

# The Circus

Tristan

Our barn was a very quiet area. I am Jerry, the only horse in the barn. I am brown, with white spots. My best friend, Emily, a chicken, is golden. My number one enemy, Harriet, is a cow. She's white with red lines.

One day, when Emily and I were talking, our farmer, Ronald, came in. He's usually happy, but this time, he looked horrible. "I have something to announce." he started. "I'm going to have to sell all but three of you. The farm is breaking down, and we can't afford it. The animals I'm selling are going to the zoo; then we'll start a circus with the remaining ones." A commotion rose with the animals; who would get chosen? Ronald announced: "I will be taking Harriet, Jerry and Emily."

The next day, our farmer sent all of the other animals to the zoo. Once he finished, he wore a funny suit which had multicoloured hair, and a big red nose. He said it was a 'clown' suit. For the rest of the day, Ronald tried to teach us tricks in a circus tent. He laid a rope across a lake, and motioned for Emily to cross. Poor Emily didn't even get a step, and she fell straight into the water! Next was Harriet's turn. "I wonder how she'll do." I asked the soaking wet Emily. "My feathers are wet!" she replied, shivering, like that was the most important thing in the world. Harriet was supposed to climb up a set of stairs, and jump over a makeshift moon, and then land in a tub of water. She went smoothly, except when she tried to jump, she jumped under the moon and flopped on a trampoline instead. She went in the air, flew over the moon, and she dove face-first into the tub. My turn was last. I was supposed to run around the ring, jump in a catapult and Ronald would fire me into the tub. But I jumped over the catapult, and landed right on my back. After the tricks were over, Ronald gathered us three. "What are we going to do?" he asked. Our first show was tomorrow. The only way we were going to get a bit of funds is to nail the show tomorrow. We practiced all night long.

The next day, all three of us were nervous. This was how it went: The crowd started filing in. Ronald gave us a pep talk, reminding us that this was a very important day. That only gave us even more pressure. Emily was up first. She managed to hop across, and even added in a pirouette at the end. The audience clapped loudly. It was looking pretty good. I felt happy for her. Next was Harriet. She trotted up the staircase, jumped over the moon, and landed perfectly into the tub. I was jealous. I was the grand finale. I jumped into the catapult, and I got pulled back by Ronald. Everything went well, until a fly came in. Ronald swatted it, but when he was doing that, he let go of my catapult. I was flung into the air, hit my head on the moon, and, as dazed as I was, landed straight into the tub. The water sprayed everywhere, and onto the crowd. The audience was baffled. Then, the most amazing thing happened: The crowd applauded! Ronald did a standing ovation, and we went back grinning with delight.

Counting, we shovelled in about 400 dollars! Ronald bought us supplies and funky clothing. Meanwhile, he announced we were buying a new animal. It was going to be either a dog or an elephant, and since we did so well in the show, we got to choose! Once Ronald left, I immediately said "Elephant!" at the same time Harriet said "Dog!" Then we both looked at Emily. She looked at me, then Harriet, and decided. "I want a dog." she said. The reaction was immediate. As Harriet grinned, I shot Emily the evil eye. "How could you do that?!" I asked. "I really wanted a smaller animal, as both of you are pretty big." she answered, sheepishly.

It was decided. The following morning, we were to practice some tricks while Ronald went to buy the new dog. Ronald came back with a scruffy little puppy, which was brown with brown swirls. We named him Scruffy. Scruffy had some training in the circus, but the circus ran out of money, so they sold him. Scruffy's part was to get carried by me across the circus area, and then he had to jump on Harriet, and finally finished with a pose by standing on his legs. We called it a day, and got prepared for our next show. We practiced so well, we were bound to do great.

The next day, I woke up with the windows draped, and the sky was dark. I went outside, and Emily, Harriet and Scruffy were there too. "What's happening?" I

asked. “Shhhhhh” whispered Harriet. “We’re running away.” replied Emily. Scruffy nodded. “Last night, I heard Ronald talking to a guy from the nearby village. The guy was working for another circus, and extremely mean to the animals. He said that he would give big money if Ronald gave him us.” said Scruffy. “Scruffy woke us up.” continued Harriet. “He told us everything.”

We now planned to run into the nearby woods, and we brought with us a big bag of food. We trudged into the woods as the sun rose up.

Once the sun was up, we heard someone screaming. The sound was so loud and scaring in the silent morning. It came from the circus site. We rushed to a high place, and saw that a bear was attacking Ronald! We ran quickly, and jumped into action. Scruffy attacked the bear by biting the rear end of the bear, then jumping on me, while I zigzagged in front of him, distracting. Emily jumped onto the bear’s head, and used her wings to cover his eyes, then tying a rope around his eyes. Finally Harriet jumped, then head butted the bear for four, five times, and finally the bear ran off for dear life.

Everyone was exhausted. Ronald was so thankful when he saw us protecting him, and apologized with tears in his eyes. He decided not to sell us.

In the afternoon, we did our show. It was so successful! Everyone from the village came to watch, and Harriet and I finished the finishing pose together. We aren’t much of enemies anymore.

Now the four of us are loved around the country, doing circuses.