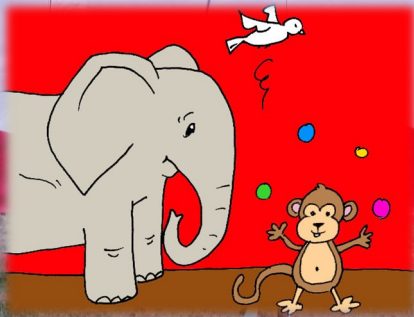


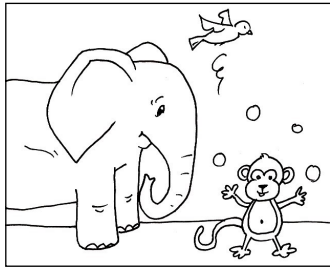


**Adventures of
Circus Animals
-Part 2-**



Imaginary Story

Adventures of Circus Animals -Part 2-



Written by:
Chariane Quille

(September 2020)

www.nurture-inspire-teach.com

Chapters:

Chapter 1—Tanny Likes to Romp Around

Chapter 2—Night Time Activities

Chapter 3—A Musical Clown Performance

Chapter 4—New Adventures

Chapter 5—Travelling Circus Trainers

Chapter 6—Once Upon a Time...

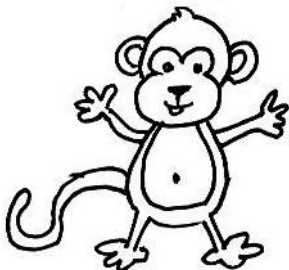
Chapter 7—Animal Tales

Chapter 8—New Circus Teams

Chapter 9—Celebration

Chapter 10—Loving Kindness

Chapter 1



Chapter 1—

Tanny Likes to Romp Around

Tanny the tiger cub was sunning herself.

“Yawn!” Stretch! She was just waking up from her sun nap.

The weather had been rather rainy lately, which meant a lot of mud, and not much outdoor time for many of the animals. But today, ah! This was a glorious day filled with sunshine and play. Or naps in the sun, as it was for Tanny.

When Tanny woke she found to her delight a bowl of food placed there for her.

“Now this is royal treatment!” she thought, and began to nibble.

“There is just one other thing that would really be fun...” Tanny thought as she looked around the edges of the enclosure she was in.

“Mmmm, that meal was good. And now for some exploring. I think it’s about time I learn what real mud feels like.

“And that new trailer over there. I’m sure it has some new kind of animals for the circus in it. I’ve just got to find out.”

And with those thoughts Tanny was determined to find a way out of her enclosure.

Just then Hilda approached the area. Tanny tried to get her attention. Even though Hilda normally would have taken time to practice their singing act, today was different.

With the sun at last shining and with a show to be put on later in the day, there was lots to be done.

The mud would make it rather messy for all the people coming to the circus tent. No little girls would appreciate their dainty little shoes getting all muddy. So Hilda was helping to prepare a pathway of planks of wood and stones for people to walk on.

Tanny did her best to make as loud a growl as she could. She really wanted Hilda to take her out.

“Well, little one,” Hilda said, coming over and looking at Tanny.

“I can see that you’d very much enjoy a romp and time and exploring. I’ll tell you what. Just as soon as I finish helping with the pathway I’ll put you on a leash and you can have a look around. Good?”

After explaining this idea, Hilda stood up and got back to work.

Though Tanny didn't understand the words she spoke, when she saw Hilda walking away she understood that whatever it was, meant "wait". She'd need to be patient.

To pass the time Tanny decided to do some fly catching. There were always some of these around wherever there were animals and old food. She darted here and then there, and grabbed in the air to get the flies.

It made for a good game, though it didn't really clear the place of these dirty flying pests. It was good that the circus team moved as often as they did. That was one way to keep the troublesome type of creatures from moving in all the more.

Whenever they moved to a new area of land, it was like a fresh new start. But when the local bugs and critters were fully aware of the new animals and sources of food, such as trash and pet food bowls, they told the others, and it became a bother.

The rain had kept some of the bugs away, and that was nice. It also helped to clean things up. Of course there was mud, and that might be considered dirty. But the area was washed and cleaned of other things that were smelly and soiling.

“Okay, that looks like it will work!” Hilda said, done with her path making job, sparing people a muddy walk to the circus tent.

“Now to give Tanny a bit of a romp,” she said, making her way over to the tiger cub’s enclosure.

Tanny had on a collar and Hilda was easily able to hook on a leash. “Come on, let’s go!” she invited an eager Tanny.

At first Tanny walked slowly, as the feeling of mud squishing through her furry paws was a new one. But as soon as she got used to it she started to leap on and climb over anything that was beside her on their walk around the whole circus tent.

Towards the end of their walk Tanny spotted the new large trailer, that she was sure contained some creatures who she hadn’t yet met. Though she didn’t smell or hear any animal sounds, it was worth investigating.

Hilda went up to the door of the trailer and knocked. She remembered she’d promised to check on her sister who lived in it. She was the newest addition to the circus.

“You brought Tanny to see me?”
Hilda’s sister Milda exclaimed, looking
out the door.

Tanny wondered what else this
trailer held. She just knew there was
more to it than a woman. After all, if
she was really part of the circus, why
was she in there, rather than helping
around the circus grounds?

Then Tanny found out. A baby sound
was heard. A sound of a very young
baby.

“And how is Nathan doing?” Hilda
asked. And the two chatted for a bit.

Though Tanny had no idea what the
women were actually saying, she
would have liked to know what was
going on.

Milda’s husband, Sam, had recently
joined the crew, and had brought her

and the new baby there so they could be together. It was a nice change for them, rather than only being in a house.

They would get to spend much time outdoors. Milda could fix Sam's lunches and eat them together in the trailer each day.

When Nathan got a little older he would enjoy seeing the animals and getting to know them.

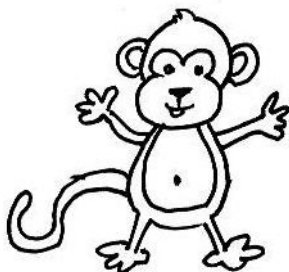
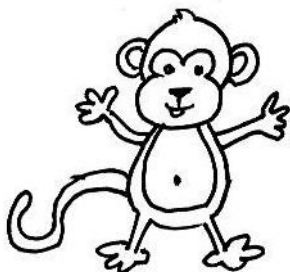
As Hilda walked away to place Tanny back in to her area, Tanny was glad she found out just what or who was in that mysterious new trailer. It could be fun getting to see a baby sometimes.

“Now do be patient in here,” Hilda said returning Tanny to her area. She then was off to see that Paddy the Pony had all that was needed.

“I’ll see you later. And maybe we’ll even get to do some singing. Bye,” Hilda said. Tanny, still happy for the sunshine settled once again in her little snug bed for yet the next sunny nap.

Chapter

2



Chapter 2—Night Time Activities

“And how have you been, Paddy?”
Hilda said, greeting the pony.

“Neigh,” was the response, which she took to mean, “All was well, but my legs sure to need to run.”

“I’ll take you to the paddock soon. I just need to freshen up the hay, and oh! What have we here?”

As Hilda scooped up the hay with a pitch fork on the floor of Paddy’s stall it surprised a certain team of mice who had moved in during the rain.

“Well, you best be going. Now off with you!” Hilda picked up a broom and ensured their fast exit.

“Don’t need any of those varmints around now do we? Gotta big enough job picking up after the needed animals without having to pick up after those

just here for a free meal and getting to things, taking what isn't for them.”

Paddy's water was refreshed, some grain and straw placed in the feeding bins, and Paddy was given a nice brush down.

“You're set to go!” Hilda said, leading Paddy out to get a bit of a run and nibble something fresh. Paddy nodded thankfully and walked out as he was led. Ah, the sun did feel good indeed!

Some floor scrubbing for some of the trailers was next. Hilda made quick work of it. Today someone else was cooking the meals, as she was more than glad to put her hands to work in more active ways.

While she went about her clean up and care, a new song was coming to her.

“Let’s see.. what shall I call it? ‘Do it well and Do it right’? Or ‘Do your best, and do it now’?”

Finally she settled on simply calling it, “Do it!”

That night she was sitting in her trailer using a guitar to sing her new song. Now that the circus shows had a spot for her to sing, it was good to write new songs every now and then. Here is what she wrote down; the rough idea for her song:

If I don't do it, nobody gonna try.

I might go through it, but I'm not the kind of guy

That just leaves the work all piled up for another.

I wish there was a wand that did

All that I see needs doing.

*But I'm not going to sit around
dreaming up ways*

To short cut all that I should just

*Pull up my sleeves, get messy, and
get it done.*

*Done right. Done now. Done right
now.*

Well, she still had work to do on the song. More ways to make it sound smoother, maybe rhyme more. But those were the ideas she was working with.

A new idea was coming to her while she mused on the lyrics.

“What if there was a bit of a clown show that went along with it. Could be funny; could be good.”

Hilda would as McNelly about it once she got the song all finished. Some other day. For now she best get some rest. Tomorrow would be another day of the show.

“Click” she turned off her light.

But “bing!” it was like a light must have just turned on inside of someone else. A very small and special someone. A certain Nathan baby felt wide awake for some unknown reason.

Milda took Nathan in the stroller for a look around the grounds. He needed fresh air, and the starry sky was sure great to enjoy.

“Aarff, arff” came a gentle bark.

Milda turned to see where it was coming from.

“My oh my, whyever are you here? Shouldn’t you be tuck away for the night?” Milda said to the Musical Dog that was beside her on the path.

It seemed he had slipped away from the Kennel and was very much regretting it. He was no longer in his nice warm area. He missed his other dog friends.

“Well,” said Milda, “I see now why it was good that Nathan and I took a walk around, to find a certain lost dog. I happen to have a leash right here, from the time I walked a few of your friends earlier today.

“Come here. Good boy. I’ll slip this on you, and away we go. You can walk with us a while and then I’ll return you to where you are meant to be.”

The Musical Dog was happy enough for that arrangement. He got a night

walk and company, and was certain that the leash meant he was going to go back into the kennel after. He'd lost the feeling of freedom, but was glad for the comfort he would be enjoying.

After walking baby Nathan in the stroller all around for about 15 minutes, Milda made her way over to the dog kennel.

One of the clowns had heard some whining coming from there and came to check out what was going on.

It seemed the other Musical Dogs were missing their friend, and perhaps wishing they could be out in the night running around trying to find him.

“Well, it looks like the answer has just come,” the clown said, as Milda made her way over with the stroller and the dog.

“Where did you find him? Thanks for bringing him home,” the clown said.

Milda said where he had been found on her night time walk, and was glad to have been a help at the right time.

It wasn't the easiest thing for her to get out of her nice warm bed to take the baby out for a walk in the starlight. After all she was feeling quite tired. But now she was glad to have been a help to the circus in this special way.

“And why don't you get some good sleep, little one, okay?” the clown said softly to the baby, whose eyes were starting to shut already.

“I think he's going to sleep well now,” Milda replied. “Night time fresh air sure helps with that.”

As Milda neared her trailer the door opened and out looked her husband.

“Are you alright? Is Nathan okay?” he asked. Milda just nodded with a smile then held her finger to her lips as if to say, “Shhh, he’s sleeping now.”

Together with her husband, Milda helped to lift the stroller into the trailer. They soon were all snugly sleeping.

Well, I’d like to say all, but though all the people in the trailer were resting, not everyone and everything around had slumber on their mind.

Rustle, rustle, came and went the opossums. *Scurry, shuffle*, came and went the mice. And Yawn! went Zoozoo. Though tired, he was more interested in what new antics he’d be able to do the next day.

The best he could do for now was to dream about it. And that he did. What a glorious dream it was!

He was in the circus tent swinging around and climbing up here and there, leaping and so forth. But there wasn't just one monkey. In the dream there were so many. And it was oh so much fun! The tricks they could do together were fabulous.

Of course, there were things that couldn't be done in real life; or at least not in that tent. But in dreams things are different and show activities that can only occur in dreamland.

As Zoozoo was just about to take a bite of a big banana that he was holding in his dream, suddenly he awoke. There was a pain in his tail that jolted him to reality. He was wide awake now.

“What?!” he said, holding the end of his tail much like the banana he nearly got to have. “That’s not a banana!”

But he needn't have worried about a lack of snacks, for just before she went to bed, Nancy had placed a big bunch of bananas in his area, to snack on if he did get hungry.

“Umm, these are good!” Zoozoo said. “Even if the other part of my dream doesn't come true, and I don't have tons of friends to do the most fun things with, at least I've got caring caretakers, and lots of bananas!”

After a good midnight snack, he settled down to hopefully continue his energetic and fabulous dream.

“I wonder what will happen next?” he thought, settling down as snug as he could.

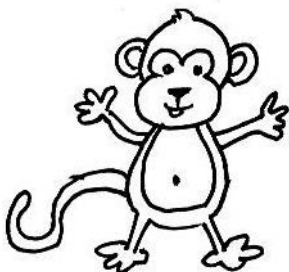
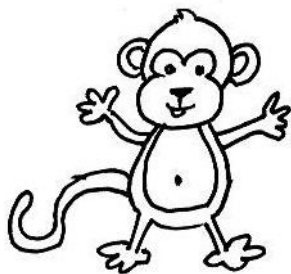
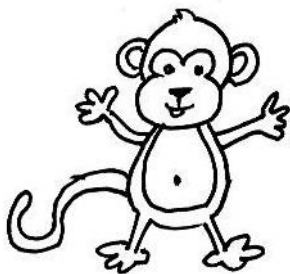
He had shut one eye and then the next. But then the first eye popped open and the other one after that; and it would start all over again.

He really was trying to settle down, but it was hard. The dream had been so fun that he could hardly wait to get swinging and flying and leaping and climbing again.

He reminded himself, “The sooner I sleep, the sooner the morning will come.” And that is just what happened.

Chapter

3



Chapter 3—

A Musical Clown Performance

One night after supper, Hilda and few of her clown friends decided to go over the routine for the new song.

They decided that it would be a fun and good idea to act things out along with the words.

“I think we could add a line that says....” one clown suggested word changes and additions. Together they changed the lyrics just a bit to make it rhyme more, and be easier to flow with the show.

These clowns were used to putting on performances with little to no practice time, when needed. So it was easy to do it after they’d actually had some time to prepare.

Of course a show was always better when they did have time to plan, prepare and practice. That way they could have all the necessary props ready.

Here's what they did, and were able to perform the very next night.

Hilda sang the words to the newly written song, while the clowns acted it out.

If I don't do it, nobody gonna try

I might go through it, but I'm not the kind of guy

That just leaves the work all piled up for another.

Hoping someone else does it, just leaving it for others.

(Three clowns were passing on to one clown some jobs that needed do—like a pile of clean laundry to put away, a broom to sweep with, a dog bowl to fill with food. But the clown just took the various items and piled them up to the side, and didn't do them.)

I wish there was a wand that I could wave

To instantly fix things, and time it would save

By doing in a blink what needs to be done

And though that would be fun...

(The clown brought out a chest, and in it was a magician's wand. He walked around the pile tapping it, poking it, waving the wand around, trying to make the work disappear. But of course, it never did.

The other clowns were puzzled and laughing in disbelief, at this lazy clown trying to save himself work, but was only wasting time.)

I'm not going to sit around dreaming up a way

To short cut all that I gotta do today

(Exhausted with trying, the clown then gets himself in a comfortable and restful position on the pile of clothes that he is to be putting away. He is trying to dream up ways to get it done.)

Instead I'll pull up my sleeves, get messy, and do

The jobs others are entrusting me to do.

(One clown comes back with a large alarm clock to wake him up and show him it's time to work.

The other brings a large clip board showing the list of to do's. Then they get to their own work. One has a mop and bucket, another is washing some clothes in a tub, and the other is carrying a pot and pretends to be cooking.)

Done right. Done now. Done right now.

(The clown sees all that is going on, the work being done and get's into action too, until his pile is removed as one by one the tasks get done. Each of the other clowns only have one job to do at a time, but he has lots to do because he piled them up, rather than doing them. He had to work faster and harder now.)

When all the jobs were done, they all sang the last words again, together with Hilda, who was singing the whole song, as they acted it out.

Done right. Done now. Done right now.

And off they walked.

At practice times in the circus tent, such as this time, was the perfect opportunity for Zoozoo to have some late night exercise and fun.

One of the clowns who trained Zoozoo brought him in, so he could romp around, while they planned, prepared, and practiced their new act.

It was both fun, as well as challenging. Zoozoo liked to climb and swing and hang and play, but he also took great interest in any and all props that were being used.

Like the broom, for example, seemed particularly interesting—but only interesting when in the hand of the clown who was using it just then.

Thankfully, right when Zoozoo was really trying to hold and use the very

thing one of the clowns needed, he'd all of a sudden remember that he didn't have on his hat! He always liked to wear it when playing and performing in the circus ring. So off he would go to try to put on a hat.

The clowns knew this, and so made a whole pile of hats available for Zoozoo to pick from and attempt to put on. Of course, none would stay on, unless they were strapped on. But he just liked trying lots of types on, and examining them, running around with them, and so forth. This would give the performers more time to focus on their show preparation.

Every now and then, Zoozoo wanted a bit of a chase game, and wanted a clown to run and attempt to get from him what he had picked up. He found the best way was to pick up something that a clown was about to use.

He thought this was a game the clowns liked playing, because they always played it with him.

So it was tonight, when Zoozoo thought the clowns needed a bit more fun, he picked up the dustpan that one clown was just about to use in his performance and began running around the circus ring with it.

Well, thankfully there were more clowns than monkeys, and with the clowns going in different directions they could get Zoozoo easily. Or so they thought. But there was one thing that Zoozoo could do that they couldn't do, at least not as easily as he.

Up and away Zoozoo went, up some thick ropes, up a fence or pole, and above to somewhere up high in the circus tent—still holding the dustpan.

What were they to do? Well, if it was merely fun and action that Zoozoo wanted, he'd come down soon on his own. For up there, high in the circus tent, no one was chasing or playing with them. So zoom! And down the pole he came, like a fireman, ready for action.

With the trade of a banana, the playful Zoozoo gave back the dustpan and went off to the side to eat his snack. The show preparation could continue. That is until Zoozoo would think up a new game to play.

Finally, when the team was ready and had run through the song and show enough times, they stopped to enjoy a bit of focused Zoozoo play. Zoozoo could tell it was high action time. It was three to one—all clowns getting on the chase.

“Let’s play, ‘catch the monkey’s tail”” one clown suggested. Even though this was a game the children often played, and it wasn’t with an actual monkey, it sounded right and fun.

As soon as Zoozoo saw all eyes were on him, and heard the game announced, he knew he best get moving.

Yelping and squealing he went all around as fast as he could. He didn’t always get away this time, for the clowns knew how to work the ropes to bring down a swinging platform he might be sitting on, way up high.

They’d hold on to him for a moment when they got him, but then let him go again for a new chase.

At last, when all clowns, and Zoozoo especially, were tired out, it was time to settled down for the night.

A ready-for-bed Zoozoo was placed in his area, and the clowns each went off to their trailers.

Hilda was pleased with the show, and thought it would be fun. But she was even thinking that the most fun part to watch would be the final chase scene in the end.

Maybe having Zoozoo a part of it, or at least for the ending chase, would be highly entertaining.

“Yes, I think I’ll suggested that to McNelly,” she thought as she walked to the kitchen for a banana snack and a glass of water, and then would be off to bed.

She’d worked hard that day, and would enjoy some good rest. However, just like her song said, sometimes there was a job that needed doing, and

one had to choose to leave it for others, hoping they would do it, or to do it herself.

“Oh, I forgot about the dishes!” Hilda thought as she saw a pile that needed washing. She was at the clown show practice and hadn’t been there to do the usual washing. She thought someone else was going to do it, but had actually forgotten to ask them.

So she had to decide, to either do them now, or to just soak them in water and face the job in the morning.

Thankfully some help came on by in the form of McNelly.

“I saw the light on in here and wondered who was still awake,” McNelly said when finding Hilda at the sink of dishes, looking very tired.

“Oh, my, that does look like a challenge,” he spoke, rolling up his sleeves and putting on an apron.

“And you’ve been working extra hard on the new act. Why don’t you go off to bed and I’ll take care of this.”

Well, with help, Hilda felt maybe she could manage it after all.

“We don’t want the bugs to move in while we are resting, you know,” McNelly said. “As that would be just one more job for you and others to face in the morning. And once they find a feast of old food, ants and others start to become regular customers.”

“Thank you so much,” Hilda replied. “I just don’t know if I’d have the strength to face it alone. I am so very tired.”

“Let’s do it together then, shall we?” McNelly suggested. “Twice as fast it will be done.”

In walked Clarence the Keeper who had just finished a last check on all the animals and saw that Zoozoo was safely and happily away for the night.

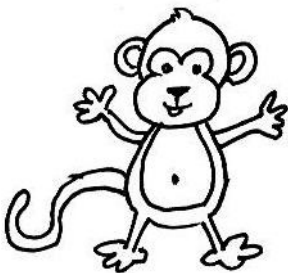
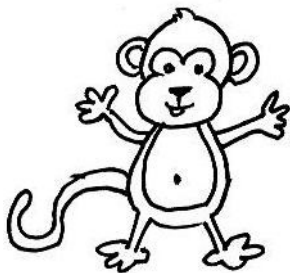
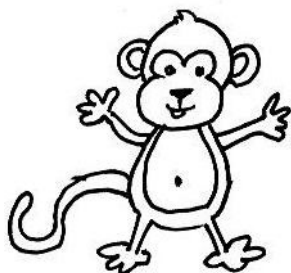
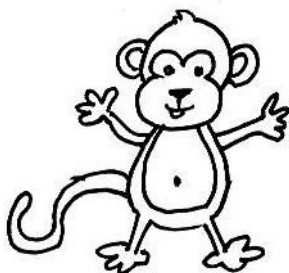
Seeing the situation he rolled up his sleeves, washed his hands, put on an apron, and said with a grin, “Thrice as fast will be better yet!”

McNelly and Hilda replied, “Thank you!”

And so within minutes, what looked like hard and tiring job, was completed. The floor was mopped, the lights turned off, and at last all could get some rest. The morning was fast approaching and there would be plenty to do then!

Chapter

4



Chapter 4—New Adventures

McNelly entered his trailer where Nancy was already tucked into bed. There was a little light on and she was reading quietly.

“Hi, Darling. You were out doing some good again, I see. Who was it this time?” Nancy asked. She knew when her husband came in later, it was usually because he was helping out around the camp in some way.

“Just pitched in to help a bit with the dishes. Somehow it got missed in the running of things tonight,” McNelly replied.

Soon he was in bed and a discussion was started.

“I was thinking tonight dear,” Nancy started to say, “about our beginnings. The way we all started off.”

McNelly smiled and visualised the memories, “Ah yes...”

Nancy had been a secretary of a large business that her father was head manager for. But it's wasn't always fun, and it certainly wasn't easy.

It's not that she had a hard time working, it was more the fact that she didn't seem to be doing anything that really helped others.

All she did, day after day, was type notes about plans that never seemed to work out. Plans that really wouldn't change the world for the better even if they did work out.

Things like what colours should be used on the new flashy sign for the company, and what brand of linen should be used in their company's overseas hotel, or how many people

should attend the conference each year to discuss better strategies to sell their already popular shower caps.

When she walked down the street and saw children sitting around or playing silly hurtful games, Nancy wanted to do so much more with her life. Then she got an idea.

“These children want fun, and I think I know just the thing they’d like—they need a circus. And I don’t mean just a show to go to once, but a circus to participate in.”

Around that time, McNelly, was teaching gymnastics to a group of young teenagers. They were eager to learn something active.

They’d sat with books in classrooms long enough. It was time to get their bodies in shape.

McNelly didn't just invite the teens who were already in shape. No, he wanted to find those who most needed the exercise and a challenge.

First he started off with teaching them about the best things to eat and drink, and what not to. Next, they'd go on walks and eventually hikes.

He'd teach them how to stretch and limber up. They'd then start to learn about strengthening the various parts of their bodies.

Eventually they started to be able to do more. Their lean and strong bodies were able to do gymnastic moves, or run for long distances.

He wasn't just teaching them how to care for themselves, but how to then be leaders and trainers of others.

“When this year is over,” McNelly told them, “I want you each to have at least 12 others that you are helping to teach. I don’t want you to just sit and do nothing with the training I’m giving you. You’ve worked hard, and the best way for that time and effort to be worth it is for you to share it with others also.”

So that is how the “Jim’s Gym Group” started. Jim of course being McNelly’s middle name.

With that program rolling and many more young people starting to get in shape, McNelly wanted to do something for the young children of the area. That is when he and Nancy met.

When they discovered they had so many similar ideas for how to make things better, what better way to do it than to do it together?

And that was how the idea for the circus began. Again, they chose to work with people who didn't know anything about putting on shows, or training animals, or even how to build a circus tent.

Yes, McNelly and Nancy wanted to start with at the very beginning, and learn step-by-step how to do it, and then teach others step-by-step.

It took a lot longer to do it this way, then simply finding those who were already trained and putting them to work. But really, the end goal wasn't just to have a circus.

The goal they really were after was to train as many young people as they could and who would be interested in learning. Parents who were interested in allowing their children to be part of this new project, would bring their children for training.

They learned simple clown acts, and various acrobatic performances. They watched the animal trainers and eventually learned, as they grew older, how to train animals as well. They learned to prepare snacks, and how to clean the animal's areas.

The children and teens that visited nearly daily, grew bigger and more skilled. It had taken three years before the "Children's Circus" put on their first simple show.

They didn't have tent back then nor nearly any of the stage props that they now did. But it was a start, and a victory for all their efforts to learn.

But the young ones kept learning and growing, and soon weren't children any more. They were capable older teens and young adults, well able to put on a great, and more advanced

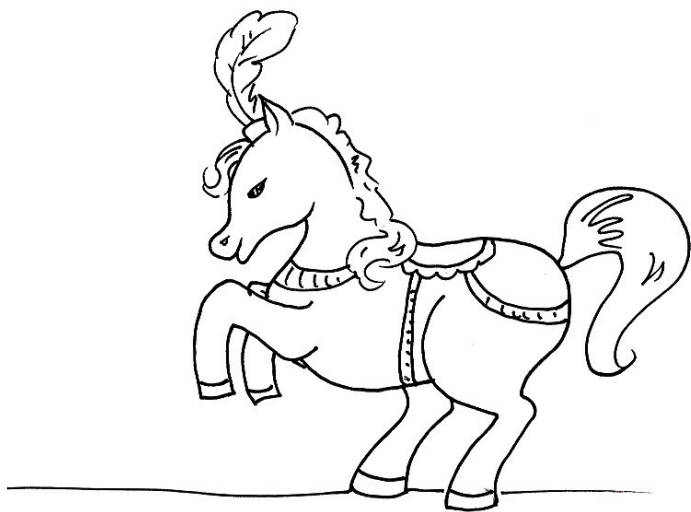
show—and able to turn around and teach other children as well. –Whoever was interested could come and learn from them.

McNelly and Nancy thought about all that had happened, and about what new things they should try to do in the future. Maybe after this circus was going good and strong, others could take over the running of it, and who knows if they would be on to yet another project?

This one had taken them nearly 20 years already. But they still had a lot of joy left to give.

“What do you think we’ll be on to next?” McNelly asked, as they turned the light off.

“Tomorrow!” Nancy replied. Yes, they’d take it one day at a time.



They were still very much needed and appreciated. But it was worth thinking about training new ones in the skill of running a circus, and all the details to keeping both the performers well cared for, as well as the animals well-trained and looked after. And also, know how to keep the grounds clean and safe and pleasant.

“Perhaps we already have started something new...” Nancy said. “We’ve gone from starting up a circus, to being managers of one, and learning about diligent and careful care of people, as well as animals. Being managers is a new job I’d say.”

“And maybe it’s one that we could help to train others to do,” McNelly added thoughtfully.

“I always did want to go explore a new part of the country, just the two of us.

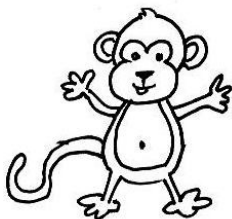
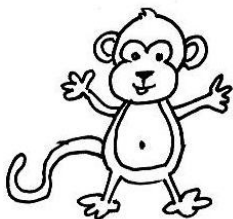
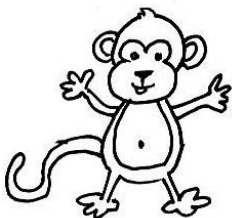
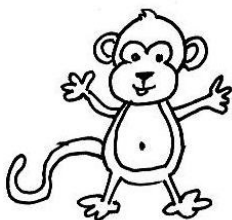
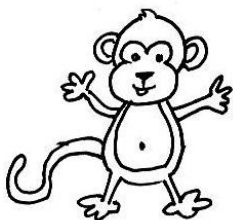
“We’d be able to find out new needs that exist in different places. Might give us more ideas of programs and learning opportunities to offer.

“And if we train someone else to help us, then they could run things while we do a bit of exploring,” Nancy suggested.

“Hmmm,” McNelly pondered this rather new thought. “Let’s think about. You just might be on to something.”

Chapter

5



Chapter 5—

Travelling Circus Trainers

One year later, their latest plan was already put into effect.

“Are you ready?” McNelly called out to the busload of travellers, and a few dogs.

“Ready!” they called out.

“Good then!”

This was the first “Traveling Circus Trainers” team that was on their way. They were to travel to a new and distant place, once each month for the next year. Then the following couple years return to check on things and give more training.

They chose 12 places that wanted to have a circus training program, just like McNelly and Nancy had done.

The traveling team would teach how to start up a circus right from the start. It would take some years to get things going, but the patient working with the people and getting to know them was good for them all.

McNelly didn't worry about their being too many circus teams around, if that would mean less visitors to his own circus. He knew that children everywhere needed lots of fun.

He wished young people could be trained in every place, all around, in the skill of how to make others happy. He wanted them to learn how to put forth the hard work it would take to do so.

“Bark bark!” a few of the Musical Dogs announced that they too were ready and eager to get going. There wasn't much that they were going to do

as far as helping to train people in the skill of training people to care for people. But they would miss their trainer. And it would be fun to have these dogs along.

Sam and Milda and baby Nathan were part of the team. Milda and Nathan were great ones for providing night time walks, as well as snack making for the team.

Sam and McNelly would give the seminars, and the rest of the crew would be the eager and happy demonstrators.

After all, what do clowns do best? They act things out. So doing skits to demonstrate what to do, and what not to do, to best care for and teach others, made it easy for the people listening to get the ideas being shared in words.

Nancy stayed back on this first trip, to be there in case the new team of managers in training had any questions. In the future she would be able to also go.

That night as the team on the road set up their tents, as well as a kennel area for the dogs, Nancy was making the rounds to check on things back at the circus grounds. She spoke with Clarence the Keeper, who had personally seen to it that all the animals were well, and would be comfortable and safe for the night.

Nancy checked on the kitchen and saw that in deed all was clean and in order, and the food was in fridge ready for the morning's fresh fruit smoothie. The bread was in the oven, ready to be heated up in the morning. There was plenty of clean drinking water available.

She then made her way to some of the trailers to see that everyone was warm enough, and to say good night.

She carried a notebook and pen to take notes on anything that needed to be tended to the next morning.

When she was sure everything was good and right, she retired to go to sleep. It wasn't very often that she had to face a bed alone, with her husband gone.

He would be back in a week or so. But she thought of the future, and of the children and young ones. They each were facing bigger challenges than a quiet and empty trailer.

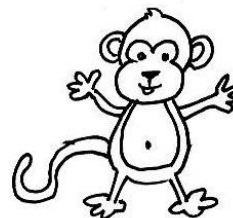
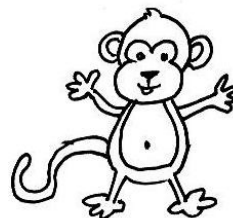
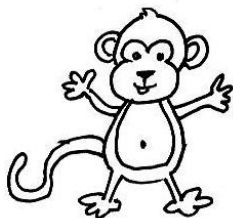
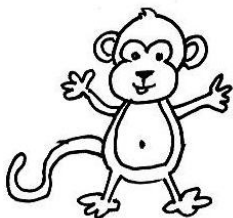
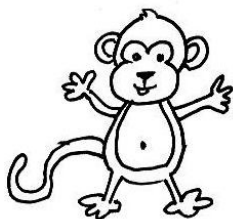
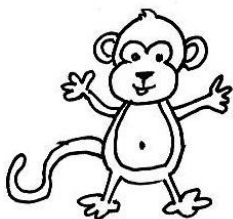
They might face a sad and empty future, if something wasn't done to help them. And that is just why she choose to share McNelly with others in need of training.

She did want as many young people to know how needed they were, and how they could make a big difference to cheer up and bring smiles to the younger ones.

After all, that is why she got married in the first place—so together they would be able to help teach others how to train others in how to help others to live happily.

Chapter

6



Chapter 6—Once Upon a Time...

There was a secret meeting going on in one of the larger trailers. The lights were kept low and everyone there whispered in a hush. They wanted to let as few people as possible find out about this surprise event, or it would no longer be a surprise.

This trailer wasn't used to sleep in, but was actually for meetings and planning sessions, or those who needed or wanted to talk personally with McNelly about challenges they were facing.

It had been a week since the first training team had left and they were due to return any day now. This team wanted to put on a special show to welcome them back. It would be held in the circus tent, though it wouldn't be filled with the usual audience.

Before this team went to bed they made sure that each one knew what their part in the plan was. It wasn't enough to just have a great idea, nor even to have a meeting on how to do that great idea, but people needed to know their jobs and be able to get them done in time.

Quietly they walked, without talking, out of the planning trailer and into each of their private sleeping trailers. They didn't want to alert the others who might wonder what was going on.

As Neil, of the the clowns, who had been part of this planning committee, rested for the night, a whole new idea came. But for now he'd just write it down. It seemed more ideas were coming to him these days.

Three days later, after the returning team had rested up and was ready for action, they were led into the large circus tent, “for a meeting” they were told. “Some things happened while you were gone and we need to tell you about them.”

It was a rather somber McNelly and others who entered. They wondered what had gone wrong, or what new problems would need to be fixed. Perhaps the crew of the circus no longer wished to be a part of it?

But that was certainly not the case. They were just keeping the reason rather veiled.

This was a meeting—for they were meeting together. And it was about what happened while the team was gone. But it was a very good bunch of things.

The rest of the crew on the circus team that didn't know what was going to happen, were also invited in.

So there everyone sat, all that is except the team that held that secret meeting a few nights ago.

All of a sudden the lights went out, and a voice began to be heard speaking into a microphone, saying,

“Once upon a time, there was nothing—no circus here at all...that is until....”

A spotlight then came on and showed someone dressed as a humorous version of McNelly walked on the to the stage, acting out what it was like when he began teaching them, so many years ago.

These adults remembered what it was like when they started, as curious children, eager to play a part in the circus one day. And now the one day had fully come.

A play was put on, using the few people involved, to act out the whole history of the circus project, in a nut shell.

Then it had a scene of what it was like during the week when the team was gone off to give training to others. They carried on well, worked diligently, took good care of the animals, and practiced some new stage acts.

They missed McNelly and the others, but wanted him to know that they had done their very best. No one had taken advantage of the time to just waste time and create problems.

Some of the older ones who had been with McNelly since the beginning made it clear to others that they would get a full account of everything done, when he returned, and they wanted to be able to say good things about each one.

But the end of this show McNelly was clapping, and shedding a few tears of gratitude. He felt that all his efforts over these years had been appreciated and had done some good.

The lights came on fully, and a big cake was brought out, prepared to perfection by dear Hilda and some eager to taste it young ones who she was teaching cooking skills too.

“Now we want to hear all about your trip!” one of the older clowns asked.

Since they had done such a splendid job of telling what had

happened in his absence, McNelly thought it only fair to return the favour. Of course the stories of their trip away would be far more interesting than what merely happened on the circus grounds. But none of that would have been possible if the team here hadn't stayed.

McNelly was sure to bring that point out, and added, "And you'll each get a turn to go, of course. You each have learned so much and I want you to get an opportunity to tell others what you have discovered over these past many years."

While munching on the cake and some fruit, they eagerly listened.

Sam said,

"I think the hardest, or most challenging part of the whole trip was doing just what we are doing now—

talking about really important things. I'm not good at giving speeches. But on the trip I didn't really have the option to just not talk much.

“I would have kept quiet and just listened to what others wanted to say. But sometimes we don't have the luxury of doing only what we enjoy, or is easy for us.

“See, you here were probably thinking, ‘Oh, they get to have so much fun. They just travel and see and do new things. And best of all they get all these people who want to listen to them and learn from them.’

“Did you think that?” Sam asked.

Some nodded shyly.

“Well,” he continued, “I probably would have thought the same. Or perhaps something similar.

“I didn’t go because it was my style of work—doing presentations—but because it helped the circus team back at home, you all, to have the personnel you needed.

“And since I don’t know all that much about running things, thought I am learning, still I might have made a mess of things. And certainly much would have been missed getting done. But if I just have the script of what to say to the team that was listening, then that was easier. Easier for you all.

“And my wife, Milda...” Sam pointed, and Milda added:

“Yes, my work is very baby oriented, and I too couldn’t really pull a big load back here, like you all had to do. But I could help to make snacks, or take the dogs for walks, and keep things clean in the bus.

“My role was very small, but if it helped you all here have an easier time, then I was happy to help.”

McNelly added:

“So it’s not that we selected the best and most trained people, and left the rest here at home.

“No, it’s the other way around, we needed to have here the most qualified for doing the jobs here, those who could do even extra work without complaint, and do it diligently and well. Thank you all so very much for being willing to let us go.”

As he said this, McNelly reached over and gave his wife’s hand a gentle squeeze and a kind look into her eyes. She had shared him with others, and done extra work to make it possible.

Everyone listening were very encouraged and felt better now. They truly felt appreciated and honoured.

Sam continued, “The good thing is that it worked! Everyone we spoke with really enjoyed hearing the ideas, and wanted to get started on it right away.”

“Yes,” McNelly chimed in, “We’ll probably never know the full extent of how far this gift we all gave them will go. We’ll never know each and every child and young person, and older ones too, that we helped to give joy to. All we can do is get people started.

“Then what happens from then on, we may never hear about. And that’s hard. But we know we are doing the right thing, and that’s what’s important.”

Everyone agreed and was fully supportive of the project.

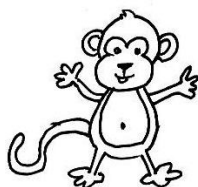
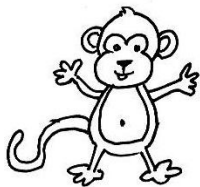
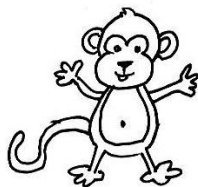
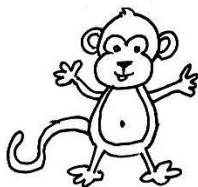
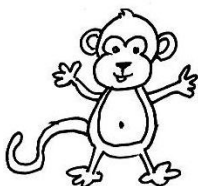
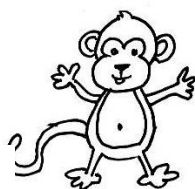
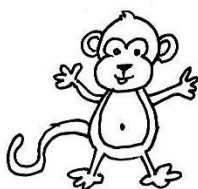
“I’d just like to say,” started off one of the clowns that went on the trip, “that the Musical Dog’s representatives who came along, were very well behaved. And learned plenty too!”

“Yes,” replied the other clown with a chuckle, “Especially not to go out at night without a caretaker!”

The whole team laughed a bit remembering the situation.

Chapter

7



Chapter 7—Animal Tales

Those listening were ready for some animal tales. What was the trip like from the dog's point of view?

The clowns related the story.

“Well, one night at a campground we'd been hearing some very strange noises, and wanted to check it out.

“It turned out to be nothing more than a type of night bird they have in that area. Or so we thought. We were satisfied with thinking that.”

“But not so with Nilly and Humphrey, our dear dog friends,” the other clown spoke up.

“They were just getting going. If there was an adventure to be had, somewhere out there in the night, they wanted to get it.

“So as I was filling their water bowls and some food for the night, right beside the bus, they took this as their chance.”

The first clown continued,

“I guess it was actually my fault, as I had them unchained and unleashed. They were just sitting on the ground, and besides, being the highly trained dogs that they are, I was sure they would be perfect in all they chose to do.”

Everyone laughed. They knew that although the dogs were well trained, they also could indeed be rather scamperous.

But they also knew that this clown thought very highly of them, and sometimes thought the dogs would never do anything wrong.

The next clown told what happened next,

“As soon as that odd noise from some creature, sounded out again, the two of them looked at each other, gave a bark, and darted out fast as anything, right into the pitch black area.

“Without so much as flashlight ready on hand, I wasn’t sure what to do. My calls for them weren’t being heard, or at least weren’t being heeded.”

The first clown added the next part, “I blew with the whistle, but to no avail. So we got on our coats and hats and hiking shoes and took a good light—and of course two leashes, to bring them home with. It was time to find out what was going on.

“We walked for a bit, calling and whistling. We were actually getting worried. Maybe there was something

out here that we didn't know about? Were there any animals that were a danger to the dogs, lurking at night? Or a danger to us?

“For a little while our manly hero spirit began to waver. It felt too big for us to tackle—the problem that is. Hopefully not an animal.”

The other clown added, “Then the moon seemed to come out from behind a cloud and there was a slivery light on a field in front of us. We could see a tent was pitched there. So we made our way to it.

“‘Who's there?’ came the gruff call from inside the darkened tent, as they heard some feet—our feet, approach.

“‘We're just looking for some runaway dogs. Got any ideas?’ we asked.”

At this the voice softened.

“I lost a dog once here too,’ he said, ‘but if you pass the field, I think you’ll find the next clue.’

“Thanks a lot’ we replied and did as he suggested.

“We were very curious and so cautiously walked the rest of the way to the edge of the field.

“‘What?’ we said. We were taken completely by surprise by what we saw: A building we nearly walked into, as it was so very disguised in this darkness, covered by plants and bushes.

From the building some faint dog yelps could be heard.

“‘How do we get in here?’ we wondered.

“Around and around we walked attempting to find some sort of an entrance, but there was none that we could see.

“Think like a dog’, I told myself. ‘What would a dog have done?’

“In answer to my thoughts, my clown partner here said, ‘Is there a dug out hole or tunnel, like an animal would like to burrow in? You know like a beaver gets into his house by going down and then up?’

“That proved to be a right on clue. So rather than looking for the well disguised door, we looked for an animal-friendly entrance.

“I found it!’ my friend here said, and soon we were both wiggling our way through it, crawling like ants to get a prize.

We knew the sounds we were hearing was certainly coming from our dogs. It was good we had a light with us, as when we popped up in the building, all would have been completely dark.

“What are you doing here?’ we said looking at our dogs, both chained up, nibbling on a delicious dog bone. We released them, took the bone along with us, and went out the door, which was easier to find now from the inside.

“But as the door opened it made a jingling sound that alerted the care taker of this place, from his room up high. A light was turned on and he explained to us, as we made our way out, what this place was.

Our dogs weren’t the only ones in here. It was meant to be like a holding place for stray dogs. Maybe like trap in a way so they wouldn’t roam the area.

Or perhaps like a game for some.
Or even like a lesson-learning
experience for the overly curious dogs
who should be with their owners.

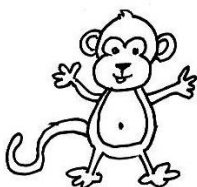
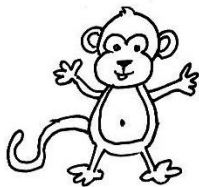
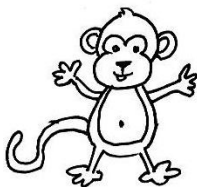
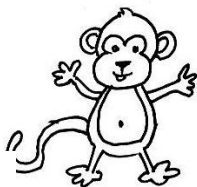
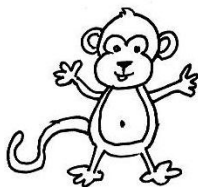
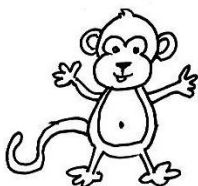
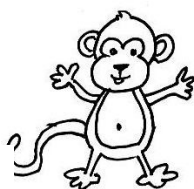
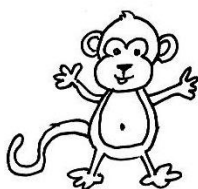
“Well, our dear dogs never did stray
again. Partly because of their
experience, and partly because we
kept them more secure from then on.”

Everyone was relieved that the dogs
were safe, yet still recovering from
laughter.

These clowns had a way of telling
and acting out a story of just about any
kind, in a way that brought out the
laughs in just about anyone. It was
good to have these guys back. They
sure had been missed.

Chapter

8



Chapter 8—New Circus Teams

One year later a team was heading back on the very same trip, to check on the new circus team they had gotten started, with their training presentations. This time Nancy accompanied McNelly, while Sam and Milda were the new part-time managers of their circus, and stayed with the circus team.

McNelly and Nancy were free to travel, and encourage people along the way, with how easy it would be to make the whole area so much happier and exciting. All it takes is a great idea, and a great pair of people focusing on making it happen. And of course, willing young ones wanting a bit of fun, and most of all wanting to have fun making others feel excited about living; young ones having some good natured things to occupy their time with.

McNelly and Nancy smiled as they pulled into the circus grounds after their most interesting trip. They'd done more than just check on the new circus team. They'd enjoyed a holiday while at it, seeing places around that they never had the time or opportunity to see before, as busy as they were helping to make children and young people as happy as they could.

But as they drove in to park near their trailer, they gave out a laugh! The whole thing was decorated with streamers and balloons and a welcome sign. It felt good to give love and joy to others, and certainly felt great to have it given back.

“Something’s different...” Nancy said. She noticed it first. “The trailer, is that the same colour it usually is...?”

“Is that the same size it usually is?” McNelly questioned.

“What?” they both looked incredulously at this.

A big surprise had been done for them. Their trailer had been the smallest and most rundown of them all, leaking a bit at times. They always ensured that everyone one else on the team had something better than they did. They were ‘here to serve and help others’, they’d say, ‘not to live in the lap of luxury’.

How the circus crew did this, they didn’t know, but there sat a bigger, shinier, non-leaking trailer. Nancy nearly cried. It was so kind of everyone to give them this gift. More than a nice trailer it was the thought that counted, to know that they were appreciated.

“Perhaps they are worried we’ll move on to look after some other circus...” McNelly said with a chuckle.

Then he got a crazy idea. And before they walked through the door of the new trailer, he picked up his slender wife and lifted her through the “threshold” the door, like newlyweds do when entering their new house.

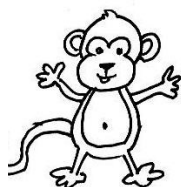
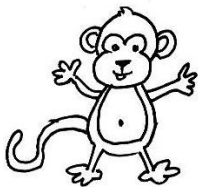
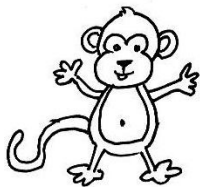
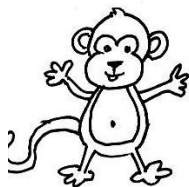
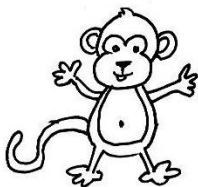
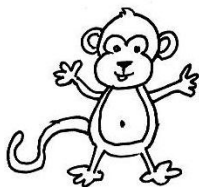
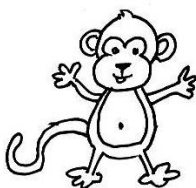
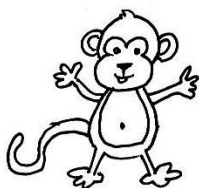
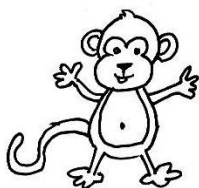
“Nancy, I would be honoured if you would be my wife, will you?” McNelly said, while a group of welcomers stood around smiling and watching the best act they had seen put on all day. Only it really wasn’t an act, but this couple did genuinely wish to be life partners for yet a long time more—for the rest of their life.

“Yes, I do,” Nancy replied. “Though I know being married to you will be a circus for sure.”

She joked and everyone laughed and clapped.

Chapter

9



Chapter 9—Celebration

Hilda and Milda, seizing the moment of fun, quickly began passing out cups to everyone around, and filling them with the juice they had prepared. It was to be served later, in a more proper fashion, but flowing with the fun of the moment was an even more respectable thing to do. Surprises were good for all—good surprises.

McNelly, stood in the open doorway of his trailer, rather like a stage, and gave an impromptu speech.

“Thank you all, our dear dear friends. For that is what you are to us. More than a team of workmates, or a team of helpers, or even a circus team, more than anything we are simply a team.

We are there for each other in our ups and downs, in our sickness or in

health. On the sunny days and the rainy days. Whether together or apart for a time, we still are united in goal and mission, and sure need each other.

“Nothing that was done could have been done by just me or my wife alone. –As wonderful as she is. It was because you all wanted to join with us in goal, in vision and work hard to make all this happen.

“I want us to always maintain our close ties of friendship. Yet, continue as always, to bring others into the tent of our joy.”

Cheers were heard, and dinner was called. But more fun was to be had as well.

Tonight there was to be a game and dance night held in the big circus tent. It wasn't just for helping others, but

also for strengthening their own ties of friendship, with a heap of fun. However, dance parties with a circus team, with very acrobatic people, took on a new appearance than what one might find at a regular dance or ballroom. But they all enjoyed their style of fun.

So then it became a routine from then on, that whenever McNelly and Nancy, or whoever returned from their trips away, a large and fun party was held.

Of course Zoozoo was not to miss out on the action at all. Why he was the very life of the party!

And tonight plenty of hats were provided for his play and fun. He was sure this was the best night yet. The ideas were endless of the fun he could make for others.

Paddy the Pony got a place in the party as well, giving free rides.

Even Tanny the Tiger cub was allowed to explore under each and ever bench around in the tent, and climb here and there—for the door was well secured for this night.

During the evening event, the Musical Dogs put on a show of their own, off to the side. They invented just what they wanted to do, as the music played. They thought up some moves that were never usually done on the circus stage for an audience. – Otherwise known as romping and playing, chasing and growling.

The bears were happy to just have a night to rest, they weren't interested in the lively activity. But Nancy herself visited to make sure they were fine and had what they needed.

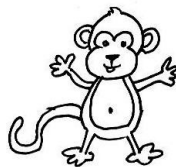
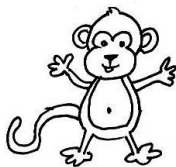
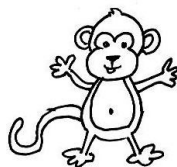
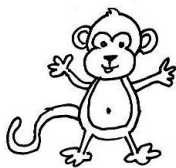
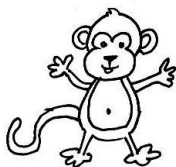
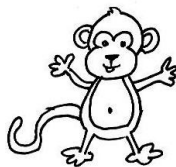
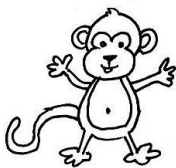
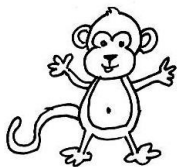
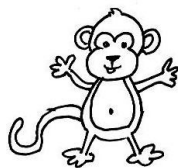
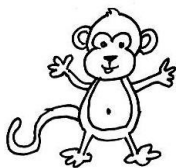
Elsa the Elderly Elephant too was content to have her usual calm night. Though she was glad to hear the sounds of laughter and music coming from the large circus tent. That was reward enough for her. The more joy, the better, she thought, while drifting off to sleep.

Nancy took a turn, like most everyone else as well, holding and dancing with baby Nathan, who was starting to learn to stand now. But he liked to be held up in someone's arms.

This was like his big family, and he liked everyone in a different way. Each one tried to do a little something with him each day, teaching him or making him laugh, or helping to feed him while Milda would prepare food for others.

It really did feel like one big family.

Chapter 10



Chapter 10—Loving Kindness

When the tent was at last silent, the dance part over, the still of the night had come, there were two clowns quietly picking things up before heading each to their own trailers.

Clarence the Keeper and Shelly the newest clown were the ones there. Before leaving, Clarence got up the courage to ask Shelly the question that had been on his mind for nearly a year.

“Shelly...”

She knew what he was going to say. And before he could say it, she nodded, “Yes.” Clarence took this as the answer his heart so wanted to hear.

And by the next time of the circus fun party, Clarence and Shelly were engaged. It was a great reason to celebrate!

McNelly smiled to his wife.

“I’m glad, dear, to see people getting on. I think it’s great when the circus can provide challenging work, good opportunities for learning, a way to help cheer others, and best of all each one gets the love and companionship they each need. They are so much happier that way.”

“Yes,” replied Nancy, “It’s great too when life partners are part of the team. Then they can enjoy life as a family unit, near to one another. But yet, they are aren’t alone, as there are others willing to help with young ones, or other things they might not know how to do, but others on the team do. I think it’s great.

“And I wish for all the rest of the team who are grown, to find the one their heart needs.”

“I found mine...” McNelly said, folding his wife in a hug.

Then Nancy suddenly got an idea.

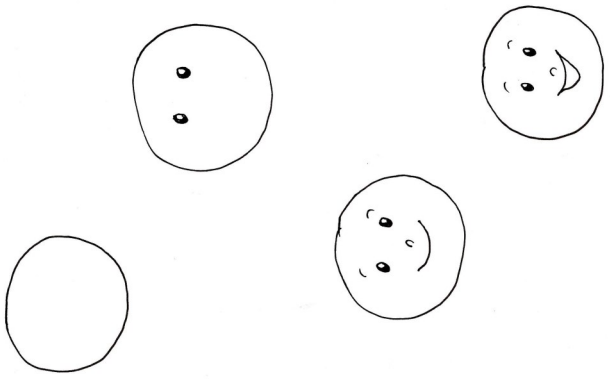
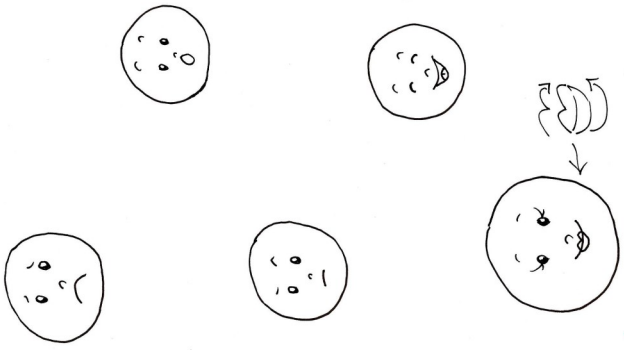
“You know that woman who was very interested in our circus show last month, and offered to volunteer if we needed extra hands sometimes—like when some of us are on trips away?

“I think she could be just the one a certain lonely clown on the team might like to have in his life. I love it when love stories start...” she said.

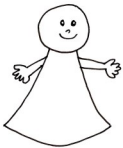
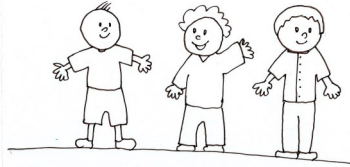
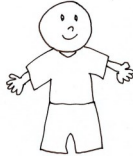
“And when they keep going,” McNelly said to his wife, kissing her hand.

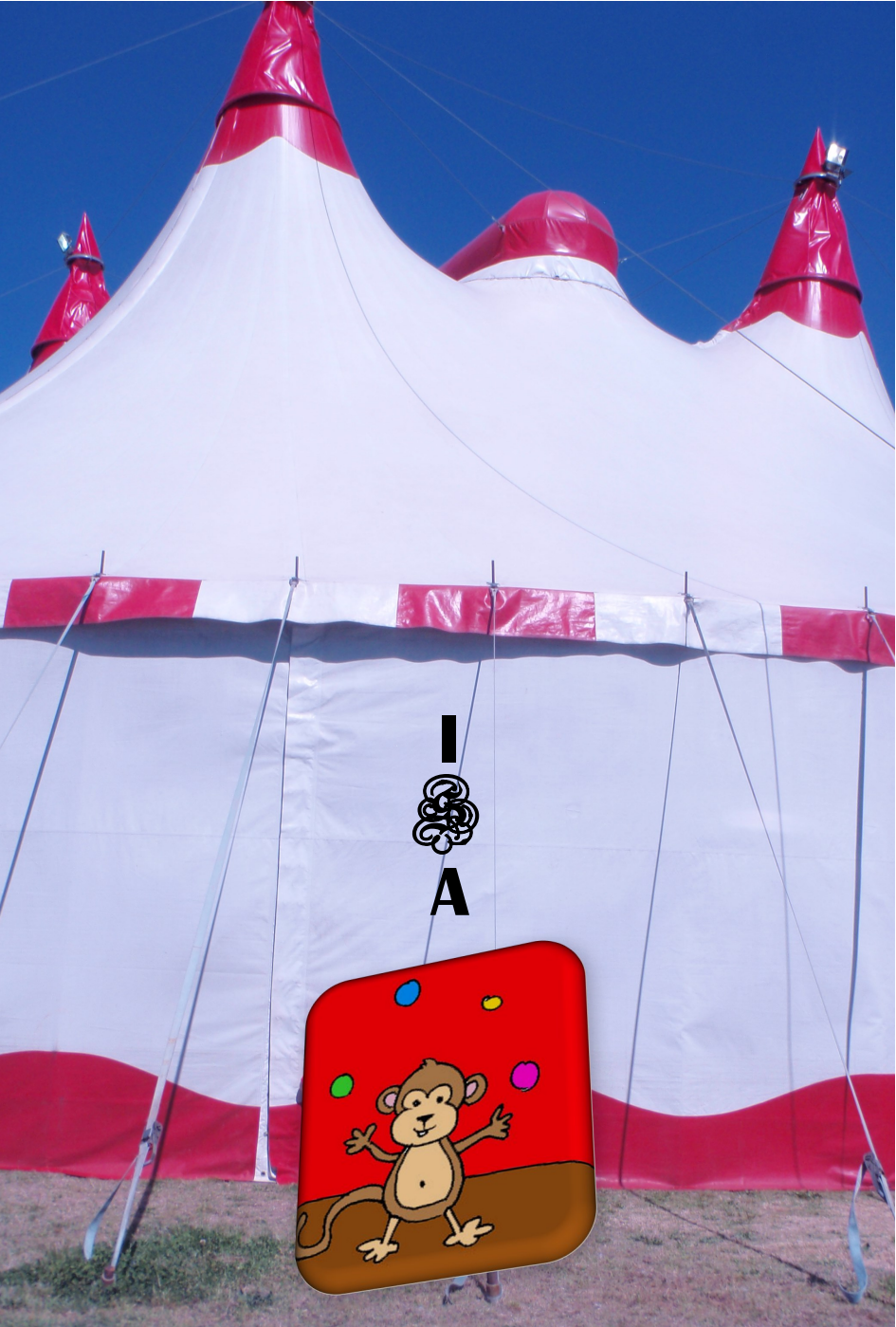
Things were going to continue getting better, both for the circus and for the crew, as long as lovingkindness was at the heart of all they did.

How to draw some expressions:



How to draw some people:





!
A

