

Magic Circus by Brie Haddock

A cold May morning, the sun is barely peeking through the clouds and the rain has seized to a drizzle. The traveling train full of circus people has settled into one location just outside the city with more than enough room for the elaborate red and white tent that is beginning to go up, parking included. A few of the doors begin to open one at a time with a few of those a part of the acts carrying whips, outfits and instruments.

At the end of the train, several cars are full of circus animals, huge elephants, camels, a giraffe and a few goats, eating their breakfast noisily. Penny walks by to Elle the elephant and instantly, she waves her huge nose in the air and her ears begin flapping in excitement. Elle is waiting for her beer flavored beer lollipop. "Tisk, tisk, Elle. Not until the show." Penny whispers.

The crowd is growing larger by the hour and the strain to prep for the show is growing with the parade. The clowns roam in cars with tires on backwards and as the car drives, it looks like it should be a boat waving in the ocean. The clowns are honking their bike horns and dancing. One particular clown looks as though a bomb went off in front of him, judging by his hair and he holds a blow whistle above his head, and magically, it begins to play all by itself. Several little kids are thrilled to see the Magic Circus, others are just petrified at what they are seeing, turning into a tear-filled mess, screaming and begging to head back home.

Alec yells over the megaphone, "The show begins in ten minutes! The show begins in ten minutes!" As the time arrives, Alec nods to those around him, alerting them all of the time and walks into the tent with his megaphone.

"Ladies, gentlemen, children of all ages. Your eyes will be amazed with the one, the only...ELLE!" Elle the elephant bursts into the circus ring wearing a bright cherry red tutu. She dances to the center of the ring and Penny meets her in the middle with her matching cherry red ball gown and red lipstick. Penny nods twice and Elle uses her long nose to wrap around Penny, picking her up and placing her upon her head. She stands swiftly on top and begins to balance on one foot. Elle the elephant shakes her head side to side, picking up one leg and then sets it down to pick the other up, all while Penny is holding a perfect balance on one foot. The audience is in awe of the act. Elle walks around the ring and Penny grabs onto a pole, acting as if she is caught. Elle gallops back and roars loudly. Elle plays sad when a man walks in dressed as a robber holding a brick in his hand. Elle stands up, uses her trunk and grabs the brick and pretends to smash it on his head, crushing it while he falls off the platform. The audience is applauding, adoring the act. Elle grabs Penny from the platform and places her back onto the ground next to Alec.

Penny holds up a finger signaling for a moment and walks out of the ring. Several men begin yelling in the stands for cold drinks, popcorn, cotton candy and nuts. "Hot salty nuts", one man shouts.

Penny heads back with smudged red lipstick into the center of the ring with her beige purse and opens it, digging inside. Elle sits and then moves into begging position. She then plays dead and rolls gaining

acceptance and a huge applause for the audience with loud laughter. Penny looks back up at Elle, dumbfounded at her actions and out comes the beer flavored lollipop! Elle nods vigorously and grabs it right out of Penny's hand and places it in her mouth, eating it in one bite. Elle stumbles to the opposite of the tent and falls over as a drunkard would. Her cherry red tutu becoming loose nearly falls off.

An officer storms in with a breathalyzer. "Wait a minute. You are in trouble young lady." Elle uses her front legs as a barrier, closing her eyes and her ears fold over, embarrassed. Placing the breathalyzer to her mouth, the officer panics, "How did you get to three percent with one lollipop, young lady? I am bringing you in." Elle shakes her head and stands up. She steps back, turns around and uses her nose to pull a large amount of water out of the pool, turns around and showers the officer in several gallons of water. The audience is hysterical and applauding for Elle the elephant.

As the audience is enjoying the act, the same group of clowns are gathered in wobble car, several on top, others inside, packed in like a can of sardines. The few jump off the top, the driver and passenger hop out and open the truck when six more follow out, in the end, all switching positions and head back out of the ring, honking their squeaky bike horns.

The lights cut and after several seconds of pure quiet, Mike the magician stands there. He holds a quarter over his head, it's shiny. He can bite it, when dropped, it clinks. He picks it back up and moves it swiftly from one hand, to the other. A young girl, about ten comes from the audience and is escorted by Alec to Mike. She stands next to him and she holds her hands open to show there is nothing there. She closes her hands and holds them extended in front of her. Mike shows the girl the coin, places it into his left hand, shakes his arm, spins twice and opens it. The coin is gone. He asks the little girl to open her hands and there is the same coin.

"It's yours young lady. Enjoy!" The little girl looks up with smudged red lipstick.