



38-The Circus (Part 2)

au, aw, all, alt, ald, alk, tu=chu

Death Drop Dan and Shooting Star Rat stood backstage, wearing their costumes, in the big circus tent. The crowd had come to see the circus show, and Boris The Dancing Brown Bear had told the crowd that at the end of the show Rat would explode and Dan would be shot from a cannon.

As the show began Rat said to Dan, “Dan, I

don't want to explode.”

“And I don't want to be Death Drop Dan,” said Dan. “It sounds like it might hurt.”

“What can we do, Dan?” asked Rat.

“I don't know, but I am getting the picture now,” said Dan. “It was all a fraud, Rat. The man in the train station worked for the circus. His plan was to capture us and use us in the show.” Dan paused. “Boris and Kelly Kangaroo played us because we wanted to be famous. Now we are here. In the future we should be more careful.”

“In the future?” said Rat. “Dan, this may not have dawned on you, but if they shoot you from a cannon and explode me, we will have no future!”

“Okay, Rat,” said Dan. “Here is what we must do. We must pretend we want to be shot

from a cannon and exploded so we don't draw any attention to ourselves. Then, when the moment is right, we will act.”

“Act how?” asked Rat. “What will we do?”

“I haven't thought that part up yet,” said Dan. Rat looked up and pointed to the sky.

“Look, Dan!” Rat shouted. “There are vultures flying over us, waiting for a meal!”

A tall, bald man and a short, little weasel came up to Dan and Rat.

“Hello Mister Boom Boom Man and Boom Boom Kitty!” said the tall man.

“Ha ha!” laughed the weasel. “Boom Boom Kitty! Ha ha!”

“I am Paul, the sword swallower,” said the bald man. “And this is Wally, my weasel. I see that you have seen the vultures. They are the

last part of the show.”

“What do you mean?” asked Rat.

“Is your brain so small that you cannot see the truth?” said Paul. “Each show Boris blows up and shoots off two new fools who want to be famous. This show it will be you!” Paul and Wally walked away.

“That Paul is one sick dude!” said Rat.

“We have to run!” Rat said to Dan.

“From bears and wolves and horses Rat?” said Dan. “We can't. And did you see the size of the claws on Boris' paws? I would rather be shot from a cannon than have Boris maul me.”

“Well what can we do then?” Rat was anxious.

“Let me see,” said Dan. He grabbed a show program. “First, the wolves will sing. Then the

show horses will run. Then Boris does a dance on a ball. That may be our best chance to escape.”

“How?” Rat asked.

“The walls of the circus tent are made of cloth. We can crawl under them.”

Dan and Rat stood by a tent wall and pretended to like the circus while they waited for Boris to dance on the ball. Soon Paul came by after swallowing a sword, and Wally was with him.

“Bye, bye,” Kitty Boom Boom!” laughed Paul.

“Ha ha!” said Wally. “Kitty Boom Boom! HA!”

“Dan, we have to get out of here!” said Rat. “I’m scared!” Dan looked up at the top of the

tent.

“Wow,” Dan said, “a fall from way up there could really hurt. It could leave me with all sorts of fractures.”

“Dan!” said Rat. “An adventure like this could haunt me forever! You can't let them explode me!”

Paul and Wally came by again. “Bye, bye, Boom Boom Kitty!” Paul said.

“Paul,” said Rat, “I don't normally talk like this, but you are a sick, sick man.”

“The feeling is mutual Boom Boom Kitty!” laughed Paul.

The singing wolves sang their song and the show horses ran around the circus ring. Then it was time for Boris to go out and dance on the ball.

Dan went over to the tent wall and made a gesture for Rat to follow him.

“Wait, Dan,” said Rat. “That Boris is a really good dancer! You should see this!”

“Rat, do you want to be Boom Boom Kitty like Paul said?” snapped Dan.

“Oh, yeah,” said Rat, and he got down on the floor with Dan. They could hear the applause for Boris as they began to crawl under the tent wall. Then they heard something else.

“AHA! Boom Boom Kitty is trying to escape!” It was Paul.

“Yeah! Trying to escape!” said Wally.

“Boris!!!” They both yelled.

Boris came and found them there.

“Tie them up!” Boris ordered. “Put tape over their mouths and put bags over their heads. I will go get the cannon ready to launch.

Dan and Rat stood staring at Paul and Wally. No one spoke. Then Dan heard Boris announce that the final two acts would be Death Drop Dan and Shooting Star Rat. Dan could stand no more.

“Stand back Rat!” Dan yelled. “I've never told you this before, but I used to be a wrestler. They called me *Dastardly Dan!*”

“Dastardly Dan?” asked Rat.

Dan tackled Paul and Wally and put the tape over their mouths and the bags over their heads. Dan put his costume on Paul, and Rat put his costume on Wally. Then Dan and Rat crawled under the wall of the tent.

“Dan!” said Rat as they walked away from the circus tent. “That was something! Why didn't you ever tell me?” The two began walking

down a dirt road.

“Well, Rat, I just don't like to flaunt my talents,” said Dan.

“I would!” said Rat. “Man, if I could wrestle like that I'd be a superhero!”

“I've thought of that,” said Dan. “But for now I just want to rest.”

“Why?” asked Rat.

“Well,” said Dan, “after that Vacation Station and now this, I just want to go home and read a good book. It's like you said, Rat, an adventure like this can haunt a guy forever.” There was a pause, then Rat The Cat spoke.

“Dan, about this superhero thing...”

Vocabulary

aw

paw	drawn	shawl	bawl	claw
flaw	jaw	raw	lawn	sprawl
thaw	yawn	dawn	saw	straw
law	prawn	drawn	draw	crawl

au

Paul	sauce	cause	haul
Saul	auto	launch	haunt
maul	flaunt	pause	applause
taunt	fault	fraud	because

all / alk / ald / alt

wall	ball	walk	bald	salt
mall	tall	talk	scald	small
fall	call	chalk	malt	tall

tu as chu

future	gesture	picture	lecture
adventure	mutual	pasture	mature
capture	fracture	vulture	nature

Weird Words

famous	mouths	kidnap	before
ourselves	forever	exploding	again
sword	straight	dancing	anxious
swallower	wearing	charge	laugh
announce	special	weirdo	laughed
wrestle	already	head	explode

Dictation

Rat had a claw on his paw.

I like to sit on the lawn at dawn.

Did Paul launch Dan in the tent?

Rat said the spill was not his fault.

Haul the dirt then pause for a rest.

Did the ball fall off the tall wall?

Rat put salt in Dan's malt.

Did the steam scald the man on his bald head?

Dan got a bone fracture.

He got the fracture on an adventure.

Take a picture of the vulture.

The vulture is in the pasture.

Dan made a gesture for Rat to come.

I will spend time in nature in the future.

My future is bound to be good.

I can walk at the mall for an adventure.

The prawn is funny and weird.

The cow is out to pasture all day.

The new auto drew applause.

Rat can capture the dog with a net.