally it would be hard to do so. The fun treat of the snack for those that were leaving made it easier for them.

The clowns then stood by the door out of the tent waving good-bye to all the people. It had been a great show.

“Hope to see you the next time we are in this town!” they said to the children.

“Okay!” was replied as they happily skipped away.

They had stories to tell to any siblings or friends who hadn't been there that day. Something new or unexpected happened almost every time the show was put on.

Because, after all, animals are animals, and some of the funniest or even unwanted things might occur. -- Like the time Paddy the Pony was taking a very long sleep, when it was his time to ride out into the ring.

He was much too groggy right then to do what he was meant to do, so to give him time to wake up more and have a good drink of water, the clowns had to fill in.

They used some pieces of cloth and leaned over, using some stick horses to be the heads of these two rather unusual looking horses that came riding out.

Such were some of the jobs of the clowns, to fill in when things didn't go quite as planned.

They did some impromptu moves to the music, made some children laugh, and soon were chased off the stage by a certain pony called Paddy who was not so impressed with the way they were imitating ponies and wanted them to clear off, so he could get to the real show.

The stories and funny antics of this traveling troupe of laugh-givers are many.

But it wasn't only just going from one laugh to the next, for indeed every bit of fun they gave to others had to be worked for in advance.

There was much cleaning and care. There was orderliness and organization. There was food and friendship. There was sleep and so much more.

But I won't list each thing now. Just suffice it to say that there was oodles of activities and chores, and times of training behind each thing that was done on stage that might have taken but a minute or two.

It's good for the onlookers to realise this, for it makes them appreciate it all the more.

## Chapter 7—Paddy the Pony

Paddy the Pony was resting. He was in a spot out in the sunshine.

“Ah, now this is good,” he said turning his head up and bathing his head in the glorious light. He shook his head neighed, stomped his feet and stood for a moment on his back legs. He was fully awake now and ready for a run.

Clarence the Keeper helped to see that each of the animals not only got what they needed, but likewise received extra treats and benefits. It was a different life living and working with the circus. But a good life.

They had many treats that wild creatures might not get, such a regular and abundant meals, lots of pats and attention, very comfortable beds and living quarters.

If you asked, “Would they survive out in the wild, able to do all that the creature of their type could do?” the answer would be, probably not right away. They could learn, but because they were on this special team they had new and different skills and abilities.

Would the wild animals be able to do what these circus creature could do? No, for they had other skill and challenges that taught them differently.

Wild ones were taught to stay away from humans, whereas the circus animals depended on the humans to feed and care for them, and so they learned to trust them.

The wild animals had to learn speed to get away from possible danger, whereas the circus animals had to learn patience and to be brave and



face crowds of people, and to live in peace with other creatures as well who were also part of the show troupe—animals they might not normally get along well with.

Yes! At last!

Here came Clarence the Keeper to the fenced area where Paddy was sunning himself. Paddy took a drink of water and one last nibble of food while Clarence opened the gate and unhooked Paddy's rope that secured him to a post.

Willingly Paddy trotted out of the fenced in area and out to the grassy area to graze and run, along with the Musical dogs who were running and playing.

Every morning, by late morning, everyone—clowns and humans included—had enjoyed some vigorous

exercise of some sort. Cages and kennels had been cleaned, as well as the trailers that the circus team stayed in as they travelled. Food had been served, and all had done something they most enjoyed.

When Paddy was running and galloping, he realised that one of the trailers were being moved. This only happened on the day the circus was traveling to a new place. Was this to be their last morning there? He did wonder. But it didn't take long until his question was answered.

All he had to do was keep watching and soon he'd see other signs of their stay at this particular place coming to a close. More trailers began to be tugged away and put in position to travel.

The biggest sign of the move was the circus tent that was being taken down.

Paddy looked over and saw Lynda the lioness coming for a stroll, on a rope with her trainer in a different area of the paddock. She would be moving on to perform at a new circus. He neighed what was a hello and goodbye.

Lynda growled back a message. Paddy took it to mean, “And have a good trip. I’ll see you some other time.”

By now the Musical Dogs were done their run and were being taken for a brush down and wash. They were always kept very clean. The audience didn’t want to come and smell the circus, but primarily watch one.

All the animals were kept as clean as an animal can be kept. The cages and kennel areas were cleared out of the waste a few times a day, usually.

Every day a wagon load of manure was taken away from the grounds, along with compost of food stuffs, and whatever could naturally turn back into dirt. This was driven to a nearby farm that specialised in creating nutrient filled soil for growing crops.

This would need to be rotted down, or decomposed before it was able to be used as dirt enhancer. But with plenty of water and stirring, the farmer got it worked down to be something real useable.

There was an area outdoors with very strong and closed in fencing. This was put up for the Dancing Bears' daily exercise and practice times. It was used for Tanny the Tiger cub too, for it had high fencing and didn't allow a creature to climb out and escape.

Zoozoo liked to do something different for his exercise. Though being outside was very nice, he had a great need to climb and romp around.

He was usually allowed to do this inside the circus tent, while workers cleaned up and set things up for the day. He'd literally "hang around". Sometimes he would surprise the sweeper, for example, and leap on his back for a ride.

One time when Carin the Clown was picking up the bits of rubbish that were around the tent, she found a willing helper. A bag was held by Zoozoo, who kept close by.

When Carin found a bit of trash she'd toss it over to Zoozoo who did his best to catch it, or at least to pick it up and put it in the bag he tugged around.

There was always something he liked to help out with.

Sometimes when Paddy was taking his run, Zoozoo thought it would be a help to have a ride on his back. This would give Paddy a weight on him, that would surely give him better exercise.

Zoozoo felt very useful doing Paddy this favour, and of course he enjoyed the ride as well.

Of course, he was the one who was actually enjoying it. Paddy tolerated it most of the time, because a bit of company was fun.

## **Chapter 8—Tanny the Tiger Cub**

Tanny the Tiger cub learns to sing:

“Let’s try that one more time,” said Hilda, who was getting a new act together for the show in a few weeks.

For now, the circus team was camping out in a field. Their tent was packed up and they were taking this time to do different things that they needed to.

Some of the clowns went to spend a week or two with their extended families and to visit friends. Some of the animals were taken to a farm with lots of space to run and time to play. Some of the vehicles needed fixing.

The team that was left, with the animals that were left took the time for planning and practicing some new acts to add some variety to the

performances. Every few months this circus team had this time to do different things.

Hilda was a clown and also a good cook. She kept the circus team well-fed. She was good with animals and they liked her. Today she was working on an act called “Tanny the Tiger Cub learns to sing.”

Tanny was placed in something like looked like an extra large birdcage for a canary. Since canaries are known for their lovely songs, and since there was the need for Tanny to be kept from wandering here and there throughout the crowd, this is why she was in this special cage for this act.

Tanny rather liked the feeling of the gentle rocking of the cage as it swung whenever she moved, as it was suspended like old fashioned bird



cages were. And she liked the little snacks that Hilda placed in it.

Hilda would be holding a song book of sorts as well as a stick she purposed to pretend to be a conductor of a concert.

There was of course music that was being played, but it wasn't one continual song. Rather the music track had silence and then a bit of singing, followed by silence again.

It was at these pauses, which were more than the singing parts, when Hilda would pretend to be teaching the tiger cub how to sing. Hilda would also get audience participation in this act, to keep everyone entertained and involved.

During training, whenever Tanny would make some mild growling attempts, she would get a treat to eat.

Tanny discovered that whenever Hilda moved the stick near her cage, that there was something to eat placed on it, some little nibble treat.

Tanny wanted it and would eventually make a sound expressing it. The treat would be given then.

After a while, Tanny started to make some sounds when she saw the stick coming close to the cage and would right away stand up and make some noise.

She realised after many practice sessions that Hilda's music stick, plus a Tanny sound equalled a special nibble treat.

Tanny was learning well.

A few days before all the rest of the circus crew returned, Tanny had learned her part of the act well.

I don't think she quite realised it was an act to be performed in front of crowds, she was just having fun with this little game she would play with Hilda each day.

Hilda made sure to practice it with Tanny each day, so she wouldn't forget what to do on the nights the circus was to perform.

A week later, after all the team had returned and had set up the circus tent where they had been camping, the first show was to be put on. Everyone was excited—both the families and people who came for the show, as well as the crew and animals.

There were a few new acts and it was going to be a whole lot of fun.

When it came time for Tanny's musical show, she didn't fail to bring a good laugh from the watching crowds.

“Come Tanny. It’s time for your daily singing lesson,” Hilda said, leading Tanny by a leash up a ramp that led to the suspended large canary cage.

It was a bit different for Tanny to do her performance with so many people around, but she didn’t take too much notice of everyone.

She did well at focusing on the food treats she was looking forward to enjoy, and so into the cage she went.

“Today, Tanny will be taught to sing, and I am going to need your help to teach her as well,” Hilda said to the crowd. “Are you ready? The first note we can teach her is...”

Hilda sang out very loudly the musical note, and had the crowd then sing it back to her and to Tanny. Then the hush came as it was Tanny the Tiger cub’s turn to try to sing that note.

Hilda moved closer to the cage, and lifted her stick to conduct. Tanny knew what was coming and stood up and let out a little growly sound.

The musical tape played as well, as if it was Tanny doing the singing. With that the crowd cheered and laughed also, and a treat was given to Tanny.

“Now for the next part of the class, we will teach Tanny to sing this note.” Hilda then led the audience to sing out the note, and afterwards had Tanny try to sing. Again the tape went on while Tanny did her mild growl, and was rewarded. She received lots of cheering.

At the end of the act a very short song was sung, as it appeared, by Tanny, with the help to the music audio playing and so forth. And the audience was encouraged to sing along.

The act had been successful. Tanny felt glad that though the circus show was happening once again, that she was still able to play her daily snack game with Hilda. Even if the game time happened to be when lots of people were around watching her play it. She didn't know she was the star of the show for that act.

Happily she then exited the cage, led like a puppy out and down the ramp. Tanny was led to walk all along the edge of the circus ring while everyone got a good look at her, and then she was taken to the back of the tent where her cute little house and enclosure was.

Just as Tanny entered her little nook—a place closed in entirely by chicken wire, and a two story little pet house—a few birds landed right nearby and began to sing.

Tanny got her own mini concert by real birds who could really sing.

\*\*\*

When Hilda came back to the circus tent from returning Tanny to her place, it seemed there was a disruption in the crowd.

The reason was, that even while dressed in all her fun clown clothing, someone had discovered that she was the famous singer that used to tour around. She wasn't always part of a circus team, but was accustomed to being on stage.

“Sing! Sing! Sing!” the crowd began to cheerfully chant and clap, while they stood up. This was the last thing Hilda expected. It seemed the show that was planned would need to be adjusted and a new and unexpected act added to it.

After using her hands to show the crowd that they could resume quietness as their request had been heard, all fell silent.

Hilda smiled while mentally selecting a song. This was more amusing to her than the circus show was to the audience. She somewhat chuckled to herself.

“Well, if they want me to sing, I’ll do that, though I’m not quite like what I used to be. Still, I have kept up my voice as I sing while cooking and doing the washing,” Hilda thought.

The clowns were good at impromptu shows, as that is often what they needed to do. So they playfully got some of the large colourful blocks and placed them together to make a stage to stand on.



One block here and two blocks stacked beside it, and a few more blocks on the other side of it. It wasn't a flat stage to stand on, but looked like a large child's block tower they were beginning to construct.

Hilda then stepped from one block up to the second one that was stacked on top of it. With her loud voice ringing out, Hilda started one of her favourite songs, one she was often heard singing as she scrubbed the potatoes or cut the veggies for a meal.

*"I just can't be somebody else,*

*I just need to be who I'm meant to be,*

*Cause when I do that, the job gets done*

*When I am me, then I can have fun.*

Don't wanna waste time staring and comparing.

Don't wanna sit here just moping and hoping.

I'm gonna be glad for who I am, and not get blue .

I'm gonna be glad and do well what I'm called to do.”

Hilda finished the simple song that was sung with gusto, did a curtsy, and the crowd cheered.

The show could continue now as planned. But maybe there was someone, or many people—if not all who were sitting there watching the show, who needed to hear that song.

And the crowd could ponder the thought that though Hilda had been famous, though no longer was in the spotlight as before, she was still happy to do the best she could to help make others happy. –Even if it meant trying to teach a Tiger cub how to sing!

## Chapter 9—

### McNelly and the Popcorn

The next night of the circus stared out in a surprising and unexpected way, as Zoozoo the circus monkey decided it was time he tried out some popcorn.

So far all he knew about popcorn was that it was messy. It always had to be swept up after each show.

He didn't really understand the attraction, and why so many people held these bags of white puffs, nibbling away at it.

Tonight, right when the ring master was ready to announce the “Prancing Dancing Pony” act, Zoozoo had managed to get a bag of popcorn that was sitting on a table, unused.

Rather than have the crowd eating a snack and looking at him in amusement, Zoozoo wanted to try it the other way around.

He wanted to eat a snack while watching the crowd. They were entertainment enough. Just look at all those people types!

And they were laughing too. This was great to watch! But after one bite of popcorn, Zoozoo decided that he wanted to get a better view, and so up he climbed to a loft above the circus ring. Now that was a great view. He was looking as funny as ever.

McNelly, accustomed to random antics from Zoozoo sometimes, carried on with the show as regular. However, it was rather surprising when Zoozoo, who was watching his own show—the audience—suddenly made a jerking

monkey movement that tipped out the whole bag of popcorn. It fell like snow down to where McNelly stood.

The onlookers laughed, and indeed so did the Ring Master, who played this right into what he was saying.

“... Here comes Paddy the Prancing and dancing pony—as he.. uh... dashes through the snow, like pulling a one-horse open sleigh.”

Every one broke out laughing and singing the song, “oh how fun it is to ride...” as Paddy came out into the ring.

Paddy came out fully decorated and donning all kinds of colourful and shiny things for his act.

People were led to clap to the rhythm of the music then being played, and Paddy did a great show prancing

around, standing on his back legs, dancing in a circle, and even walking backwards.

Zoozoo enjoyed the music and watching his friend trotting around merrily. Zoozoo wished to continue on as if he was still watching the circus, eating popcorn.

However, the popcorn was now all on the ground below. But that was no trouble to Zoozoo, who promptly slid down the pole that was there, much like a fireman would.

Then one by one he picked up each kernel of popcorn, while watching the Paddy and of course watching the funny people who were watching the fun and clever animals.

Everyone must have thought that Zoozoo was just part of the show, and planned to be part of the act.

How he knew to drop the “snow” popcorn at just the right time, above the head of McNelly, they didn’t know. He was surely a well-trained circus monkey to do that!

Then when Zoozoo climbed up the very thick rope than hung down, and swung from it, leaping at just the right time on to the back of the dancing and prancing Paddy the Pony, everyone thought he certainly was part of this act and knew his role.

“He just does acts without a trainer telling him what to do!” someone said. “He just wants to make us laugh and doesn’t need to have someone encouraging him with extra treats.”

Though surprised, Paddy the Pony didn’t mind the suddenly addition to his gear—a monkey landing suddenly on his back.



It made it all the more fun, and the crowd sure cheered.

Sometimes unexpected events can be better than what was planned. But it all had to do with the reactions of others.

If McNelly had been angry with Zoozoo, or if Paddy had refused to keep dancing just because a monkey was now on his back, then that would have made the show not nearly as fun and enjoyable.

One clown said to the other, as they stood to the side,

“Sometimes you just need to flow with something, and not get all upset; especially if it’s making things better. No one minds the fun addition of a little monkey, if they did, we wouldn’t let him romp around.

“I think we are all enjoying the unexpected surprises, at least today.”

The other clown nodded.

Paddy the Pony finished his prance and dance, topped with a monkey, and trotted off the stage, while the crowd cheered.

## Chapter 10—

### The Missing Musical Dogs

The musical dogs were each standing poised, each one on a bale of hay all in a line.

At the blow of the whistle they leaped off, as if in a race, ran around the ring and then leaped up again on the bales of hay.

They were rewarded, and once again the whistle was blown to start the next “race” or so it seemed.

But this time there was one less performing dog.

The trainer acted as if he wondered where the dog had gone. One place on the bales of hay was empty. The trainer asked the crowd if the dog had ran out there!

There was some disruption as the trainer was pointing here and there, to where this dog might be. He just shook and scratched his head and then went on with the show, with one less dog.

But just as he was about to blow the whistle he heard a new-sounding bark. The crowd laughed and pointed. Instead of a dog, on the hay bale sat a funny clown ready to race in place of the missing dog.

This musical dog wasn't really missing, but was actually back in his kennel. It was all part of the show.

The clown pretended to bark while running, and landed back on the bale of hay.

The trainer acted most puzzled to see that not only was there a clown on the bale of hay, but also another missing dog! What was going on?

He gave the dogs their treats, and just shook his head when he got to the clown who was squatting down, acting as funny and puppy-like as he could.

The clown did not get a dog treat. Then as the trainer moved on to reward the next real dog, the clown acted all sad. He'd missed the dog treat.

Feeling sad for the clown missing his treat, a little girl ran right up to the edge of the circus ring and held out a bite of her snack, saying, "You can have this!"

The clown, now looking very happy ran up and nibbled it—and returned to sit on the bale.

Again, the trainer blew his whistle for the next race to begin. This time another clown filled in the second missing dog's spot.

The trainer was now so very baffled! Where were his dogs all going! Where were the clowns coming from? Well, the show must go on.

Now these dogs knew the clowns well, and they were actually rather happy to be sitting near them and running a lap around the ring together with them. In fact, the clowns would also give the dogs beside them a treat as well, for this was a well-rehearsed act.

By the end of the act, there were only clowns left on the bales, and a trainer who was ready to blow his whistle for the clowns to then have a race. But before he blew it, the clowns beckoned for the trainer to join them.

Since he didn't have treats for people, only dog treats, he tossed them to the side and got in position to run the race along with the clowns.

Just as they were about to run, all of a sudden in ran all the Musical Dogs. These quickly gained speed on the clowns and their trainer. They ran faster and finished first.

The dogs triumphantly leapt up and sat on the bales of hay. They had won the race! And yes, they were rewarded.

The clowns and the trainer took a bow, and raced with the dogs a time or two around the ring, leaping over the bales of hay and then off the stage.

After that rather energetic show, and panting performers, it was time for something of a different pace than a race.

## **Chapter 11—**

### **Elsa the Elderly Elephant**

In walked Elsa the Elderly Elephant and her trainer. This however, wasn't to be just any performance, for this was something planned for quite some time; an out-of-the-ordinary show.

Today Elsa was going to show how very clever she was. And with paintbrush in hand she demonstrated on a large board covered with plastic sheeting, that she could draw.

The people cheered when Elsa stood to bow and moved aside to show the picture she had painted.

It looked little more than lines of paint from a wide brush, going this way and that way. But it was the fact that Elsa could dip the brush into the paint and apply it to the plastic board,



noticing the patterns she was making, that impressed the crowd.

Next, Elsa was to blow bubbles! Lots of bubbles. With the tip of her trunk she held a bubble blower.

It was of course quite a bit bigger than the small ones a child would hold and blow bubbles with.

To make the bubbles fly out from it, a fan was blowing nearby Elsa. She would dip the blower in the bubbly liquid, then hold it up to the fan.

Out and all around the circus ring would fly the bubbles, to the delight of children watching in the audience.

A few clowns were inviting any children who wanted to come. "Come blow bubbles together with Elsa," the clown offered, and led some children by the hand, and others followed, to where they would be allowed to stand.

They stood all around the edge of the circus ring to blow bubbles too. They were each handed a bubble blower and dipped it into the bowl that the assisting clown offered.

There was fun music playing, and some of the children were moving to the music while blowing the bubbles.

The clown was dancing around while he offered the bowl of bubble mix to the children. At the same time they were watching to see what Elsa was doing. Her bubbles were of course a whole lot bigger.

But since elephants are big, it only seemed natural that the bubble from an elephant would be bigger.

Then, to end the special time while the children were there, one of the children was given the end of a string to pull.

It led up to somewhere way above the circus ring.

“Pull it!” the clown said. All the children were eager to find out what would happen.

With the yank the little girl gave to the string, there was released a whole bunch of balloons. They had been placed way up high, hiding in a sheet of sorts. But pulling the string loosed them.

Watching all those balloons gently descending was sure fun for all the children. They laughed and hoped to catch one or two. They were each given a couple balloons to take back with them to their seat and their family.

Elsa then demonstrated her dancing skills by standing on her back legs and waving her trunk, while the music played.

She was led in a spin, and she even walked sideways. There were still some balloons on the ground as she danced.

And yes, a balloon or two popped! In fact it was part of the act, for her to try to dance without popping too many balloons. She did well on this day, and the audience cheered.

After Elsa was led off the show area and out of sight, then a team of clowns came in for the next part of the show before the break.

## Chapter 12—

### A Humorous Cleaning Clown

One clown was sitting down, trying very hard to make the cleaning broom get clean.

She tried so many ways, but always, as soon as she attempted to sweep off the ground of the circus ring, it would get soiled again. The hay and sand and whatever, would get on it.

She tried using a hair drier to blow dirt off. Next she used a scrub brush and a bucket of pretend water to try to scrub it clean. She got out a vacuum cleaning to attempt to remove the dirt.

She wiped the brush of the broom with a dry sponge. It was taking her more time to try to keep it from getting anything on it, than it was taking to sweep the floor.

“If this broom isn’t clean, how will I ever get this floor swept clean?” she said aloud. The children were laughing at the clown’s silly attempts at perfection.

Trying to get somethings so perfect makes it hard to do what you are meant to be doing. Such as sweeping the ground.

Finally, she got an idea. She wrapped a cloth around the brush of the broom and “swept” with it like this. The clown showed how marvellous it was at the end to remove the cloth and see how clean it still was.

Another clown pointed out that the floor wasn’t very well swept. However, the sweeping clown was just glad to have a clean broom.

Finally, the other clown got an idea and presented her with a new broom.

“Here you can sweep the floor with this one. It’s new and works well, and then your other broom won’t get dirty at all. It can be placed to the side, and just stay unsoiled.”

What a splendid idea! So the sweeping clown got to work right away and did a good job, whistling while she worked.

At the end, the third clown came on stage and commended the clown for her good job of a clean floor and asked if she could come and help sweep somewhere else.

The sweeping clown nodded and shook the hand of the clown who was thanking her.

But what broom should she use? The choice was easy. The broom that could get dirty and did the job well!

The one that she didn't want a speck of dust on, was left to the side. It was better to have a tool that could be used, even if it got a bit soiled, than a one that looked perfect all the time.

Once the sweeping clown left, the second clown began to focus on doing his job. He was to clip and trim the hedge. That is, to trip the imaginary hedge all around the circus ring. He used big trimming scissors—clown prop scissors made for this act, of course.

But just about every time he was to trim some of the hedge he'd be interrupted by the song of a bird that seemed to come from inside the hedge.

He'd stop to listen, or hope to get it to fly away, but the song just kept on coming—while the bird stayed in the hedge.



So, the clown got an idea to bring a birdcage over to the imaginary hedge, to try to get the bird to go into it. Then he'd be free to do the trimming.

But what should he use to distract the bird and make him want to come into the cage?

The clown put on a bird sock puppet on his hand, and popped it in a hole at the base of the cage. He made the bird sock puppet to chirp and move in the cage, hoping to attract the wild bird to come on in as well.

At last a little toy bird with a windup music song that played, was gently picked up and placed in the cage.

Now, finally, the bird was safe, and the hedge trimming could be finished. The cage with the windup singing bird had straps on it and could be worn much like a backpack.

So, the clown put on the cage and whistled to the tune the windup bird was making, and finished clipping the imaginary hedge.

Then it was time for the third clown, and an eager monkey, to come out and water the plants. (The two other clowns quickly got the stage set up with some potted plants and artificial trees placed around.)

A hose was rolled up and over the clown's shoulder, while he held the nozzle in his hand. The monkey helper was being tugged along as he held the other end of the hose.

But Zoozoo didn't seem to know what hoses were for, and was trying to blow the hose end like a trumpet. But that was just as well, as the hose really wasn't hooked up to water for this show, so it made the children laugh.

All around the stage the clown went, trying to water this plant or that one.

Then Zoozoo discovered the fun of seeing how far the hose would stretch. As he pulled on it, it unwound off the clown's shoulder.

A clown came out and saw this long hose and decided to help the fun reach the next level. So he held the end of it from Zoozoo and began swinging it like jump rope for Zoozoo to leap over, back and forth.

All the while the other clown acted out that he was attempting to water the plants, yet the new tug on his arm of the hose being used as a jump rope, pulled him this way and that way.

Finally, the clown attempting to water the plants looked to see what was going on. Zoozoo was having a great time.

The clown decided it was time to swap, and had Zoozoo the monkey hold the other side of the hose, so he could also join in with a bit of fun and do some jumping as well.

Then the clowns took a bow, wound up the hose, and with Zoozoo once again holding the end of it, the clowns and their monkey friend, walked off the stage.

## Chapter 13—

### Nancy and Her Hula-hoops

Now it was time for the Dancing Bears to make their entrance.

Dressed, yes, dressed in cute little outfits—some pink and some blue—the bears were led onto the stage.

A special fence was quickly placed around the ring to give extra safety during their act.

One should always expect an animal to behave like one. Though well-trained, these creatures still were bears, and one always needed to be careful and watchful.

With the treats of fish, the bears were led this way and that way, and encouraged to stand up on their feet, and lumber down little slides and move around here and there.

They balanced along on beams of wood, and clamoured down smooth logs, much like a fireman's pole. All this active play and display of fun was done with lively and energetic music playing.

It was the same music that the Dancing Bears heard every time they had their musical practice and training sessions. They were used to the sound of it meaning lots of fun play, and plenty of fish treats and other nibbles as well.

The place that was set up for them to play along with music looked like a place that some of the children sitting in the crowd would probably also enjoy playing in.

Perhaps the reason for the extra protective fence around the ring with the Dancing Bears was both to keep them in just as much as to keep the young children out.

They might mistake the Dancing Bears for Teddy bears! But that is not at all what they were. Cute, but not to be snuggled. Just a great bit of fun to watch.

To make up for the fact that children couldn't go and touch and play with the Dancing Bears, though they might have liked to, there were teddy bears being offered at the door of the circus as the children and their families left. These could be purchased as toys to take home.

These soft toys were made to look much like the performing bears, with costumes sewn for them just the same as the real Dancing Bears.

A CD of music came along with the toy bears, so the children could climb and play and dance listening to it. It would make for great times of exercise.

Zoozoo wasn't allowed in the cage at all while the Dancing Bears were performing. He would be too much of a distraction. But the play set-up sure did look fun. Today he was looking longingly in the bear's circus ring as they were having great fun playing around and dancing while the music played.

Nancy, the ringmaster's wife, squatted down near Zoozoo. "I'm sure you would really like to join the bears!" she said.

Zoozoo got all excited, as if he was going to get to go in. She wasn't inviting him to go, just letting Zoozoo know that she understood.

Nancy said, "As soon as the bears leave and it's time for me to go on stage, I'll let you come on in with me. And you can then play on the fun set up."



Of course Zoozoo didn't understand all these words, but he was soon to find out what she meant.

The Dancing Bears finished some of their last musical moves, and were led off the stage. Now it was the time for Nancy to take her place in the circus ring, and yes, Zoozoo as well, if he so wished.

Nancy had a great skill for doing the hula hoop. She could keep that ring going and going for a long while. She could keep many rings going for a long while.

She could spin hula hoop rings around her in many places on her body—arms, waist, legs, even her neck.

While she was busy moving around, spinning these hoops, Zoozoo was free to climb and roam around.

At first he wondered where all the bears were, but soon he didn't wonder but just got into playing with everything still set up.

After awhile he tired of this active play and climbed up to be seated on Nancy shoulder—after she had put the hoops down and was just about to demonstrate her juggling skill.

Zoozoo was happy to get himself a top row seat and see the juggling from his high up vantage point.

However, once in a while he did more than just watch. When seeing a skittle or ring flying up while Nancy juggled, he grabbed it in his hands, and then dropped it in order to catch another one.

Nancy just smiled as the audience laughed. They were sure this was just all part of the planned act.

Nancy helped Zoozoo climb down at last, and took a bow. Her bit of the show was complete.

She handed Zoozoo a banana that she kept in her pocket and off they went. It looked as if Zoozoo was being rewarded for his great help in the funny performance. But really, it was a treat for him because he was willing to wait until the bears finished their turn in the ring. That took patience.

Nancy liked to reward patience. She just waited to give it until Zoozoo was meant to leave the ring. That took obedience. Nancy liked to reward obedience.

The clowns came in for one last bit of the show. The music was played, the extra fence was removed, and all the children who wished to climb around and play with the clowns on the set up, were invited.

Some children danced with the clowns, others slid down the slides or poles. Some ran around playing a type of tag game.

Others balanced on the low beams of wood. Some crawled through the tractor tires set up like a tunnel, while others walked on top of them.

It was a great way to end a fun circus show.

Once the children had left and returned to their families, and the music volume was turned down low, McNelly spoke to all. He hoped everyone enjoyed their time, and would have a safe trip home.

He announced that there were toy dancing bears and CDs of music that could be enjoyed, available at the exit door of the circus tent.

Then all the clowns, and a few of the animals came once again into the ring to wave and say good-bye.

The visitors waved, and filed out to see the cheery afternoon sun.

Children were eager to go to the park, or run in the sun over the grass that was there. Some were hungry, yes, even after the snacks at the circus. Some children just had lots of room for food. Or maybe they just needed a good proper meal or some fresh fruit.

So on the families went, caring for their children's needs and enjoying the rest of the day.

## Chapter 14—Appreciation

The circus crew took a break for a meal, and took time to feed and encourage the animals. Some were placed in the larger areas to run around, like Paddy the Pony and the Musical Dogs. Yet others were happy to take a good afternoon nap--like Tanny the tiger cub and the Dancing Bears.

When everyone had a good time of rest and food, and a bit of fresh air and exercise, they were ready to begin the late afternoon clean up and preparation for the next day's show. There was always lots to do!

As they sat for their evening meal, McNelly thanked all the crew for all they did.

“And Hilda, this meal is terrific. What a great skill you have. And speaking of

skill, it seems a new act has been added to the show, at least for now. Has it not?"

Hilda smiled and remembered the singing she was asked to do.

"I'll think about it," she said with a twinkle.

"If they don't mind hearing me sing, well, I don't mind singing out. It feels good for a lady my age to get on her singing lungs again. Does me good. I think I enjoy it more than they do."

"Done!" said McNelly. "I'll be looking forward to hearing the next concert addition to the circus. Does anybody mind?"

Everyone thought it was a great idea to add a bit of spice to the show, at least for as long as it was enjoyed.

“Nancy,” McNelly said, as he kissed his wife’s hand.

“My dear Nancy. What would I do without you? Why, if it wasn’t for you we would never have started this circus at all.

“It was your courage and encouragement that gave me the will to try. And look where we are now. I think you’ve helped to put more smiles on children’s faces through this circus than the hours it’s taken to practice the acts.”

Nancy smile and added,

“But it wouldn’t be possible without all these fine fellows here. It’s their skill and determination to keep at something until they can competently perform it that makes it possible at all.

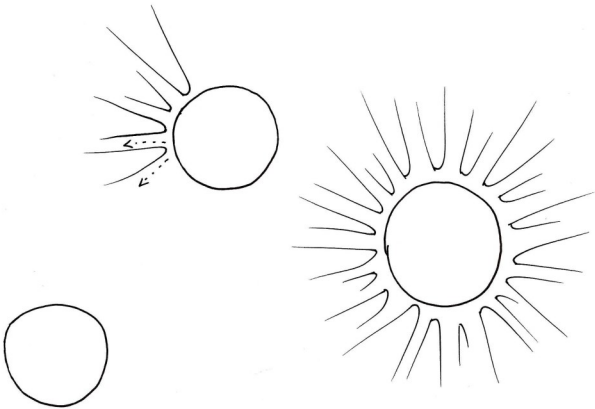
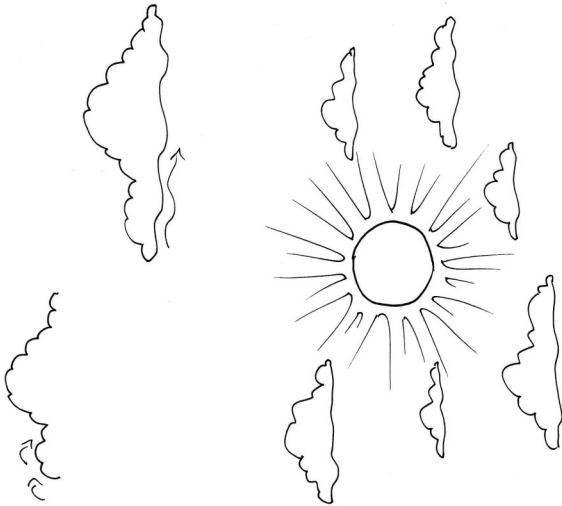


Everyone cheered for each other, and then headed off to get a good night's rest.

They'd need that if they were to do a good job the following day. Every day that things went well was a day to celebrate.

So much time and effort had gone into the show so far, and it was good to make sure each one knew they were well appreciated and needed too.

# How to draw the shining sun:



# How to draw a sunrise or sunset:





!  
A

