

BARNUM (Cont'd)

(As MUSIC continues)

....Oh, don't worry, Chairy, I'm not going back into the menagerie business. What I was thinkin' about was a lecture tour. Tell the whole country about the Noble Art of Humbug. And who's got a better right to talk it than me? After all, it's the thing God gave me the gift for, and it's how I got everything I ever had! Even you.

(And HE sings)

IN A WORLD OF STING AND SHOCK, THIS MOMENT WE SPEND
DOWN A ROAD OF RIDGE AND ROCK TOWARD LORD KNOWS WHAT
END

THROUGH A NIGHT AS COLD AS SPACE AND DARK AS THE SEA
SOMEONE'S GOT TO MAKE IT BRIGHT
SHOOT A ROCKET, SHINE A LIGHT
TELL YOU WHO THAT SOMEONE'S GONNA BE...

THE PRINCE OF HUMBUG
TONGUE IN CHEEK
SHILLY-SHALLY
PULL THE WOOL
BLARNEY, BOGUS
COCK AND BULL
HOAX AND PRANK AND HANKY-PANK
AND SOME SKULLDUGGERY
I AM!
AND DAMN I'LL ALWAYS BE!

(MUSIC finish and out. RINGMASTER
on a pyramid, blows whistle, SNARE DRUM
roll under dialogue)

RINGMASTER

....The Main Event! The Greatest Contest of Them All!
P.T. Barnum, Unarmed, Alone, Without a Net....in a struggle
to the finish -- with Destiny!

(HE jumps down from pyramid,
drum roll stop, and HE takes off
his Ringmaster hat and crosses to
BARNUM)

Bailey's the name, Mr. Barnum, and I'm here for my three-
thirty appointment.

BARNUM

Sorry, Mr. Bailey, I've given the matter a great deal of
thought and I'm afraid the answer's no.

BAILEY

Mr. Barnum, I sent those plans and photographs last week,
didn't you get a chance to see them?

BARNUM

I saw the pictures, and your menagerie doesn't look too bad
but I've been out of the business for years and I'm not

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thinking of going back in it. But if you don't mind a bit of advice....

BAILEY

I'd welcome it....

BARNUM

You got to hook your attractions to the mood of the country! It's 1880 and with Grant in the White House we're expanding our boundaries! Your show looks good, but it's too small! There oughta be ten elephants, twenty clowns, plus acrobats, bareback riders, fat ladies, a whole family of jugglers, six up on the high wire!

BAILEY

Impossible! You couldn't get all those acts into one ring.

BARNUM

Put a couple of more rings on either side! And a band of forty pieces, with a whole separate tent for side-shows. Not to mention traveling grandstands you can put up and take down to seat five thousand people and a special train with two locomotives and sixty cars and enough canvas to put the entire Crystal Palace inside and still have room left over to fly a kite!

BAILEY

The Crystal Palace! Mr. Barnum, I hope I'm not bein' humbugged.

BARNUM

Mr. Bailey, whatever gave you that idea?

(MUSIC starts for next number)

BAILEY

Well, I must admit it does sound good the way you tell itbut you've got to help me!

BARNUM

Out of the question.

BAILEY

I need you! The circus needs you!

BARNUM

No!